

# The McGrath Family of Truxton, New York



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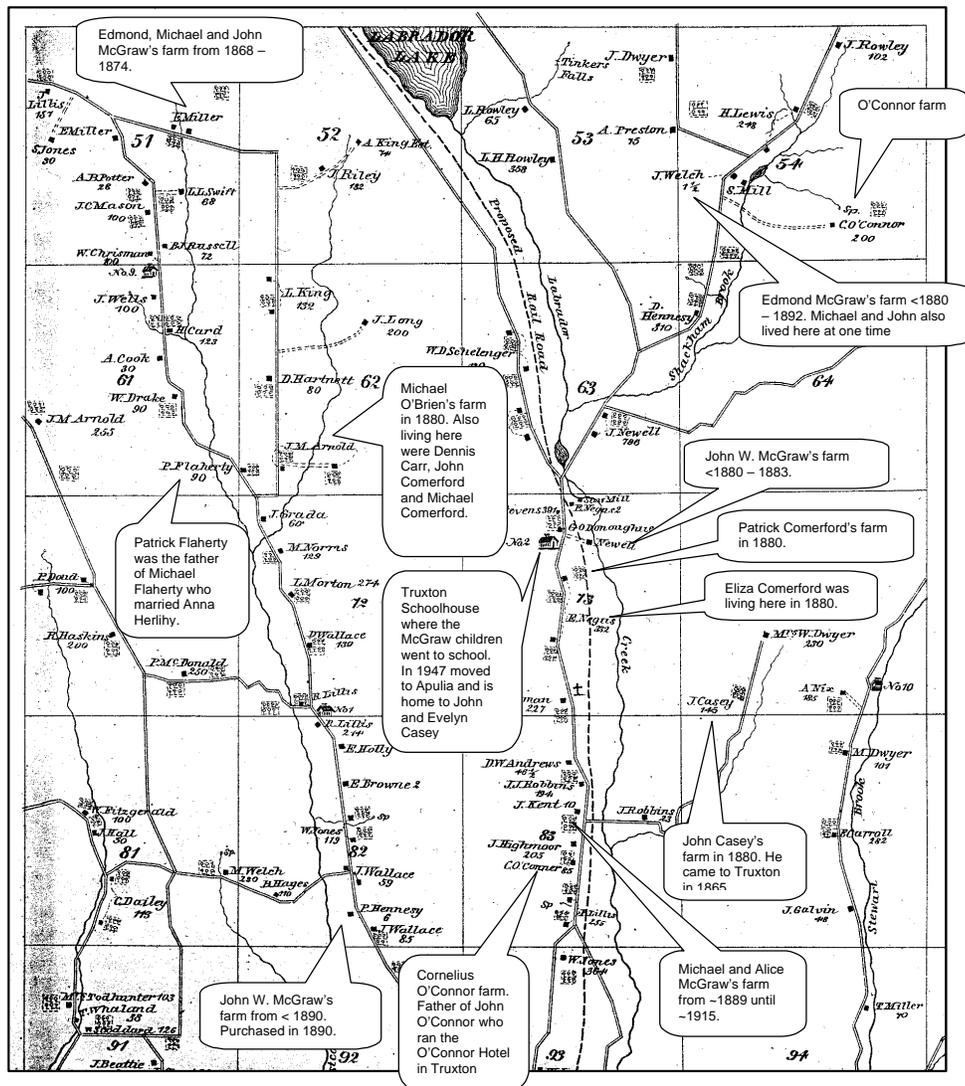
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Cover: The picture on the front cover was taken from the rear of the main lodge of the Labrador Mountain Ski Lodge facing in a northeasterly direction. It was probably taken in the last few years. The lodge itself is located across the road from a small cemetery that is marked by a cross on the 1876 map of Truxton below. The road running north and south, passing by the front of the lodge and extending left and right through the center of the picture, is the North Road. Following this road, also known as Route 91, to the right leads into the village of Truxton about 2 miles south of this location. The significance of this location is that the McGraws and many of their friends and relatives lived in this immediate area. Michael McGraw's farm on the North Road was located one mile south and across the road from his farm was the John Casey farm. The region out in the flat area over the silo to the left was where John McGraw, Michael's brother, was living in 1883. His neighbor moving south was Patrick Comerford, brother of his wife Ellen Comerford McGraw. Across the road from John and Patrick was the old Truxton Schoolhouse No. 2 where all the McGraw children went to school. This same schoolhouse was moved to Berry Road in Apulia Station in 1947 by John and Evelyn Casey and it is still their home today. John was the grandson of the John Casey whose farm was across from Michael McGraw's farm. Shackham Road, where Edmond, Michael and John all lived at one time, climbs the hill on the far left of the picture. In the upper right hand corner of the picture is the northern slope of Morgan Hill where Edmond and Mary along with the Ryans, Comerfords, Lonergans and O'Briens lived in the 1860's. For over 150 years the McGraws, their descendants and their friends have lived in or around this valley and therefore it seems appropriate to place this picture on the cover.



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## Preface

I was told by my parents that at the young age of 6 months I attended the first “McGraw Reunion” that took place in the summer of 1947. That was before those gatherings were formally organized and the first official McGraw Reunion organized by Mayme Waters took place in 1949. Over the years our family visited Truxton once in a while, usually after one of the McGraw Reunions held in Highland Forest in nearby Fabius, NY. We would come in by the North Road and go by the old homestead on the northwest corner of Prospect and Main and my father would say that we still had family living there. None of us had a real clue as to what family they were? We would visit John J. McGraw’s monument at the center of the village and then we would take the West Road to Tully and then head for home.

It was a sunny afternoon on May 29, 1971 when I found myself in Truxton, New York once again. The location was the Truxton Catholic Cemetery and the occasion was the burial of my great grandmother Anna Herlihy Flaherty. The whole family had driven down from Syracuse where the funeral service had been held earlier in the day at St. Anthony’s of Padua Catholic Church. St. Anthony’s had been the family church of the McGraws for many years. This was the first time that I had been to the Truxton cemetery. Anna was buried in the southeast corner of the cemetery, next to her husband Michael who had died in 1923. Anna had come to Syracuse from Cortland in late 1950 or early 1951 to take care of my grandfather’s family after his wife, her daughter Louise, had died. Grandma Flaherty, as we called her, lived to the ripe old age of 94 and that allowed her numerous great grandchildren to know her and to form many fond memories of her.

When the short graveside service was over my brother and sisters and I were looking around at the various gravestones and my father said “Don’t forget the McGraths, you’re related to them too.” Over in the northwest corner, at the opposite side of the cemetery from where Anna had been buried, there was a large McGrath monument. My father told us the story about the mother and three children dying from diphtheria caused by bad well water. This was the family of John J. McGraw, the famous Manager of New York Giants according to my father John was living in the village of Truxton at the time and escaped a brush with death. We had never read anything about our family history and with the exception of these few oral traditions we knew little about the family that had come over from Ireland. In addition there was the village of McGraw, southeast of Cortland, that we thought could possibly be connected with the family in some way but nobody knew any details.

In 1969 Lucy Sprague sent a letter to Uncle Ed (Edward C. McGraw), Aunt Agnes (Agnes McGraw Currie) and Uncle Jim (James McGraw) requesting information on the McGraw background. Based on the input from these folks Lucy put together a write up entitled the “McGraw Family Tree” sometime in the mid 1970s

Actually, Lucy had started down that road many years before this. “When (Lucy’s) son, George, was born in 1948, she (Mayme McGraw Waters, Lucy’s mother) helped me fill out the family tree in his baby book. She put down the names of her grandparents as Edmond McGraw and Mary Ryan, and James Rooney and Mary Sloan.”<sup>1</sup>

In the late 1970’s my interest in genealogy flared up for a short time. I had spoken to my grandfather (Ed McGraw) and he shared with me some of what he remembered and he also gave me a copy of some written information that had been gathered by Lucy Sprague. Eventually the completion of my dissertation, the move to Dallas, Texas in 1978 with my wife Noël, the start a new job and the arrival of our first child, Jennifer, crowded genealogy research out of my busy schedule.

Dick and Doug Currie, Agnes McGraw Currie’s sons, got caught up in the search and by 1980 my sister, Shirley McGraw Maloney was also actively tracking down ancestors. In the early 1990s Doug Currie put his research efforts down in writing, “A Genealogy of The McGraw’s of Truxton

New York.” The most recent edition is January 10, 1994. Along the way Shirley’s husband, Tom Maloney, was pulled into the effort and he has been keeping the McGraw database up to date on the Internet in addition to the Stack, Maloney and several others from his side of the family. For the 50<sup>th</sup> McGraw Reunion in 1999 Tom put together “The McGraw Family an American Success Story” that recorded all of his database information on the descendants of Edmond McGrath and Mary Ryan down to the present day. (<http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/m/a/l/Thomas-D-Maloney>)

My interest in the McGraw family history began seriously in June 1997 during a family trip to Ireland. While wandering through the Ennis Bookshop on Church Street, Ennis, Co. Clare an oversized magazine with a pen and ink drawing on the white cover caught my attention. The name of the magazine was *The Other Clare* that was published annually by the Shannon Archaeological & Historical Society. The first article that caught my eye was one called “Islandmagrath and the Macraith Family” by Paddy Connors. The article was only one page in length but it was a very condensed history of the Macraith family of Co. Clare who were the ancestors of many of the present day McGraths. This was the same bookstore where later the same week I found Mary, Michael and John McGrath listed as passengers on the ship the British Queen that docked in New York City on November 7, 1850 in a book on Irish Immigrants. Lightning had struck twice at the same spot.

Initially I spent most of my time researching the various McGrath septs in Ireland back into ancient history. Eventually I tried to make a connection with my own ancestors from Truxton and began devoting some of my time to the McGraths on this side of the ocean. In 1999, for the same 50<sup>th</sup> McGraw Reunion I wrote up my results as “The Origins of the McGrath Family.”

This latest attempt provides more details on the Ireland connections of the family and fills in events and connections to the Keeney Settlement area southeast of the village of Fabius, the Morgan Hill area in the Town of Cuyler and later years in the Town of Truxton area up to approximately 1940. I have included Doug Currie’s work on the details of the children of Michael and John McGraw. Included are details of the associated families that are directly related to the McGraws or are related to relations of the McGraws. These include the following families: Ryan – several families, Rooney, Sheahan, Tobin, Heffernan, Comerford, Carr, Currie, Waters, Casey, Herlihy and Flaherty. There is also some information on the McGraws of McGraw, NY and the McGraws of Dryden, NY that are not related to the McGraws of Truxton.

The information contained within this paper is the result of searching through land records, census records, old maps, geodetic survey maps, county directories, baptism, marriage and cemetery records and two trips to Ireland while trying to sort out the truth in the old family oral traditions. These oral traditions have been kept alive by Lucy Sprague, Doug Currie, Mary McGraw Stoddard, my father, Francis McGraw and my grandfather, Edward McGraw. For all this I am extremely grateful but I wish I had asked more questions when I was younger and paid more attention to the answers.



I also owe a debt of thanks to the following people who provided valuable information to me while I was researching this book. Shirley and Tom Maloney, Mary Stoddard, Karen Droop, Josephine French, Helena Dwyer, John T. Ryan, Jack Carr, Kathleen Siciliano, Curtis L. Tobin Sr., Pat Bird, Dick Barr, Daniel Weiskotten, Joe O’Brien, Kathleen O’Brien Organ, Candie Miller, Con and Mary Ryan, Michael Quinlan, Charlotte Donnelly, Bill & Joanne Casey, John and Evelyn Casey, Virginia Whitmarsh, Ann Ludke, Liam McGrath, John Cunningham, Cortland County Historical Society.

Here I am at an early age trying to open another door and find out what’s inside. Mike McGraw – Syracuse, NY – 1948

## Introduction

There were seven identifiable septs of McGraths in Ireland while only four of these are traceable back to a common origin. The other groups adopted the same surname independently. The original spelling of the name was Macraith and variations such as McCragh, McGrath and Magrath occurred over the years. There were other minor variations that resulted from transcription and recording errors by non-Irish speaking clerks and from poor penmanship. The McGrath variation is dominant in Ireland today followed by Magrath. Although it is pronounced as McGraw there are very few examples of this spelling in Ireland today. The parish records in Upperchurch, Co. Tipperary listed Edmond and his family as Magrath but when they traveled to America they were listed as McGrath. Once in Onondaga County and afterwards in Cortland County Edmond used McGrath and McGraw interchangeably for a period of about twenty years before the spelling settled down to McGraw.

The story of Edmond and Mary Ryan McGrath picks up in the parish of Upperchurch in Co. Tipperary, Ireland. The Ryans were from the townland of Gleninchaveigh (Glown) just west of the village of Upperchurch whereas Edmond was from the townland of Drumdiha in the parish of Moyaliff on the southern border of the parish of Upperchurch. During a family visit to Ireland in June 2000 we visited with relatives of Mary Ryan. Con Ryan and his ancestors have lived in Glown for at least the last few hundred years and there is evidence of Ryan occupation even earlier than that although the relationship is uncertain. While in Glown we visited with Con's daughter Eileen whose family was living in the ancestral cottage occupied by Mary Ryan in 1850. The Ryans are a huge family with many cousins but due to the efforts of Con and his cousin Michael Quinlan they were able to show that we are related. Eileen and I are sixth cousins while her father Con and I are fifth cousins once removed.

Edmond McGrath arrived in America on November 29, 1848 at New York City on board the *New Hampshire*. Mary followed two years later along with sons Michael and John arriving in New York City on November 7, 1850 on board the ship *British Queen*. What they did prior to arriving in Onondaga County, New York in the early 1850's is still unknown at this time. They settled first near the northern edge of the Keeney's Settlement. In March 1855 they moved to the portion of the Town of Truxton that would later be renamed the Town of Cuyler when that town was split off from the Town of Truxton. Edmond, Michael and John purchased land in the north part of the Town of Truxton on Kettlebail Road in January 1868. They ran into financial problems and were foreclosed on this property and the Cuyler property in 1874. Michael became a laborer on the Miles farm in Tully and John and Ellen and Edmond and Mary moved to a small farm on Shackham Road in the northern part of the Town of Truxton.

At some time prior to 1880 John and Ellen moved to a farm on the North Road out of Truxton. After his marriage to Alice Rooney in 1882 Michael and his new wife moved in with Edmond and Mary on Shackham Road. In the late summer of 1883 a tragedy befell the John McGraw family. John's wife Ellen Comerford McGraw died from complications of childbirth and three of her children died from diphtheria due to bad well water. John moved into the Village of Truxton but his family continued to disintegrate. By 1890 the baseball career of John's son, John J. McGraw, had begun to take off but the rest of the children had moved in with other families.

By 1890 Michael, Alice and their growing family had moved to a farm on the North Road across from Robbins Road about a mile from the Village of Truxton. By September 1893 Michael's parents Edmond and Mary were living with he and Alice at their farm on the North Road. In 1899 both Edmond and Mary passed away and Michael and Alice had their ninth and last child. Sometime prior to 1915 a fire burned down the farmhouse on the North Road and Michael and Alice moved into the Village of Truxton.

They eventually purchased the house on the corner of Prospect and Main. Michael passed away in 1923 so only a few of the older grandchildren remember him. For the rest this became grandma's house to a generation of grandchildren.

There are still some open issues and remaining questions. These are listed with a statement of the issue or question and a brief summary of what has been tried so far and some suggestions for the next steps. I am interested in hearing from anyone who might have any stories, genealogies or family photos that could shine any more light on our ancestors.

Almost one half of this document is filled with genealogy information on related families and friends of the McGraws of Truxton. This section just grew by itself as new names would show up and then get connected with the names that had already been found. The biggest surprise was the family of John Comerford that proved to be the connecting link among the following families: McGraw, O'Brien, Carr, Ryan and Waters. In addition to the known relations there are also several included that might be related but all the evidence is not in yet. At the end are two families that are not related to the McGraws of Truxton but have raised questions concerning possible relationships over the years. These are the McGraw family of McGraw, NY and the McGraw family of Dryden, NY.

#### New Findings

- Con Ryan and family and the ancestral cottage
- Edmond McGraw's Declaration of Intent – Onondaga Co. – Dec. 1854
- The Comerford family was the connection between the McGraws, O'Briens, Carr, Ryan and Waters.
- Present day descendants found:
  - Carr
  - Donnelly – (Sheahan / Heffernan)
  - Tobin
  - Ryan
  - McGrath, Ryan and O'Brien – Drumbane, Moyalliff, Ireland and Cortland Co.
- Patrick and Anna McGraw
  - Officially Patrick is buried in the Truxton Catholic Cemetery. Probably in the same plot as his wife Anna whose monument is next to the McGrath monument but no inscription was ever made to indicate his presence.
  - Implied relationship with Edmond McGraw inferred from proximity of cemetery monuments still not documented.
- Tornado in Keeney Settlement placed in the early 1850s rather than the late 1860s.
- Family residences on Kettlebail Road and Shackham Road verified.
- Location of John and Ellen McGraw's farm in the late summer of 1883 on the North Road instead of the West Road documented.
- Margaret Ryan Tobin's wedding date
- Sheahan marriage and baptism information
- Mary Ryan not positively born in Gleninchaveigh, Upperchurch parish. Early assumption doesn't hold up in light of new evidence of more Ryans in Gleninchaveigh.
- Two more Ryan families from Gleninchaveigh, Upperchurch parish found in Fabius and Pompey.
- Barney Ryan and family from Drumbane, Moyalliff parish, Co. Tipperary settled in Cazenovia, NY ~1850.
- In 1920 Mary Rooney McGraw and her estranged husband John W. McGraw were living apart but were both in the Village of Truxton. Mary was living with the Patrick Comerford family and John was living with the William Ryan family.

# The McGrath Family in Ireland

## The Possibility of a Common McGrath Origin

The McGraths were of Dalcassian ancestry, stemming from Cormac Cas, son of Oilíoll Olum, King of Munster in the 3rd century A.D. The name McGrath is derived from Macraith, a surname of ancient Irish origin, which is borne by the descendants of four distinguished septs that had their common origin in the Kingdom of Thomond in present day County Clare. The Irish surname Macraith is patronymic in origin, being one of those names derived from the first name of the original bearer. The name McGrath is from the Irish Mac Craith or MacRaith with the prefix Mac denoting the "son of Craith" that means son of grace. The surname McGraw was not found in Ireland during ancient times and occurs only infrequently in Ireland today. McGraw is a variation of McGrath, which yields an English pronunciation equivalent to the Irish pronunciation of McGrath, where the "th" is not pronounced.

Sorting out the beginning of the Macraith line in Co. Clare in the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> centuries is like trying to undo a big knot that has been tied for so long that it might never come undone. However, it might be possible, with a little finesse and with some help from the other McGrath researchers, to loosen the knot up just enough to be able to understand the different connections.

A persistent problem has been the inability of the earlier authors to assign patrimonial lands to the Macraith Clan of Co. Clare – one even claimed that he could find no records of such lands<sup>2</sup>. Part of the problem, I believe, stems from thinking of them as Macraiths too soon – they were really "O'Briens" or "O'Kennedys" or even "O'Larkins" during the reign of Brian Boru (941–1014 AD) and for a while there after had they chosen to use surnames. The quotation marks on the names are meant to indicate that these actual surnames were not used at that time but to emphasize that there were family connections between the people from whom the Macraiths would descend and the individuals Brian, Kennedy and Lorcan. When Brian died these proto-Macraiths were within the generational range of being eligible for leadership of the clan, they were part of the *deirbhfhine*<sup>3</sup>. Membership in the group consisted of everyone who had a common great grandfather with the dead king. With the succession of one of Brian's sons as the leader of the clan and with the passage of time the proto-Macraiths were no longer eligible for the leadership of the "O'Brian" Clan. Perhaps this was when they saw the need to establish a dynasty of their own.

Cinnéide, the father of Brian Boru, had the support of the Uí Néill clan of Northern Ireland in his rise to power<sup>4</sup>. The Uí Néill supported the rise of the Dalcassians in the south to balance the power of the Eoghanachta in south Munster. This could have been the link that drew part of the McGrath clan north to the Lough Derg region. The Uí Néill clan might have been influential in getting Miler Magrath's ancestors installed in the buffer area near Pettigo to help insulate themselves from the O'Donnells in the west.

"Brian's achievement was obviously due to his own personal ability as a political leader and a military commander. He was also a clever manipulator of the church, whose support he won by a show of generosity and by filling the leading ecclesiastical offices with friends and relatives."<sup>5</sup> These early appointments to ecclesiastical offices by Brian might have been the beginning of the McGrath tradition of following the pursuit of religious careers. In the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries the Macraiths were bishops of Kilfenora, Clare Abbey and Killaloe in Co. Clare.<sup>6</sup>

The earliest references to the name McGrath occurs in a citation from 1086<sup>7</sup> referring to a Magrath who was described as the Chief Poet of the Province of Munster. This Magrath is a probable ancestor to Clan Craith, who were related to the O'Briens of Thomond (North Munster) around the 12th century.

The Macraith line goes: Lorcán, Cenneidi, Etchtighern, Flan, Macraith, ... with Macraith probably born around 970 and he may have participated in the Battle of Clontarf. Now Toirheabhach O

Briain was Brian Boru's grandson and he was the first person to use Brian's name as a surname. He was of the same generation as Macraith and in 1097 the Annals of Innisfallen record that "son of Mac Raith the poet died." So we see that the Macraiths haven't started using a surname yet but the O'Briains are showing the way. Notice also that in 1097 the person known as Mac Raith, probably the Macraith in the pedigree listed above, was already known as a poet and was considered important enough to be recorded in the annals.

These early Macraiths, since they were relatives, were probably living in close proximity to the O'Briains, but the lands, which the Macraiths also owned due to clan membership in accordance with the Brehon laws, would have been described as O'Briain lands. These lands were around the Killaloe area in eastern Co. Clare. At a later date, in about 1178, the families of Clare had begun to be known by certain family names. "The O'Briens, as the dominant clan, had secured lands in many parts of the county (although the division of Thomond into counties had not yet occurred), the principal being the territory around the palace of Kincora, the greatest part of the barony of Inchiquin, part of Tradee, and the district along the Atlantic, from Dunbeg, by Milltown-Malbay to Ennistymon."<sup>8</sup>

After the intrusion of the Normans in 1169 the O'Briens moved their principle seat from Kincora at Killaloe to Clonroad near Ennis. "Clonroad was one of the most renowned of the Irish schools."<sup>9</sup> In the 14<sup>th</sup> century the Macraiths were running a bardic school that was distinct from the later one establish by the family near Cahir in Co. Tipperary.<sup>10</sup> The date of the establishment of this first bardic school is uncertain but Killaloe and Clonroad are two likely locations for such a school and again the Macraiths would have been located within the "O'Brien lands."

There are seven groupings or septs of McGraths in Ireland that can be identified. Four of these septs have been determined to be related, while the others are separate septs that had adopted the same surname independently. Although the modern spelling of the name is McGrath there have been several variations of the surname that were associated with particular septs. In the following the different variations will be used where they are known. The Magraths of Pettigo, Co. Donegal, the McGraths Co. Tipperary and the McCraghs of Co. Waterford are all descended from the Macraiths of Thomond in modern day Co. Clare.

In the following the septs are identified by their earliest known location or the location where they rose to prominence.

### **Co. Clare**

The Co. Clare sept was associated with Thomond (North Munster) as far back as the 1100's. Members of the sept were descended from Echtighern, son of Cennedi, and brother of Brian Boru. They served as the hereditary poets to the head of the O'Brien clan and ran a Bardic School in the 14<sup>th</sup> century probably located at Killaloe or Clonroad in Co. Clare.

From this original clan of Thomond came the Magraths of Termon Magrath in Co. Donegal and the McCraiths of Co. Tipperary and the McCraghs of Co. Waterford. The McCraiths of Co. Tipperary subsequently spread into Co. Waterford, Co. Limerick, and Co. Cork. Until at least 1574 there was a castle or towerhouse situated on Islandmagrath in Co. Clare that was in the possession of a Macraith. In the Book of Survey and Distribution for Co. Clare the area of Islandmagrath was in the possession of the Earl of Thomond in 1641 and no castle or towerhouse was mentioned.

There was also a small group of McCraghs in the northwest corner of Co. Tipperary, North Riding. They probably originated in Co. Clare and are quite possibly related to the Macraiths of Thomond.

## Co. Donegal

According to some authorities the Magraths of Termon Magrath were of Dalcassian origin by way of the Thomond clan in Co. Clare. The majority of these Magraths remained in the north while Miler and a band of relatives and friends made a new life for themselves in the south.

Abbot Beoc came to Ireland in the 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> century. He was the youngest son of a Welsh chieftain and founded a monastery on an island in Lough Derg. Beoc's church was referred to as Teo-da-Beoc and this probably gave rise to the spelling Dabeoc that is sometimes shown as Dabeog or Daveog. Recently John Cunningham has pointed out that Dr. Michael Harbison has put forth the opinion that St. Daveog might have been a pre-Christian deity even though he is listed as one of the great saints of Ireland. The land on which the monastery was located was originally called Termon Dabeog but later became known as Termon Magrath after the local family in Pettigo. In the early years of the 17<sup>th</sup> century James Magrath, son of Miler, built a castle at Pettigoe the remains of which are still standing today.

There are two options for the origins of these Magraths of Co. Donegal. They might be descendants of the founder of the church of St. Daveog as their coarb staus would indicate or they might have been descended from the Macraiths of Thomond as indicated by several authorities. Liam McGrath, of Dunsmore East, Co. Waterford, has reminded me that these lands were sometimes bought and sold or outright taken from the current owners. Therefore it is possible that the Magraths of Termon Magrath came from the Thomond sept and then acquired the termon lands of St. Daveog through some means. John Cunningham, an authority on the northern McGraths, points out that there is a Carrigmagrath in northern Co. Donegal that he believes was the location of the ancestors of the Magraths of Pettigo.

There are still McGraths in Templecarn parish Co. Donegal according to the Griffith's Valuation and the Irish Census of 1901. This is the same parish where Pettigo is located.

Miler Magrath, the most prominent member of the clan, came into Co. Tipperary from Pettigo, Co. Donegal in 1571. He was the Protestant Archbishop of Cashel, newly appointed by Queen Elizabeth I, and he started what can be considered another clan of the McGraths. His choice of spelling - Magrath rather than McGrath or McCragh - could have been an attempt to distinguish himself from the McCraghs of Co. Waterford who were supporters of the Earl of Desmond. At the time of Miler's arrival in Cashel, Desmond and his followers were in full rebellion against Queen Elizabeth I.

Edmond Magrath, grandson of Miler Magrath, owned 800 acres at Ballymore, parish of Clonoulty, Co. Tipperary in 1641. His land was taken from him and he was transplanted to the parish of Feakle, Co. Clare during the Cromwellian transplantations. Knowing he had been a spy for the English during the Rebellion of 1641 his new neighbors, some Moloneys among them, took to cutting down the trees on his property. Edmond appealed his transplantation to Cromwell himself and received his 800 acres back again. However, he appears to have remained in Co. Clare, dying there in 1683. Ballymore is in the parish of Clonoulty, which is separated from the parish of Moyaliffe to the north by only the intervening parish of Clogher - the total distance between them being only about 6 miles. It wasn't unusual for the expelled Irish to return to their former lands and in this case with the return of Ballymore to Edmond perhaps some of the family moved back to Ballymore. The number of Magraths found in the parishes of Clogher and Moyaliff in 1851 strengthens the possibility.

Miler's descendants spread out in central Tipperary in the area north of Cashel. At the end of the Rebellion of 1641, in about 1654, Miler's descendants were transplanted to Co. Clare, Galway and Mayo with the largest portion landing in the parishes of Feakle and Tulla in Co. Clare. As far as can be determined Co. Clare was just about empty of "McGraths" when Miller's descendants arrived. The repopulation of Co. Clare with McGraths and Magraths seems to be largely due to this family.

It appears that all the Magraths didn't go to Co. Clare or else some of them returned to Co. Tipperary after the Cromwellian Transplantation of the 1650s. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century descendants of these Magraths were located in north central Co. Tipperary east and south of Upperchurch parish and they married into the Flood and Fogarty families in the area while others carried on the Magrath name. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century there were numerous Magraths in Moyaliff and Clogher parishes adjacent to Upperchurch on the south. One of these was Michael Magrath and he had a son named Edmond who was my gg-grandfather. He married Mary Ryan of Gleninchaveigh, Upperchurch on September 1, 1841 and their first two children were born in Moyaliff parish and the third was born in Upperchurch parish.

### **Co. Tipperary**

In the Civil Survey of 1654 for Tipperary the "McGraths" can be grouped into three families. One was Miler Magrath's descendents in central Tipperary, another was a family listed as McCragh in northwest Tipperary while a third family was listed as McCragh and was in the Cahir area.

In 1640 there were several McCragh families in County Tipperary, living in the townland of Curraghduffe, civil parish of Killoskully & Killcomonty, barony of Arra and Owny, which is northwest of Upperchurch near the River Shannon. At the same time there was a Marcus Magrath, son of Brian, son of Miler Magrath, who was living in the parish of Aghnamaydull (now Aghnameadle), barony of Upper Ormond, He also owned land in the adjacent parishes of Ballymacky and Latheragh. These lands were just north of the parish of Upperchurch.

Members of the Thomond branch migrated to Cahir in Co. Tipperary and in the latter half of the 16<sup>th</sup> century were operating a bardic school in the town of Cahir. In 1641 there were McCraghs in Ballylomasna (Bhaile Ui Lomasna )and Burgesse (Buirgeise). They occupied the tower house at Loughloher after the Cromwellian transplantation that removed many Irish families from their homesteads. Their descendants still occupy the townland of Loughloher to this day. There was also a McCraith family in a tower house at Loughloher located a few miles east of Cahir. Over the subsequent years some of these McCraghs migrated into Co. Limerick, Co. Cork and Co. Waterford.

### **Co. Waterford**

The best known Waterford McGraths, often referred to as McCragh, were located on the eastern slopes of the Knockmealdown Mountains. These families were descended from the Macraiths of Thomond and were associated with the Fitzgerald family (Earl of Desmond). The head of the clan in the early 1600's was Philip McCragh of Sliabh Gua who constructed a castle called Sleady Castle in 1628 at Curragh na Sleady. The walls of the impressive 17<sup>th</sup> century, four story structure are still standing. Sleady Castle is located just east of Cappaquin a little off the road to Clonmel. The family also had a castle at Mountain Castle (which is still standing), where Philip lived prior to building Sleady Castle. A tower house at Abbeyside across the river from Dungarvan was built by a member of this family in the mid 1500s but was finally demolished in the 1960's. There were also other branches of the Waterford family living near by: McCraghs in Ballynagilty, north of Sleady Castle and McCraghs of Lisfinny, southwest of Lismore (McCragh of Lismore Muchada)

### **Co. Fermanagh**

McGraths of Fermanagh - probably descended from the Maguires. There are pedigrees that show the existence of a Macraith in the Maguire descent<sup>11</sup>. There are also extensive genealogy records for these McGraths of Fermanagh and this is the traditional territory of the Maguires.

### **Co. Kerry**

One of leading families of Co. Kerry were the O'Sullivans. A branch of this family was headed by

a person named Macraith and the descendants of this individual used his name as their surname. They were located at the castle of Cappanacushy near Kenmare, Co. Kerry. According to one source this branch of the family is extinct and cannot be traced to the present day (1906)<sup>12</sup>

### **Northern Ireland - Ulster**

Clandeboy McGraths - former O'Neill territory in Co. Down. The name comes from Clan Aedh Buidhe (Hugh [O'Neill] of the Yellow Hair). It is uncertain at this time whether these McGraths originated here or migrated to this region. These most likely originated in Scotland and came over to Ireland during the Plantation of Ulster after the Flight of the Earls in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century. The name is usually written as McGraw and they would be Presbyterians. Population concentrations of McGraths in the region were still evident in the Griffiths Valuation data ~1855.

The term Scotch-Irish originated in the United States in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>13</sup> The northern Irish, originally from Scotland, had come over to America prior to the revolutionary war and had established themselves in America. They were Presbyterians and wanted to distinguish themselves from the poorer Irish Catholics that started arriving in America in the early to mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. These newer refugees to American shores were looked down upon and the earlier Irish arrivals wanted to distance themselves from this rabble.

According to Liam McGrath the northern Scots Irish McCraes are to be thought of as Clan na Dalriada, because they moved back and forth in plantations and transplantations between N.E. Ulster and Kintail, Scotland. That is a story in itself. An old tale has 2 McGraths migrating to Scotland from Ireland after exhibiting some bad behavior at a party and the McCraes are descended from these two party animals. Whether there is any truth to this amusing legend is uncertain but it makes an interesting story that for now will have to remain unverified.

## The McGraths in Upperchurch

The Tipperary North Family History Foundation was engaged in late 1997 to search the Upperchurch area for any evidence of the Edmond McGrath family. In light of the information I was able to find on my own over the subsequent years their effort appears to have been very narrow and too focused. Their lack of genealogical research skills became very apparent. In addition to a few McGraths found in the Moyaliff Cemetery the two individuals below were the only two individuals they claimed that the Tipperary North Family History Foundation were able to find.

The following individual was found in the Griffith's Primary Valuation for Upperchurch (1851). This was the only person with that spelling of the surname in the civil parish of Upperchurch.

**Thomas McGrath**, of Finnahy, leased about 8 acres from Joseph Hanley, Esq. The land was valued at 4£10s and the building(s) at 10s. Finnahy [827 Acres: 2 Roods: 17 Perches] is located in the civil parish of Upperchurch in the barony of Kilnamanagh Upper.

The following individual was found in the Tithe Applotment Book (~1830)

**Philip Magrath**, of Ballyboy, "held" a little over 9 acres. This document is hand written and Upperchurch was written "Upper Church." The townland of Ballyboy [523 Acres: 2 Roods: 15 Perches] is located in the civil parish of Upperchurch in the barony of Kilnamanagh Upper.

It is possible that these two versions of the surname were used interchangeably. For example, in a letter from Father James O'Meara, parish priest at Upperchurch, dated 16 April 1888 he writes "Edmund Magrath." In a copy of a 1913 certification of Baptismal Register information about John McGrath's baptism on 24 June, 1844 the name is written "Edmond McGrath." The original record has the name spelled Magrath. The certificate with the McGrath version was a change made by the person writing the certificate.

By allowing for spelling variations and searching in the various parishes surrounding Upperchurch it was possible to find many individuals that were potential ancestors or relatives. It was unexpected but more progress has been made in Ireland on the Ryan side of the family despite the large number of Ryans in the Upperchurch area.

## Ryans in Gleninchaveigh

Evidence from the Civil Survey of 1654

The Civil Survey of 1654 was a preliminary survey carried out after the end of the Rebellion of 1641. Its purpose was to determine the ownership of the land at the beginning of the Rebellion for the purpose of determining which lands would be confiscated by the English Crown.

At that time Upperchurch was called Tampleoughteragh and the townland of Gleninchaveigh was called Glyssinivie and consisted of about 150 acres. The owners of this townland were John Ryan, Teige Ryan and Daniell Ryan, all of Glissinniuie (Gleninchaveigh) and all were listed as Irish Catholics or as they were then called, Papists. They had inherited these lands from their ancestors.

The Tithe Applotment Books ~1828

Moving forward to the 19<sup>th</sup> century there were three persons listed in the Tithe Applotment Books (~ 1828) occupying the townland of Glaninchnagee (Gleninchnaveigh, now Glown) in the Civil Parish of Upperchurch. These were Philip Ryan, Ellen Ryan and John Kennedy. Their holdings in Glaninchnaveigh were:

Philip Ryan 11A. 3R. 20P.  
 Eleanor Ryan 19A. 3R. 6P.  
 John Kennedy 31A. 2R. 24P.

Parish	Townland	Name	Acres	Roods	Poles
Upperchurch	Glaninchnagee = a. a.	Patrick Kennedy	3	2	1
		Edmund Kennedy	3	2	1
		Matthew Ryan	10		1
		Thomas Ryan	54	2	8
		<del>John</del> Philip Ryan	11	3	20
		<del>John</del> Ellen Ryan	19	3	6
		<del>John</del> John Kennedy	31	2	24
		Thomas Quinlan	7	2	18
		<del>Widow Edmund Ryan</del> Catherine	31	2	7
		<del>Widow Brien Michael</del> Margaret	1	3	4
		Dennis Ryan	2	2	1
		Thomas Ryan	31	2	28

A portion of the Tithe Applotment Books for Upperchurch, Co. Tipperary ~1828 showing the Ryans of Glaninchnaveigh. Note that John is crossed out and Ellen is written in. Although it is difficult to see the name Eleanor is written below the name Ellen.

The entry for Ellen Ryan is written over the entry of John Ryan, which had been crossed out. This was the practice when the husband died and the widow took possession of the land formerly occupied by her husband. The entry for Ellen was written in a darker manner over the original entry of Eleanor, which was written in a lighter and barely visible manner. When “tracing” over the original lighter entry Eleanor was changed to Ellen. I believe this was in error since in the Griffith’s Valuation records (1851) entry for Glaninchnaveigh an Eleanor Ryan is still occupying this townland.

Notice that several entries below the one for Eleanor Ryan there are entries for “Widow Edmund Ryan” and “Widow Brien Michael.” The use of the word widow would indicate that the husbands of these ladies were already dead at the time of the Tithe Applotment survey in 1828. At the time of the survey Eleanor’s entry read “John Ryan” indicating that he was alive at the time of the survey. At some later date someone went through and entered the names of the women who had previously only been listed as “widow.” During the intervening period John Ryan had died and so his first name was crossed out and the name Eleanor written in above it. At some still later date

someone went through the survey to go over the earlier changes since they had been written very lightly. It was at this time the entry "Eleanor" was changed to "Ellen."

## The Griffith's Valuation 1851 - The Kennedys and the Ryans

Upon examining the entries for the townland of Gleninchaveigh (now Glown) in the parish of Upperchurch it was noticed that the Index had missed a couple people. There was a Mary and Patrick Kennedy who were occupying ~28 acres of the total of 113A: 0R: 13P<sup>14</sup> in the townland. They are quite possibly related to the Kennedys who were living in this townland when the Tithe Applotment survey was taken in about 1828. The remaining 85 acres were occupied by the Ryans with the immediate lessor of all the lands in this townland being John Armstrong, Esq. This might be the owner of the land or one of the notorious middlemen of that era.

In 1828 John Kennedy had an acreage of 31A: 2R: 24P in Gleninchaveigh. In 1844 Patrick Kennedy was born to Patrick Kennedy and Margaret Ryan of Gleninchaveigh. The sponsors were William Kennedy and Mary Ryan. In 1851 Patrick and Mary Kennedy were occupying ~26 acres of Gleninchaveigh. Mary had parcel 1A-a and 1B-b while Patrick had a smaller amount in parcels 1A-b and 1B-b. The parcel 1B-b was split between Patrick Kennedy who had the house and Jeremiah Ryan and Eleanor Ryan who held some of the land.

Mary Kennedy is most likely the widow of John Kennedy from the 1828 Tithe Applotment Book. Patrick Kennedy is probably their son since he is part occupier of parcel 1A that has been split into "a" and "b" portions. Patrick's wife is one of a proliferating number of Margaret Ryans originating in this small townland of Gleninchaveigh. To avoid confusion she will be referred to as Margaret Ryan Kennedy.

Map Reference	Occupant	Description	Area (A:R:P)	Land (£:s:d)	Building (£:s:d)	Total (£:s:d)
1A-a	Kennedy, Mary	Office, Land	24:0:22	6:10:0	0:5:0	6:15:0
1A-b	Kennedy, Patrick	Land		3:5:0		3:5:0
1B-a	Kennedy, Mary	<b>House</b> , Office, Land	2:1:39	0:15:0	1:15:0	2:10:0
1B-b	Kennedy, Patrick	<b>House</b> , Land		0:8:0	0:15:0	1:3:0
-	Ryan, Jeremiah	Garden	0:1:8	0:5:0		0:5:0
-	Ryan, Eleanor	Garden	0:0:12	0:1:0		0:1:0
2	Ryan, Jeremiah	Land	19:3:0	7:10:0		7:10:0
3	Ryan, Martin	Land	66:1:12	4:15:0		4:15:0
3a	Ryan, Eleanor	<b>House</b> , Office, Land		14:10:0	1:15:0	16:5:0
3b	Ryan, Patrick	<b>House</b> , Office, Land		4:15:0	1:0:0	5:15:0

These are the head occupants of the parcels of land in the townland of Gleninchaveigh, Upperchurch, Co. Tipperary. The Immediate Lessor was John Armstrong, Esq.

Some cautions are in order: Griffith's Valuation was carried out for taxation purposes - it was not a census. If a person occupied land in more than one townland then his name would show up multiple times. Also only the head of a household or family was recorded and not all the family members. Therefore each occurrence of a name represents one or more actual individuals occupying that parcel of land.

In the actual Griffith Valuation, not the index, there is more information such as a Map Reference, the name of the Immediate Lessor, description of the holding, Area and Valuation. The Map

Reference refers to a set of maps that were made to accompany the original valuation. Even without the maps themselves these Map References can sometimes be used to establish associations and relationships.

Gleninchaveigh was the townland where Mary Ryan was living with her husband Edmond McGrath when their son John William was baptized at the Roman Catholic Church in Upperchurch on June 24, 1844. Sponsors were Patrick Ryan and Mary Ryan. This is very likely the Patrick listed above and he is one of Mary's cousins. The female sponsor, Mary Ryan (maiden names were used in the parish records), is probably Patrick's wife since we know the names of Mary's sisters were Catherine and Margaret and her parents wouldn't have given two of their daughters the same name.

Parcel 3 has Eleanor, Martin and Patrick Ryan as occupants with the value of their holdings rated at £16.5s.0d, £4.15s.0d and £5.15s.0d respectively. The larger size of Eleanor's holding relative to Martin's and Patrick's would be consistent with Eleanor being their mother. This is consistent with Con Ryan's story in the National Geographic about his great-great grandmother. He said that it was she who built cabins for her four sons and he made no mention of his great-great grandfather.

In Parcel 2, which is probably adjacent to Parcel 3, the occupant was Jeremiah Ryan and the size of his holding was about 19 acres. This was one of Eleanor's cousins given the proximity of the two parcels of land and given that there seems to be no husband of Eleanor's in the picture. If Eleanor's husband had been around it would have been his name on the parcel of land that had her name. According to these records Jeremiah was the occupier of land only as there were no houses on the parcels attributed to him.

The size of these holdings would indicate that these Ryans were not part of the poorer class of farmer whose holdings were usually in the sub-acre category. Another observation about the land parcels in the Thurles Poor Law Union, where Upperchurch and Moyaliff are located, is that there were very few vacant parcels. One of the sad characteristics of the famine was the wholesale clearing of the peasants from the estate lands to avoid the payment of the Poor Law rates by the landowners. Possibly there weren't as many persons forced off their land, in this region, during the Great Famine. Perhaps the persons who remained took over the vacated parcels or perhaps new persons moved in during the years immediately after the famine. Since this survey was conducted in late 1850 and early 1851, several years after the end of the famine, it isn't possible to say much more based on just this information.

If Michael and possibly John were named after their paternal and maternal grandfathers, respectively, according to the Irish naming tradition, we can assume that their sister Margaret was named after her paternal grandmother. Therefore Edmond's mother was most likely named Margaret.

The Irish naming convention works in Michael's case and might be applicable in Margaret's case but there is a problem in the case of John. There is indeed a John Ryan of the correct age to be Mary's father living of Gleninchaveigh but he isn't Mary Ryan's father. There is also a Philip Ryan living in the same townland at that time but it is not clear if he is related to our Mary Ryan. In fact a Phillip and Margaret Ryan and their large family later showed up in the Town of Fabius, Onondaga County, NY in the early 1850's shortly after Edmond and Mary McGrath. These Ryans were from Gleninchaveigh but they were not Mary Ryan's parents.

## **Mary Ryan McGrath's Connection to Gleninchaveigh**

In tracing Mary Ryan McGrath's connection to Gleninchaveigh no hard evidence has been discovered that shows that she was born in Gleninchaveigh. In the past this had been assumed

based on Mary and Edmond's residence there in 1844 at the time of the baptism of their third son John William Magrath. In addition the Irish naming convention would indicate that Mary's father was named John. The Tithe Applotment Books showed a John and Eleanor Ryan living in Gleninchaveigh in 1828. Since that time evidence has been discovered that there were many more Ryans that were associated with this little townland of only 113 acres. The Griffith's Valuation for Tipperary was submitted on August 15, 1851 and showed that there were only four houses in the townland. Con Ryan said in his 1981 National Geographic interview that his great-great grandmother Eleanor Ryan had built these houses for her four sons. In 1851 two of the houses were in the possession of Kennedys – Mary and Patrick. The other two houses were in the possession of the Ryans – Eleanor and Patrick. Jeremiah Ryan was also occupying some land in the townland but didn't have a house allocated to him. He was probably living with one of the Ryans – Eleanor was his first cousin once removed. Mary and Edmond are assumed to have been living in this townland from about 1844 until 1848 when Edmond left for America and 1850 when Mary, Michael and John left for America – but there is no hard evidence to support this assumption. Mary Ryan McGrath's connection lies in the assumption that she is Jeremiah's sister. For some reason she and her family must have moved in with Jeremiah who himself was living with a relative. This must have created a very crowded situation and could have been a contributing factor in Edmond's decision to immigrate to America.

The following are the Margaret Ryans associated with Gleninchaveigh that have been found so far:

1. Margaret Ryan Kennedy, wife of Patrick Kennedy – living in Gleninchaveigh in April 1844.
2. Margaret Ryan Ryan, wife of Philip Ryan – living in Gleninchaveigh in March 1843.
3. Margaret Ryan, wife of Phillip Ryan – both<sup>15</sup> born in Gleninchaveigh

## **Ryans in Drumdiha**

In the townland of Drumdiha, Parish of Moyaliff, the Valuation listed six persons: Eleanor Perkin, Daniel Ryan, Edward Ryan, Michael Ryan, Owen Ryan, Timothy Ryan.

Drumdiha (189 A: 2 R: 31 P) was the townland in the civil parish of Moyaliff where Edmond and Mary were living when their children, Margaret and Michael, were baptized in the Roman Catholic Church in Upperchurch on June 27, 1842 and November 19, 1843 respectively. Margaret's sponsors were Michael and Bridget Ryan. Michael is probably the person listed above and might be a brother or cousin of Mary Ryan's and Bridget is probably Michael's wife. Michael McGrath's sponsors were John Magrath and Ally Sweeney. John could be a brother of Edmond's so I placed his name in the working version of the family tree.

When Edmond and Mary Ryan were married in the Roman Catholic Church in Upperchurch on September 1, 1841 their witnesses were Rody Ryan and Daniel Ryan. Daniel may be the Daniel Ryan listed above as residing in Drumdiha and could be a brother or cousin of Mary's. It is a little odd that one of the witnesses was not a McGrath/Magrath.

## **Magraths in Moyaliff Parish**

There was a Michael McGrath living in the town of Moyaliff, in the civil parish of Moyaliff, according to the Tithe Applotment Books for the parish of Moyaliff. The survey was conducted in approximately 1828. This Michael might be Edmond's father. Moyaliff is adjacent to the civil parish of Upperchurch on the southeast and the town of Moyaliff is just a few miles east of Drumdiha (also in Moyaliff parish). This is where Edmond and Mary were living when their first two children were born.

Just south of Upperchurch is the civil parish of Moyaliff and although there were no McGraths found in this parish the Griffith's Valuation Index lists 13 Magraths. Given the nature of the Griffith's Valuation some of these individuals shown below could be the same person and not unique individuals.

MAP	NAME	TOWNLAND	ACRES:ROODS:PERC HES
9	Magrath, Thomas	Allengort	12:1:0
22	Magrath, Philip	Clareen	3:0:29
4a	Magrath, Philip	Coolkill	17:1:38
6	Magrath, John	Coolnamoney	3:1:12
8A-a	M'Grath, James	Dooree Commons	25:2:22
8B	M'Grath, James	Dooree Commons	21:0:21
49	Magrath, Jeremiah	Drumbane	6:2:36
48g	Magrath, Jeremiah	Drumbane	0:0:21
39	Magrath, Thomas	Drumbane	11:0:37
1a	Magrath, John	Drumminphilip	52:2:0
7	Magrath, John	Gortahoola	30:2:3
42	Magrath, Thomas	Knockacarhanduff Commons	2:1:28
4a	Magrath, Mary	Moyaliff	38:1:12
10A	Magrath, Philip & Thomas	Roskeen	9:2:32
10B	Magrath, Philip & Thomas	Roskeen	4:2:20

A John Magrath was one of the sponsors for the baptism of Edmond and Mary's son Michael William. There are several candidates in the list above.

In the townland of Moyaliff, civil parish of Moyaliff, there was a **Mary Magrath** occupying Parcel 4a. The Immediate Lessor was John Armstrong, Esq. Mary's holdings consisted of about 38 acres on land valued at £26.5s.0d and a house and office valued at £2. On the same parcel was Michael Ryan on 4b and Thomas Ryan on 4c. Their holdings were 2r.3p and 1r.30p in size and valued at £2.10s and £2.5s respectively.

When a woman's name was shown as the occupant of a parcel of land in this survey it usually meant her husband was not around – being either deceased or having left the country. There is a slight possibility that this Mary was Edmond McGrath's wife and she was occupying their land while Edmond had gone on ahead to America. According to the Upperchurch parish records all their children's baptismal entries show the spelling Magrath. There is a timing issue to be resolved. The surname will be discussed elsewhere and the timing issue will be handled here. The Valuation for the county of Tipperary was submitted on 15 August 1851. We know that Mary McGrath and her sons Michael and John arrived in New York City aboard the *British Queen* on 7 November 1850. They probably left the Moyaliff area around mid-September 1850 to begin their journey to America. It remains to be determined when the actual survey was carried out in the Moyaliff area and that will help determine if this Mary Magrath could be Edmond's wife.

There was a Michael Ryan who was a sponsor at the baptism of Edmond and Mary's daughter Margaret the Michael Ryan occupying Parcel 4b might be that Michael.

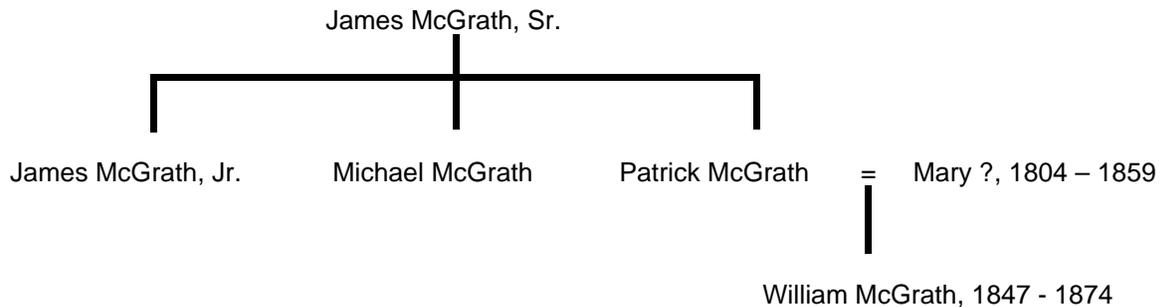
## McGraths in Turraheen Lower, Parish of Clogher

Bordering Moyaliff on the south is the civil parish of Clogher. The Griffith's Valuation for the parish of Clogher shows nine (9) listings for McGraths, all in the townland of Turraheen Lower. This

particular townland is just across the Turraheen River from Drumdiha, in the parish of Moyaliff. Drumdiha is the townland where Edmond and Mary McGrath were living when their first two children were baptized at Upperchurch. The listing of persons in Turraheen Lower is as follows

Map Coordinate	Name	Size (Acres)
3A & 3B	Mary McGrath	18
6	Thomas McGrath	23
8	Philip McGrath	28
9A & 9B	Patrick McGrath (Jas.)	12
21, 22	Michael McGrath (Jas.)	23
24Aa & 24B	James McGrath, Jr.	71
24Ab & 25	Michael McGrath (Edw.)	< 1
30A	Patrick McGrath	16
59	James McGrath, Jr. James McGrath, Sr. Patrick McGrath (Jas.)	10
17a	Michael McGrath	3

Some of these individuals from the table above can be grouped into the following pedigree. The addition of Mary McGrath as Patrick's wife is from inscriptions found in the Moyaliff graveyard and is only included as a possibility.



In addition to these relationships shown above there is also an Edward McGrath and his son Michael McGrath. The geographical closeness of these two concentrations of McGraths/Magraths would suggest that they are probably related although the hard evidence of such relationships is lacking at this time. Most of the "McGrath" individuals found in the parish church records used the Magrath spelling. These are some of the same people found in both these records for the parish of Clogher. The tendency would be to go with the parish records in the case of the correct spelling of the surnames. The parish priest knew his parishioners but the enumerator for the Griffith's Valuation was not familiar with the individuals whose information he was recording.

## The Fate of Edmond and Mary McGrath's daughter Margaret

I have seen the microfilmed copies of the Upperchurch parish records at the National Library of Ireland in Dublin. I have also inspected the computerized version of these records at the Parochial House in the village of Upperchurch with the assistance of Father Donal Cunningham, the Upperchurch parish priest. Father O'Meara's letter and the microfilmed copy both reflect the

Magrath spelling. The computerized version however has standardized the names to McGrath to simplify database searches but at the same time not doing justice to the historical record.

The fate of Mary and Edmond's daughter Margaret continues to be a mystery. She didn't travel to America with Mary, Michael and John in 1850. The passenger list of the *British Queen* doesn't list a Margaret traveling with her mother and her two brothers. If she had died during the voyage that fact would have been recorded by the ship's master. A more probable scenario is that she died during the Great Famine, possibly during the cholera epidemic of 1849 and may be buried in a mass grave with the other epidemic victims. It can be assumed that she died as a result of the famine or perhaps she was a victim of the cholera epidemic. The first cases appeared in December 1848, having spread from England and then traveled across Ireland from the east coast to the west. There were 30,000 cholera deaths in Ireland in the year 1849 with children under 15 being especially vulnerable<sup>16</sup>.

The Tipperary North Family History Foundation performed a survey back in 1997, at my request, of the graveyards in the Upperchurch Roman Catholic parish. This consisted of the Templebeg, Moyaliff and Upperchurch cemeteries. Their survey turned up no Margaret McGrath that fit the age of Edmond and Mary's daughter.

During the height of the Great Famine large numbers of tenant families were being evicted from their homes for failure to pay rent. Homeless, they could try to enter the already over crowded workhouses and seek relief or they could slowly starve to death in the ditches along the roadside. Life in the workhouses was not always a reprieve but sometimes only a postponement of death from starvation or disease. The deaths in the workhouses were so numerous that individual burials in well-marked graves were a luxury that the times would not allow. Mass unmarked graves were the signature of the workhouses and today the sunken depressions near the former workhouse locations bear silent witness to the final resting places of the many nameless former workhouse residents.

Even their former homesteads offered no shelter. Once evicted the houses of the former tenants were "tumbled" – the roofs were removed and the walls knocked in. Since Mary Ryan's relatives were still in place, in Gleninchaveigh, at the end of the famine this fate doesn't appear to have befallen her family. In an epidemic the victims were usually buried quickly in an attempt to slow the spread of the disease. With the already large death tolls from the workhouses and those dying along the roadsides the additional deaths from the cholera epidemic probably made private individual burials impractical during that time. It's quite possible that Margaret McGrath's baptismal entry, in the Upperchurch parish record, is the only trace that's left of her short existence.

## Surname Distribution Analysis

An analysis of the distribution of the Magrath surname among the parishes in the Index of the Griffith's Valuation for County Tipperary was conducted. The civil parishes of Moyaliff, Kilmore and Dromineer were found to contain the highest concentrations of the surname. Moyaliff is in the Roman Catholic (RC) parish of Upperchurch, Kilmore is in the RC parish of Silvermines and Dromineer is in the RC parish of Cloghprior & Monsea. An analysis of the County Clare distribution of the surname Magrath shows only a few scattered occurrences of this surname variation in that county at the time of the Griffith's Valuation. It is important to remember that the Griffith's Valuation records have shown McGrath in the parish of Clogher, Co. Tipperary when the real spelling was Magrath.

A similar analysis for the surname McGrath was also conducted. The distribution of the McGrath variation of the surname is similar to the distribution of the Magrath variation. The maximum occurrences, of both surname variations, were found in County Tipperary. The parish of Clogher,

which is adjacent to Moyaliff, had 9 McGrath's. The surname variations appear to be more an artifact due to the survey recorders' surname preferences rather than real surname variations.

## **The Parish Records**

The earliest Catholic parish records for the Diocese of Killaloe in County Clare begin in about 1815 as the Catholics were gradually allowed to practice their religion in the open once again. These records consist of Baptisms and Marriages and in the earliest cases are hand written and are seldom indexed. The baptismal records typically contain the date, the name of the child being baptized, the names of the father and mother (plus maiden name), residence of mother and father, and the names of one or two sponsors. The marriage records contain even more information: the date of the ceremony, names of the husband, wife and one or two witnesses. In addition there is usually a residence given for each of these individuals, although this can vary somewhat from parish to parish. It takes a while to get accustomed to the handwriting but in a while it isn't too difficult to recognize the familiar patterns in the names you are searching for in the records.

From our Edmond's side of the Shannon, in County Tipperary, the most northern portion of the county is part of the Diocese of Killaloe and the remainder is in the Diocese of Cashel. The parish of Upperchurch records have a starting point of 1829. Interestingly these are two of the dioceses that figured most prominently in the history of the McGrath family. Many of the Bishops of Killaloe were descendants of the Macraith's of Thomond and Miler Magrath had been the Archbishop of Cashel.

## **Upperchurch Parish Records**

This information was compiled in part from photographs taken on June 24, 2000 of the Upperchurch parish records books provided by Father Donal Cunningham at the Parochial House at Upperchurch, Co. Tipperary, Ireland. The record books commence in 1829 and so there might be earlier children in some of the families shown that do not appear in the parish record books. The book that Father Cunningham provided for me to photograph was not the original hand written book but a book of computerized alphabetized listings. All the McGrath baptisms were grouped together as were the marriages. This book was probably provided by the Tipperary North Family History Foundation, that is one of the many Family History Foundations in Ireland, who have computerized these records in recent years.

The Clonoulty information and some of the marriage records from Upperchurch were compiled from the microfilm copies of the original parish record books stored at the National Library of Ireland.

In the early 1980's Dick Currie received a letter from Father James O'Meara, who was then the parish priest at Upperchurch. In that letter Father O'Meara provided information from the Upperchurch parish record books on the baptisms of the children of Edmond and Mary Ryan McGrath. In that letter however the spelling of the name was Magrath and not McGrath. It appears that in an effort to simplify the computerization of the parish records the Family History Foundation made the decision to standardize the spelling of the surnames. When I visited the National Library of Ireland later the next week I inspected the microfilm copy of the original hand written Upperchurch parish record books and the spelling was Magrath as Father O'Meara had indicated in his letter and not McGrath as indicated in the record book in the possession of Father Donal Cunningham. In addition to the baptismal information the original parish record books, in many cases, contained information as to the townland where the parents of the baptized child resided at the time of the baptism. This information was missing from the computerized version of

the parish records but had been included in Father O'Meara's letter. It would appear that the Family History Foundation had decided to omit this information from their rendition of the record books, perhaps in an effort to save memory. This is truly disappointing given the importance of this information in the search for one's ancestors.

The charter of the Family History Foundations was to gather together and preserve the records of the past and to assist individuals in tracing their family histories. It is regrettable that in an effort to simplify the searching process and to minimize storage requirements this Family History Foundation has chosen to distort the very records they were charged with preserving. At the same time the Archbishop of Cashel & Emly, the diocese in which the parish of Upperchurch is located, continually refuses access to the microfilm copies of the parish records and directs individuals to consult the Family History Foundation. It is disturbing to consider the possibility that access has been restricted to the microfilm copies of the parish records for the Diocese of Cashel & Emly to prevent the discovery of the short cut methods employed by the Family Heritage Center preventing a subsequent erosion of confidence in them.

Based on selective comparisons between the information from the computerized parish records and the microfilms of the originals in the National Library the spelling McGrath was changed back to Magrath in the following tables.

**Philip Magrath** = **Catherine Maher**

- **Catherine Magrath**, bap. May 2, 1830  
sps. James Burke and Johanna Long
- **Mary Magrath**, bap. June 27, 1832  
sps. Matt Burke and Sally Ryan
- **James Magrath**, bap. Sept. 7, 1834  
sps. James Burke and Mary Murphy

**Martin Magrath** = **Mary Shanahan**

- **Michael Magrath**, bap. Sept. 29, 1836  
sps. None given

**James Magrath** = **Margaret Ryan**

- **Thomas Magrath**, bap. Jan. 30, 1837  
sps. William Griffin and Judy Ryan
- **James Magrath**, bap. Sept. 15, 1839  
sps. James Ryan and Winnie Ryan
- **John Magrath**, bap. Nov. 19, 1843  
sps. Patt Ryan and **Mary Magrath**

**Jeremiah Magrath**

=

**Ellen (Nelly) Maher**

**Pat Magrath**, bap. Dec. 28, 1840  
sps. James Maher and **Bridget Magrath**

**Sarah Magrath**, bap. May 11, 1842  
sps. Thomas Doolan and Margaret Long

**John Magrath**, bap. Dec. 17, 1843  
sps. John Meara and Margaret Corcoran

**Tom Magrath**, bap. Aug. 7, 1846  
sps. John Ryan and Bridget Ryan

**Judith Magrath**, bap. Jan. 31, 1849  
sps. Jerry Maher and Peggy Ryan

**Mary Magrath**, bap. Sept. 1, 1850  
sps. Ned Garther and Mary Maher

**Edmund Magrath**

Actual spelling in the  
marriage record was  
McGrath

=

**Mary Ryan**

m. Sept. 1, 1841

**Margaret Magrath**, bap. Jun. 27, 1842 (Drumdiha)  
sps. Michael Ryan and Bridgit Ryan

**Michael Magrath**, bap. Nov. 19, 1843 (Drumdiha)  
sps. **John Magrath** and Alley Sweeney

**John Magrath**, bap. Jun. 24, 1844 (Gleninchneaveigh)  
sps. Patk Ryan and Mary Ryan

**Thomas Magrath**

=

**Mary Ryan**

m. Feb. 2, 1842

**Judy Magrath**, bap. Nov. 10, 1842  
sps. Tom Ryan and Bgt Ryan

**Anne Magrath**, bap. Sept., 1843  
sp. Bgt Stapleton

**Bridget Magrath**, bap. Feb. 21, 1845  
sps. Wm. Brien and Ellen Callinan

**Patrick Magrath**, bap. Jul. 19, 1848  
sps. Andrew Grady and Bgt Grady

**Michael Magrath**, bap. Aug. 14, 1850  
sps. Richd Stapleton and Margt Searson

└─ **William Magrath**, bap. Nov. 29, 1852  
sps. **Wm Magrath** and **Winnie Magrath**

**John Magrath**

= **Bridget Ryan**  
m. Sept. 4, 1842

└─ **Winifred Magrath**, bap. Jul. 3, 1843  
sps. **Tom Magrath** and **Bgt Magrath**

└─ **Philip Magrath**, bap. Feb. 8., 1845  
sps. **Dani Magrath** and **Kitty Magrath**

└─ **Judy Magrath**, bap. Dec 15, 1846  
sps. **Philip Magrath** and Bgt. Maher

└─ **Kitty Magrath**, bap. Apr. 5, 1848  
sps. John Ryan and Margt. Carroll

└─ **John Magrath**, bap. Feb. 24, 1851  
sps. John Purcell and Bgt Hart

└─ **Mary Magrath**, bap. Dec. 30, 1852  
sps. Thos Purcell and Margt Lambe

**Thomas Magrath**

= **Ellen (Nelly) Purcell**  
m. Sept. 13, 1843

└─ **Philip Magrath**, bap. Jan. 12, 1844  
sps. Kitty McGreat and Ned Fogarty

└─ **Thomas Magrath**, bap. Feb. 25, 1846  
sps. **Dani Magrath** and **Bgt Magrath**

└─ **John Magrath**, bap. Jun. 6, 1848  
sps. **Philip Magrath** and **Wfd. Magrath**

└─ **Winnie Magrath**, bap. Nov. 10, 1850  
sps. Thos Purcell and Margt Long

└─ **Mary Magrath**, bap. Jan. 23, 1853  
sps. James Dolan and **Mary Magrath**

**Thomas Magrath**

= **Margaret Ryan**

└─ **John Magrath**, bap. Nov. 19, 1843  
sps. Patt Ryan and **Mary Magrath**

**Patrick Magrath** = **Mary Murray**  
m. Jan. 24, 1841

- **Mary Magrath**, bap. Jan. 18, 1845  
sps. Michl Murray and Judy Murray
- **Margaret Magrath**, bap. Jan. 2, 1848  
sps. Denis Leamy and Mary Morrissey

**Thomas Magrath** = **Julia(n) Magrath**  
m. Jan. 26, 1848

- **Mary Magrath**, bap. Mar. 1, 1849  
sps. Patk Quinn and **Mary Magrath**
- **Catherine Magrath**, bap. May 18, 1851  
sp. **Kitty Magrath**

**John Magrath** = **Margaret Ryan**

- **Norry Magrath**, bap. Dec. 3, 1852  
sps. Patk Walsh and Margt Dwyer

**Thomas Magrath** = **Mary Quinn**  
m. Feb. 26, 1843

- **William Magrath**, bap. Feb. 4, 1853  
sps. Andy Burke and Mary Slattery
- **Anne Magrath**, bap. Jun. 14, 1856  
sps. Mary Burke and John Quinn
- **Thomas Magrath**, bap. Feb. 12, 1857  
sps. Patt Murphy and Emy Burke

**Michael Magrath**

- = **Bridget Corbett**  
m. Feb. 8, 1864
- **Patrick Magrath**, bap. Jul. 11, 1866  
sps. Edmund Corbett and Bgt Burke
  - **James Magrath**, bap. Sept. 15., 1867  
sps. Pat Corbett and Johanna Ryan
  - **Johanna Magrath**, bap. Nov. 25, 1868  
sps. **John Magrath** and Margt Ryan
  - **Thomas Magrath**, bap. Apr. 20, 1870  
sps. **Thos Magrath** and Mary Ryan
  - **Winifred Magrath**, bap. Jun. 8, 1871  
sps. John Dwyer and Margt Walsh
  - **Winifred Magrath**, bap. Sept. 22, 1872  
sps. Michl Dwyer and Sarah Ryan
  - **Michael Magrath**, bap. Sept. 9, 1875  
sps. Patk Dwyer and Johanna Dwyer

**Denis Magrath**

- = **Catherine Kennedy**
- **Denis Magrath**, bap. Apr. 13, 1872  
sp. Mary Bergin

**Philip Magrath**

- = **Honora Stapleton**  
m. Feb. 23, 1873
- **John Magrath**, bap. Apr. 22, 1874  
sps. Philip and Mary Stapleton
  - **Tim Magrath**, bap. Jul. 5, 1875  
sps. **John Magrath** and Julia Stapleton
  - **Bridget Magrath**, bap. Sept. 17, 1876  
sps. **Philip Magrath** and **Mary Magrath**
  - **Mary Magrath**, bap. Feb. 2, 1878  
sps. Matt Stapleton and **Johanna Magrath**
  - **Patrick Magrath**, bap. Aug. 17, 1879  
sps. William Hayes and Margt Stapleton
  - **Winifred Magrath**, bap. Feb. 6, 1881  
sps. Patk Stapleton and **Wfd Magrath**

**Philip Magrath**

- = **Bridget Shanahan**  
m. Feb. 28, 1878
- **Thomas Magrath**, bap. Nov. 19, 1878  
sps. Wm Shanahan and **Winifred Magrath**
  - **Ellen Magrath**, bap. Apr. 28., 1880  
sps. **Thomas Magrath** and Mgt Shanahan
  - **Johanna Magrath**, bap. Jun. 16, 1881  
sps. Frank Shanahan and Margt Shanahan
  - **William Magrath**, bap. Aug. 3, 1882  
sps. **Rev. J. Magrath** and Mary Long
  - **Mary Magrath**, bap. May 1, 1884  
sps. **John Magrath** and Kate Shanahan
  - **Winifred Magrath**, bap. Aug. 22, 1885  
sps. Wm Shanahan and Johanna Murray
  - **John Magrath**, bap. Jun. 24, 1887  
sps. **Philip Magrath** and Bgt Doolan
  - **John Magrath**, bap. Jun. 27, 1889  
sps. **Thomas Magrath** and Nancy Shanahan
  - **Margaret Magrath**, bap. Aug. 23, 1890  
sps. Michl Shanahan and Bgt Ryan
  - B, bap. Jul. 27, 1892  
sps. Denis Ryan and Honoria Ryan
  - **Ellen Magrath**, bap. Sept. 18, 1894  
sps. **Wm Magrath** and Sarah Ryan
  - **Patrick Magrath**, bap. Apr. 25, 1896  
sps. Thomas Hayes and **Johanna Magrath**
  - **Anne Magrath**, bap. Mar. 17, 1899  
James Dwyer and **Winifred Magrath**

**Patrick Magrath**

- = **Margaret Hogan**  
m. Nov. 24, 1877
- **John Magrath**, bap. Jun. 22, 1879  
sps. **James Magrath** and **Honora Magrath**
  - **Thomas Magrath**, bap. May 25, 1881  
sps. James Hogan and Ellen Fogarty

**Michael Magrath** = **Catherine Hayes**  
 m. Feb. 2, 1886

- **Margaret Magrath**, bap. Dec. 30, 1886  
 sps. Thos Hayes and Mary Ryan
- **John Magrath**, bap. Apr. 7, 1888  
 sps. William Hayes and Margt Ryan
- (**William Magrath**, bap. Dec. 9, 1889)  
 sps. Patk Hayes and Nanno Hayes
- **James Magrath**, bap. Aug. 21, 1891  
 sps. John Ryan and Anne Fogarty
- **Mary Magrath**, bap. Aug. 6, 1893  
 sps. Matt Dwyer and Mary Hayes
- **Daniel Magrath**, bap. Jul. 22, 1895  
 sps. James Ryan and Mr. Matt Dwyer

**John Magrath** = **Catherine Duggan**

- **John Magrath**, bap. Oct. 27, 1891  
 sp. Mary Short

**John Magrath** = **Margaret Quigley**

- **Johanna Magrath**, bap. Nov. 30, 1899  
 sps. **James Magrath** and Bgt Quigley
- **Bridget Magrath**, bap. Dec. 16, 1900  
 Anthoney Quigley and **Bgt Magrath**

**Marriages in Upperchurch**

James Heffernan = **Margaret Magrath**  
 m. June 4, 1830  
 Witnesses: Wm. Heffernan and **Mary Magrath**

**Thos Magrath** = Bgt Crowe  
 m. Feb. 6, 1834  
 Witnesses: Edm Crowe and Pat Ryan

**John Magrath** = Ellen Maher  
m. Feb. 27, 1840  
Witnesses: John Maher and Jas Maher (James)

**Patk Magrath** = Mary Murray  
m. Jan, 24, 1841  
Witnesses: Phil Murray and Judy Ryan

**Edmund Magrath** = Margt Hill  
m. Feb 10, 1841  
Witnesses: Thomas Ryan (?) and Mary Ann Grant

**Edmund McGrath** = **Mary Ryan**  
(Actual spelling) m. Sept. 1, 1841  
Witnesses: Rody Ryan and Daniel Ryan & others

**Tom Magrath** = Mary Ryan  
m. Feb. 2, 1842  
Witnesses: Tom Ryan and Margaret Stapleton

**John Magrath** = Bridget Ryan  
m. Sept. 4, 1842  
Witnesses: **Philip Magrath** and **Barney Ryan**

Tom Wadick = **Catherine Magrath**  
m. Feb. 16, 1842  
Witnesses: Michael Kennedy and Bridget Quinn

**Thos Magrath** = Mary Quinn  
m. Feb. 26, 1843  
Witnesses: **John Magrath** and Winny Slattery

**Thomas Magrath** = Ellen Purcell  
m. Sept. 13, 1843  
Witnesses: Ince Burke and Cath Purcell

**Michl Magrath** = Mary Dwyer  
m. Feb. 1, 1845  
Witnesses: Thos Dwyer and Mary Dwyer

**Jerry Ryan (Glown)** = **Anne Hayes (Gortahoola)**  
m. Feb. 22, 1846  
Witnesses: John Costello and Catherine Hayes

- Thomas Magrath** = **Julian Magrath**  
m. Jan. 26, 1848  
Witnesses: Patk Davern and Julian Quinn
- Ned Ryan (Gortnahalla)** = **Anne Hayes (Gleann)**  
m. June 22, 1860  
Witnesses: Laurence Ryan and Mary Kennedy
- Michl Magrath** = Bgt Corbett  
m. Feb. 8, 1864  
Witnesses: **Michl Magrath** and Mgt Gleeson
- Philip Magrath** = Hon Stapleton  
m. Feb. 23, 1873  
Witnesses: **Philip Magrath** and Hon Stapleton
- Maurice Magrath** = Bridget Ryan  
m. Feb. 2, 1875  
Witnesses: Edm Burke and Margt Ryan
- Patk Magrath** = Mgt Hogan  
m. Nov. 24, 1877  
Witnesses: Patrick Ryan and Mary Carroll
- Edmond Ryan = Ellen Ryan (Glowm)  
m. Feb. 26, 1878  
Witnesses: John Kennedy and Mary Ryan
- Philip Magrath** = Bgt Shanahan  
m. Feb. 28, 1878  
Witnesses: **Philip Magrath** and Bridget Darcy
- Michael Magrath** = Cath Hayes  
m. Feb. 2, 1886  
Witnesses: Thomas Ryan and Honoria Hayes
- Denis Magrath** = Cath Stapleton  
m. Feb. 23, 1892  
Witnesses: Thomas Walsh and Mgt. Stapleton

## Clonoulty Parish Records - Magrath Marriages

These entries were all obtained from the microfilms of the original Clonoulty RC parish record books, at the National Library of Ireland in Dublin. The spelling of the surnames is exactly as found in the original parish record books. It will be noticed that the Magrath spelling predominates over the McGrath spelling.

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <p><b>Patrick Magrath</b><br/>Residence: Turraheen</p> | = | <p>Margaret Fahy<br/>m. Jan. 24, 1837<br/>Witnesses: Philip Fahy and <b>Edmond Magrath</b> and Mary Fahy<br/>Priest: Rev. P. Molony</p>           |
| <p><b>James Magrath</b><br/>Residence: Glenongh</p>    | = | <p>Mary Moron<br/>m. Apr. 27, 1837<br/>Witnesses: <b>Martin Magrath</b>, Mary Moron and James Moron<br/>Priest: Rev. P. Molony</p>                |
| <p>Patrick Ryan (of John)<br/>Residence: Turraheen</p> | = | <p><b>Mary Magrath</b><br/>m. Jan. 22, 1838<br/>Witnesses: Patrick Ryan and Mary Fahy<br/>Priest: No name</p>                                     |
| <p><b>Patrick Magrath</b><br/>Residence: Balagh</p>    | = | <p>Catherine Kennedy<br/>m. Feb. 4, 1838<br/>Witnesses: ? Kennedy, Thomas Kennedy and Edmond(?) Garret<br/>Priest: Rev. P. Molony</p>             |
| <p>John Dwyer<br/>Residence: Turraheen</p>             | = | <p><b>Bridget McGrath</b><br/>m. Feb. 25, 1838<br/>Witnesses: Timothy Dwyer, Bridget Ryan and <b>James Magrath</b><br/>Priest: Rev. P. Molony</p> |
| <p><b>Thomas Magrath</b><br/>Residence: Clonoulty</p>  | = | <p>Margaret Ryan<br/>m. May 14, 1838<br/>Witnesses: E. Meagher, Nony Ryan and James Hableton(?)<br/>Priest: Rev. P. Molony</p>                    |
| <p>John Conners<br/>Residence: Clonoulty</p>           | = | <p><b>Catherine McGrath</b><br/>m. Jan. 10, 1843<br/>Witnesses: Michael Stack and Mary Rawly<br/>Priest: Rev. T. Boyton</p>                       |
| <p>John Ryan<br/>Residence: Turraheen Lower</p>        | = | <p><b>Judith Magrath</b><br/>m. May 7, 1843<br/>Witnesses: <b>Laurence McGrath</b> and Laurence Ryan<br/>Priest: Rev. Wm. Hogan</p>               |

- Michael Magrath**  
Residence: Lisbouik  
(Lisheen?) = Judith Maher  
m. Mar. 6, 1848  
Witnesses: John Dwyer and Mary Maher  
Priest: Rev. John Macrey
- Thomas Walsh  
Residence: Clonoulty = **Catherine Magrath**  
m. Mar. 6, 1848  
Witnesses: Timothy Walsh and **Judith Magrath**  
Priest: Rev. Wm. Hogan
- Michael Leary  
Residence: Thraghavoola(?) = **Catherine Magrath**  
m. Feb. 23, 1851  
Witnesses: Thady Reily and Honora Reily (or Keily)  
Priest: Rev. Wm. Hogan
- Patrick Cunningham  
Residence: Clonoulty = **Bridget Magrath**  
m. Feb. 6, 1853  
Witnesses: Richard Holland and Maria Fahy  
Priest: Rev. John MacRey
- Daniel Ryan  
Residence: Turraheen = **Margaret Magrath**  
m. Feb. 8, 1853  
Witnesses: Thady Ryan and Margaret Ravern  
Priest: Rev. John MacRey
- John Ryan  
Residence: Clonoulty = **Judith Magrath**  
m. Feb. 8, 1853  
Witnesses: James Brien and Mrs. Bridget Cunningham  
Priest: Rev. John MacRey
- Martin Triky  
Residence: Knockyaill(?) = **Barbara Magrath**  
m. Mar. 20, 1853  
Witnesses: John Dwyer and Catherine Ryan  
Priest: Rev. John MacRey  
Note: "A dispensation 'in tempore votila' having been obtained"
- Patrick Magrath**  
Residence: Clonoulty = Catherine Ryan  
m. Feb. 20, 1855  
Witnesses: **Denis Magrath** and Margaret Ryan  
Priest: Rev. John MacRey

## Clonoulty Parish Records – Magraths as Witnesses

- Patrick Grove  
Residence: Turraheen
- = Elizabeth Ryan  
m. Dec. 2, 1837  
Witnesses: **Patrick Magrath** and Bidget Ryan  
Priest: Rev. P. Molony
- Daniel Casey  
Residence: Derrymore
- = Mary Dwyer  
m. Feb. 27, 1838  
Witnesses: John Casey, **Sarah Magrath** and Joseph Dwyer  
Priest: Rev. John Laffan
- ? Croke  
Residence: Glenough
- = Bridget Ryan  
m. Feb. 20, 1841  
Witnesses: Patrick White and **Anne Magrath**  
Priest: Rev. John MacRey
- Dennis Lyons  
Residence: Turraheen
- = Mary Halloran  
m. Feb. 28, 1843  
Witnesses: James Halloran and **Bridget McGrath**  
Priest: Rev. Wm. Hogan
- Thomas Mollony  
Residence: Ballagh
- = Bridget Kennedy  
m. May 21, 1843  
Witnesses: **Patrick McGrath** and Mary Ryan  
Priest: Rev. P. Molony
- William Dwyer  
Residence: None given
- = Bridget Haffe  
m. Feb. 25, 1844  
Witnesses: **Edmond McGrath** and Mary Taylor  
Priest: Rev. John MacRey
- John Costello  
Residence: Clonoulty
- = Mary Dwyer  
m. Feb. 2, 1845  
Witnesses: James Costello and **Catherine McGrath**  
Priest: Rev. J. Boyton

## Conclusions

- In 1641 there were several **McCragh families** living in the townland of Curraghduffe, civil parish of Killoskully & Killcomonty, barony of Arra and Owny, northwest of Upperchurch. These McCraghs don't appear to have been transplanted to the province of Connaught in the 1650s with most of the other Irish. Their names don't appear in the Book of Survey and Distribution for the Counties of Clare, Galway and Mayo, with the other transplanted families who received lands, according to their needs, to partially compensate for those lands that were taken from them. These confiscated lands went to the English soldiers and their officers in payment for their services. My own hunch is that these families were descendants of the Macraiths of Thomond who remained in the Diocese of Killaloe over the years. They might have crossed the Shannon in going from Co. Clare to Co. Tipperary but they didn't go very far.
- Around the same time (1641) there was a **Marcus Magrath**, son of Brian, son of Miler Magrath, who was living in the parish of Aghnamaydull (now Aghnameadle), barony of Upper Ormond. Marcus also owned land in the adjacent parishes of Ballymacky and Latheragh. These lands were just north of the civil parish of Upperchurch. These lands went to the English adventurers, during the Cromwellian transplantation, who had purchased bonds to support the war.
- **Edmond Magrath** owned 800 acres at Ballymore, parish of Clonoulty, Co. Tipperary in 1641. His land was taken from him and he was transplanted to the parish of Feakle, Co. Clare during the Cromwellian transplantations. The lands that Edmond received were listed earlier. Having been a spy for the English during the Rebellion of 1641 his new neighbors took to cutting down the trees on his property. Edmond appealed his transplantation to Cromwell himself and received his 800 acres back again but he appears to have remained in Co. Clare, dying there in 1683. Ballymore is in the parish of Clonoulty, which is separated from the parish of Moyaliffe to the north by only the intervening parish of Clogher - the total distance between being only about 6 miles. It wasn't unusual for the expelled Irish to return to their former lands and in this case with the return of the land to Edmond perhaps some of the family moved back to Ballymore.

Edmond Magrath of Ballymore, was a grandson of Miler Magrath, the notorious Archbishop of Cashel. Miler was also descended from the Macraith's of Thomond by way of the Magraths of Termon Magrath, in County Donegal. There is a strong possibility that the ancestors of Edmond McGrath of Upperchurch go back to the original Macraiths of Thomond.

- Knowledge of the migration paths of the various parts of the McGrath family could help the understanding of how much importance should be placed on the two surname variations: McCragh and Magrath.
  - Miler used the Magrath variation in the north at Termon Magrath, where he was born, and brought it into County Tipperary after he was appointed Archbishop of Cashel by Queen Elizabeth I on February 3, 1571. It was subsequently spread out across the counties of Tipperary and Limerick by his descendants. After the Rebellion of 1641 was put down Miler's descendants took the Magrath surname with them when they were transplanted into Counties of Clare, Galway and Mayo.
  - The McCragh variation of the surname is about "midway" between Macraith and McGrath. By 1641 there were no Macraiths, Magraths or McCraghs in County Clare but there were some in Tipperary and Waterford with a few in Limerick. By the year 1851 the McCragh variation of the surname is not found in County Tipperary, only the McGrath and Magrath variations had survived. Since the McCraghs probably were not transplanted in the 1650s we can venture that they remained on the land,

although they were no longer the owners of the land anymore. Sometime over the next 200 years their surname had changed from McCragh to McGrath.

- If the evidence cited above, can be further substantiated, it will serve to document that Miler Magrath's descendants are ancestors of the McGraths of Upperchurch. The County Clare Magraths/McGraths remained primarily in the Tulla, Feakle and Ennis area.
  - Miler had five sons: Turlough, Redmond, Brian, Marcus and James. The manuscript of the MacCraith pedigree, that was the source for the majority of the Miler Magrath ancestral information referenced here, was not equally detailed across the five sons. Turlough's line died out in the 17<sup>th</sup> century in County Clare, James was associated with events in the north at Termon Magrath in County Donegal while the lines of Brian and Marcus had very little in the way of detailed information. Most of the detail in this manuscript was associated with the line of Miler's second son, Redmond. This line gave rise to the Magraths of Killbarron in County Clare and possibly Clonoulty in County Tipperary where a connection may have been found but needs to be documented.
  - There is a second source of information on the descendants of Miler Magrath although it is not as authoritative as the Twigge Manuscripts. The information is from the LDS Online site ([www.Familysearch.com](http://www.Familysearch.com)). However, the information is based on submissions by individuals and the information is not verified in any manner. The dates seem rather proforma but the collection of names show that Turlough, Brian and Marcus had more children than those listed in the manuscript record.
- Edmond McGrath is most probably descended from the Magrath's of the civil parish of Moyaliff, in the Roman Catholic Parish of Upperchurch, County Tipperary. Margaret Dwyer McGrath and Mary Banan McGrath, who are buried in the Moyaliff cemetery, might be Edmond's grandmother and great-grandmother respectively but more evidence is needed. Edmond's immediate family appears to have been living in the civil parish of Moyaliff, Roman Catholic Parish of Upperchurch, County Tipperary in 1851. His ancestors had probably occupied land that area as far back as the mid 1700's.

In 1851 the Griffith's Valuation there were 9 McGraths in the parish of Clogher and 13 Magraths in the adjoining parish of Moyaliff. The difference in the spelling of the surname is due to the survey taker based on finding the Magrath spelling in the church records. The proximity of these parishes to the parish of Clonoulty provides a strong indication of a link between Edmond Magrath of Ballymore and these Magraths of Moyaliff and Clogher.

- Mary Ryan, Edmond's wife, is related to the Ryans of Gleninchaveigh (Glown) who were occupying this land in 1851 and are still occupying those lands today.
- Margaret McGrath, Edmond's daughter, was most likely a victim of the 1849 cholera epidemic and was probably buried along with other epidemic victims in a mass grave.

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## OPEN ISSUES

- The parish records for Upperchurch, Co. Tipperary don't appear to have been microfilmed by the Mormons. They are being held "hostage" by the Tipperary Family Heritage Centers by order of the Archbishop of Cashel. Taking a lead from his ancient predecessor, this modern day archbishop is selling our own history back to us. The records are also available from the local parish priests but that is a slow and tedious process. This problem can be partially

circumvented by using the microfilmed copies of the parish records available at the National Library of Ireland in Dublin.

- By plausibility arguments we can establish probable relationships between the families of William, Joseph, Michael and Edmond. The task of establishing firm evidence for these proposed relationships remains to be carried out. However with the larger number of Magrath/McGrath families in the Moyaliff-Clogher area than originally known it will be difficult for Edmond to establish sole claim to these individuals. Perhaps the small number of McGraths in these graveyards is evidence that most of the families emigrated. The graves were McGraths and not Magraths. There is evidence that Edmond was a Magrath. It might not be possible to claim the ancestors in these graves and claim a connection to Miler Magrath at the same time.
- Reasons to emigrate: (1) Famine; (2) Gold discovered in California in 1848; (3) Gold discovered in Australia in 1851.

In the Upperchurch RC parish of the early 1800's (civil parishes of Upperchurch, Moyaliff and Templebeg) there are still McGraths to be found. The original hand written records are in chronological order and they must be read from beginning to end to find all the McGraths (Magraths) – both male and female. The baptismal record entries are much more numerous than the marriage record entries as might be expected given the inclinations of the Irish for large families. The computerized version of the parish records are easier to read and they are alphabetized by the male surnames. This makes it easy to find the male McGraths but the female McGraths must still be searched out by reading the records from front to back although I believe there is an index to make the task a little less onerous. My search of the records is by no means complete. The following are the parish records that have been searched so far:

Upperchurch: male marriages and male baptisms. 1829 – 1900.

Clogher: All marriages and some baptisms – both male and female.

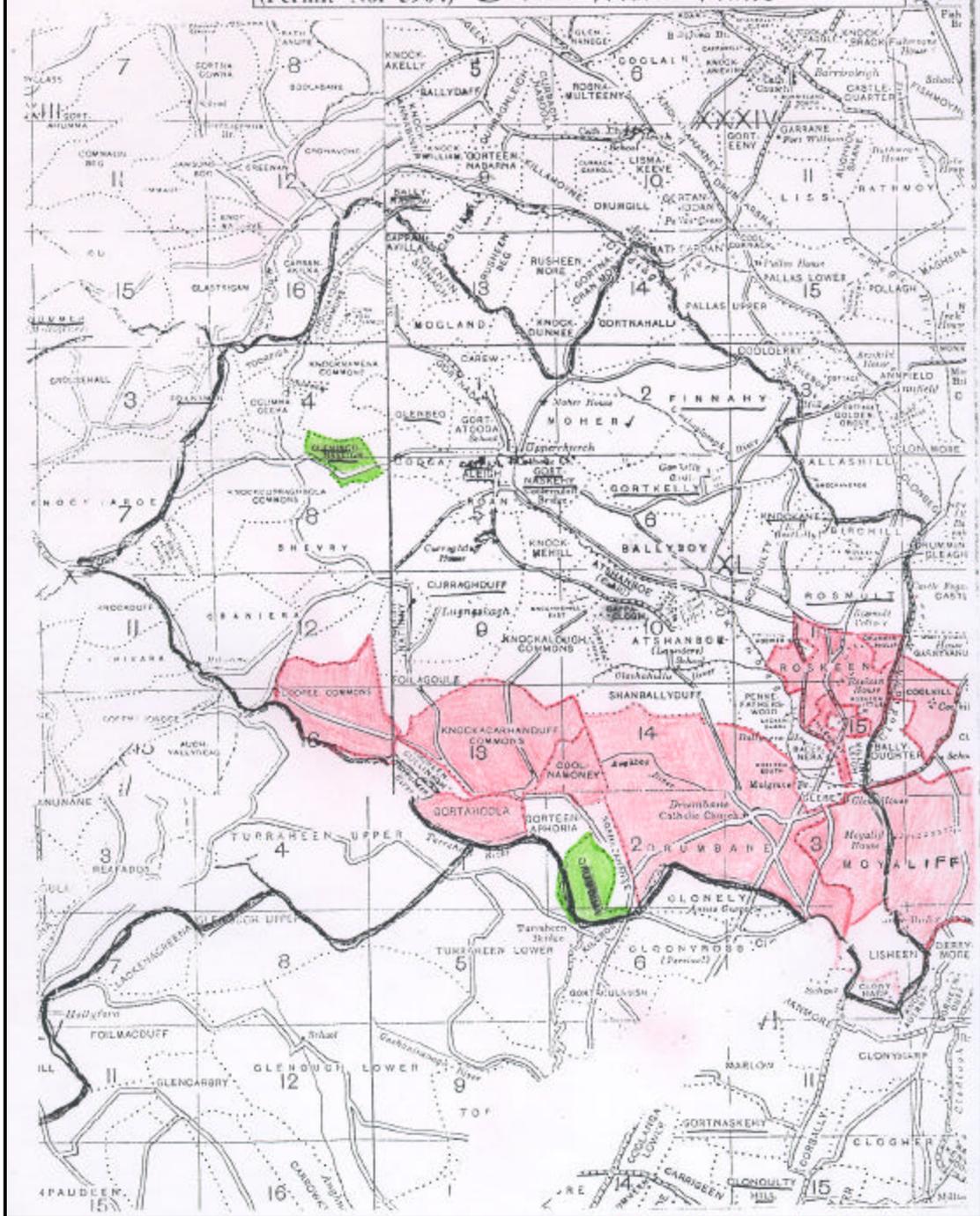
Surviving census records exist from 1901 with 1901, 1911 and 1921 being available. The usual 100 year embargo on the availability of census records was reduced to 80 years in the case of the Irish census. The reduction in the embargo period was enacted to reduce the problem caused by the loss of all the census records prior to 1901 in the Four Courts fire in Dublin during the civil war in 1922. So far I haven't pursued the census records because I haven't picked up a trail of any of Edmond's relatives in Ireland.

# Upperchurch-Drombane RC Parish

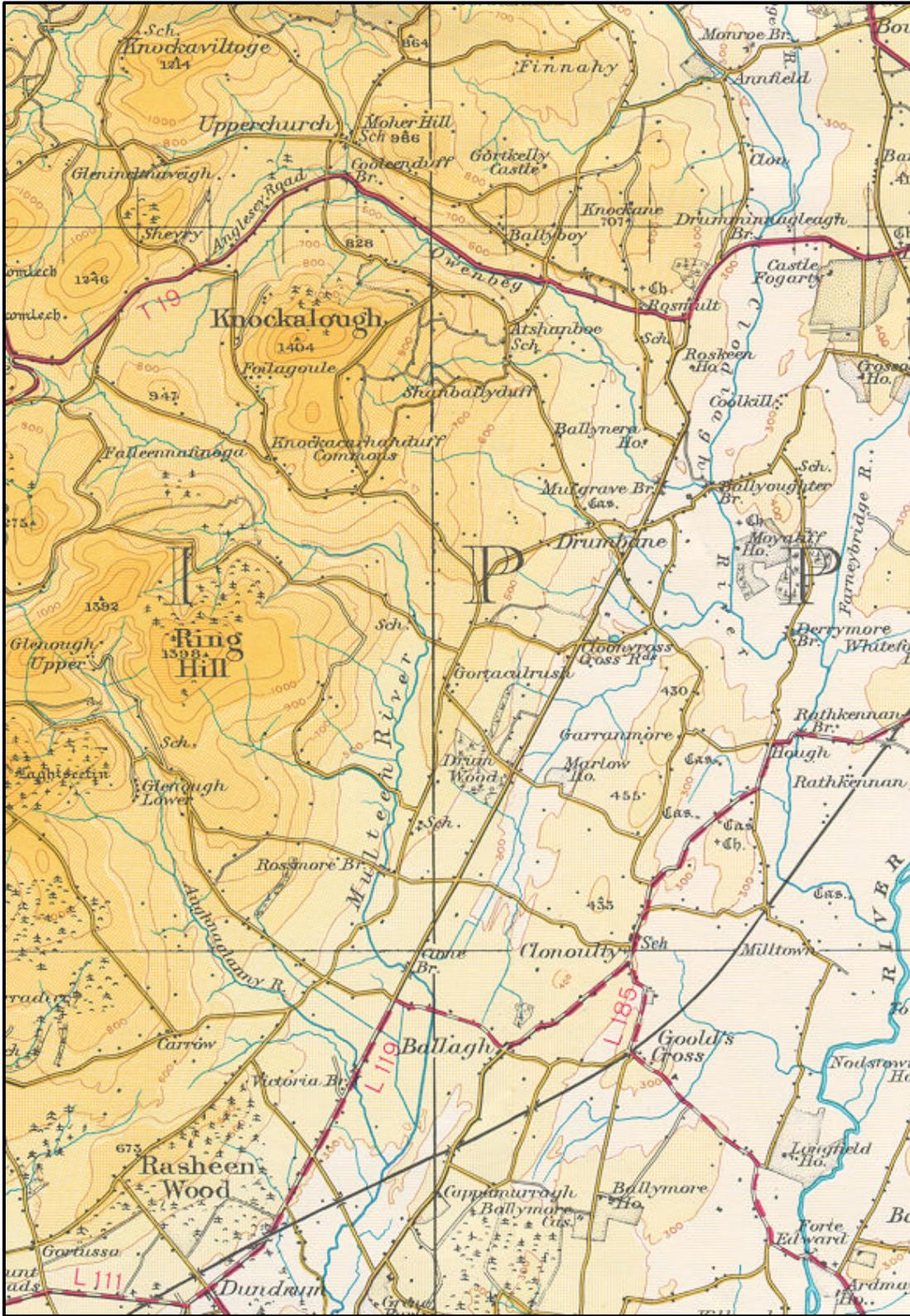
Based on the Ordnance Survey

by permission of the Government

(Permit No. 5904) SCALE: 1 inch = 1 mile



Recent Map of the Upperchurch and Moyaliff area in Central Co. Tipperary



## **The Ancestors of Edmond McGrath and Mary Ryan McGrath**

The line of the McGraws of Truxton probably doesn't extend through Edmond Magrath, son of Redmond, but rather through one of Redmond's brothers: Terlough, Marcus or Bryan. There was a Magrath presence in the central Co. Tipperary area after the Transplantations of the 1650's as recorded in the Census of 1659. There are records of the Magraths in the area southeast of Upperchurch in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. In the 19<sup>th</sup> the Griffiths Valuation shows a large concentration of Magraths in Moyliff and McGrath in the adjacent parish of Turaheen Lower.

This persistence of the Magrath variation of the surname in the central Tipperary region increases the probability that Edmond Magrath of Upperchurch was descended from Miler Magrath, the notorious Archbishop of Cashel from 1571 until 1622. Miler was descended from the Macraith's of Thomond by way of the Magraths of Termon Magrath, in County Donegal. Therefore we can be fairly confident in stating that the ancestors of Edmond Magrath of Upperchurch go back to the original Macraiths of Thomond.

Margaret Dwyer McGrath and Mary Banan McGrath are buried in the Moyliff cemetery in the civil parish of Moyliff, in the Roman Catholic Parish of Upperchurch, County Tipperary. They could possibly be Edmond's grandmother and great-grandmother respectively but this is based on the periods during which they lived and their husbands' names rather any hard records. A Michael McGrath was found to be living in the town of Moyliff in 1828 according to the Tithe Applotment Books and he was the only Michael McGrath found in that area. Edmond's father was named Michael and this might have been him.

The parent's of Edmond's wife, Mary Ryan, were originally thought to be the John and Eleanor Ryan recorded in the Tithe Applotment Books as living in Gleninchaveigh in 1828. John died shortly thereafter and the Griffith's Valuation of 1851 recorded that Eleanor was still living in Gleninchaveigh with her sons. It turned out that Mary Ryan was related to these Ryans but not descended from them. Her father was possibly Philip Ryan also of Gleninchaveigh in 1828. The Civil Survey of 1654 recorded that there were Ryans occupying Gleninchaveigh as far back as 1640 but their relationship to these Ryans has not been proven.

In 1851 the Griffith's Valuation shows there were 9 McGraths in the parish of Clogher and 13 Magraths in the adjoining parish of Moyliff separated by only the Turraheen River. In the parish church records most of the McGraths were recorded as Magrath.

Based on the evidence gathered so far Edmond's immediate family appears to have been living in the civil parish of Moyliff, Roman Catholic Parish of Upperchurch, County Tipperary in 1851. His ancestors had probably occupied land in that area as far back as the mid-1700's. Going back further there are fewer records available to document suspected genealogical connections. But circumstantial evidence would suggest that Edmond Magrath of Upperchurch was descended from Miler Magrath, who was descended from the Magraths of Termon Magrath at Pettigo in Co. Donegal, who in turn were descended from the Macraiths of Thomond.

Edmond Magrath was born in Upperchurch, Co. Tipperary around 1813 and his father was named Michael. His future wife Mary Ryan was born in about 1810 probably in Upperchurch. It is not certain but Mary's father's name was probably John Ryan. Edmond and Mary were married on Sept. 1, 1841 at Upperchurch.

## **Working Version of Edmond McGrath and Mary Ryan's Family Tree**

This is an explanation of persons found in the Working Version of Edmond McGrath and Mary Ryan's Family Tree. Also given are their relationships to others in the family tree and the evidence cited for their inclusion.

Name	Relationship	Evidence
Joseph McGrath	Suspected husband of Mary Banan McGrath. Possible father of William McGrath.	John McGraw named one of his sons John Joseph. There might have been a grandfather back in Ireland that was named Joseph. His grave was not found. He erected Mary's gravestone.
Mary Banan McGrath 1743-1792	Suspected wife of Joseph McGrath.	Buried in Moyaliff Cemetery.
William McGrath	Husband of Margaret McGrath	William is a name that Edmond and his sons Michael and John have as their middle names. His grave has not been found.
Margaret Dwyer McGrath 1763-1823	Wife of William McGrath. Possible mother of Michael McGrath and Edmond's grandmother.	Buried in Moyaliff Cemetery
Michael McGrath	Father of Edmond William McGrath	Name found on Edmond William McGraw's death certificate. <b>A Michael McGrath was found in the town of Moyaliff in the Tithe Applotment Books from about 1828</b>
Margaret McGrath	<b>Possible wife of Michael McGrath.</b> Mother of Edmond McGrath.	Edmond's first born was daughter Margaret. Irish naming traditions would indicate that this was his mothers' name. <b>Since Michael and possibly John had been named after grandfathers according to Irish traditions we might assume that Edmond's daughter Margaret was named after his mother.</b>
"John" McGrath	Possible brother of Edmond McGrath	Baptism sponsor for Edmond's son Michael William McGrath.

John Ryan	Possible father of Mary Ryan.	Based on Irish naming tradition the second son is named after the wife's father. Mary and Edmond's second son was named John William McGrath. <b>John Ryan occupied a parcel of land in the townland of Gleninchaveigh according to the Tithe Applotment Books in ~1828 but <u>this turned out not to be Mary's father.</u></b>
(?) Ryan	Possible mother of Mary Ryan and wife of John Ryan.	Unknown at this time.  An Eleanor Ryan was occupying Gleninchaveigh in the Griffith's Valuation of 1851. <b>She had taken over for her husband John (died in 1828) in Gleninchaveigh according to the Tithe Applotment Books in ~ 1828.</b> Ancestor of Con Ryan from National Geographic story (1981).
Martin, Patrick and nameless fourth brother all named Ryan.	Cousins of Mary Ryan	Names of persons occupying Gleninchaveigh in Griffith's Valuation of 1851. Con Ryan story in Nat. Geographic – 1981 indicates they might be brothers. Martin and Patrick are brothers and their mother was the Eleanor Ryan described above.
<b>Jeremiah Ryan</b>	<b>Probable brother of Mary Ryan</b>	Jeremiah was the brother of Mary Ryan Magrath and was occupying Gleninchaveigh in Griffith's Valuation of 1851.

## McGraths of Upperchurch Roman Catholic Parish

The following individuals might be the grandparents and great-grandparents of Edmond McGrath of Upperchurch. The graves of Mary McGrath and Margaret McGrath were found in the Moyaliff (Civil) Parish Graveyard, Townland of Drumdiha, Upperchurch RC Parish.

The Upperchurch R.C. Parish is made up of the Pre-Reformation parishes of Upperchurch, Templebeg and Moyaliff. The townlands of Gleninchaveigh and Drumdiha are located within the Upperchurch RC parish. The baptismal and marriage records commence in 1829 - therefore this

cannot be a source for the baptismal record of Edmond W. McGrath. The year 1829 was the year in which the Roman Catholics obtained complete emancipation in Ireland, therefore it is no wonder that parish records did not exist prior to this date.

The Family History Center in Nenagh, County Tipperary sent me information on any McGraths that they found. These were all the McGraths that they were able to find in the three graveyards in the Upperchurch R.C. Parish.

#### Moyaliff

Mary McGrath als Banan was born in 1743; d. 1792 (Joseph McGrath)  
Thomas McGrath was born in 1781; d. 1817 (Moras McGrath, father)  
Margaret Dwyer McGrath was born in 1763; d. 1823 (William, husband)  
Daniel McGrath was born in 1812; d. 1892  
    Winifred McGrath was born in 1864; d. 1872 (daughter)  
John McGrath was born in 1927; d. 1969 (Pauline [Ryan], wife)

#### Upperchurch

Mary McGrath was born in 1804 (mother); d. 1869 (Patrick, husband)  
William McGrath was born in 1847 (son); d. 1874

#### Templebeg

Ellen Ryan nee McGrath was born in 1864; d. 1937 (mother)  
    Matty Ryan was born in 1905; d. 1971 (son)  
    Willie Ryan was born in 1904; d. 1978 (son)

The third entry in the Moyaliff Cemetery is of considerable interest

Margaret Dwyer McGrath, d. **July 7, 1823**, aged 60 years  
Erected by William McGrath (Husband)

These people are possibly Edmond William McGrath's grandparents on his father's side (Michael McGrath).

- Margaret Dwyer McGrath died about 10 years after Edmond was born at age 60 years. Her age is consistent with someone who could be his grandmother.
- Edmond and his two sons, Michael and John, all have the same middlename of William. This would imply that there was someone named William of some prominence in the family. Margaret's husband was named William.
- Edmond's oldest child was a daughter named Margaret, born in 1842. She could be named for a great-grandmother named Margaret.
- Margaret Dwyer McGrath is buried in the Moyaliff Graveyard, which is located in the civil parish of Moyaliff in the Upperchurch RC parish. The townland of Drumdiha, where Edmond was living when his two oldest children, Margaret and Michael, were baptized is also in the civil parish of Moyaliff.
- Note that Margaret's husband William was not found to be buried anywhere in these three graveyards in the Upperchurch R.C. Parish.

The first entry in the Moyaliff Cemetery is also of interest

Mary McGrath was born in 1743; d. 1792 (Joseph McGrath)

- Joseph was possibly the name of a grandfather back in Ireland.
- Mary lived in approximately the right time period to be a mother of the William McGrath, husband of Margaret above. Lacking any further evidence this is just wishful thinking.
- Note Mary's husband Joseph (since he erected her gravestone) was not found to be buried anywhere in these three graveyards in the Upperchurch R.C. Parish.

It was originally thought that McGrath was not a common name in the Upperchurch area. It turned out that there were far more McGraths in the Upperchurch area in the 19<sup>th</sup> century than was first thought. It is quite possible that all the McGraths found in the various Upperchurch Roman Catholic Parish cemeteries were related. As an exercise all these names can be fitted together according to their generation. The results are shown in the table below.

Generation 1	Generation 2	Generation 3	Generation 4	Generation 5
<i>Joseph McGrath</i>  <b>Mary (Banan) McGrath</b> 1743-1792	<i>William McGrath</i> (husband)  <b>Margaret (Dwyer) McGrath</b> (wife) 1763-1823	Michael McGrath	Edmond McGrath 1813-1899  Mary Ryan McGrath 1810-1899	Margaret McGrath 1842-?  Michael William McGrath 1843-1923  John William McGrath 1844-1926
			<i>Patrick McGrath</i> (husband)  <b>Mary McGrath</b> (mother) 1804-1869	<b>William McGrath</b> (son) 1847-1874
	<i>Moras McGrath</i> (father)	<b>Thomas McGrath</b> (son) 1781-1817	<b>Daniel McGrath</b> (father) 1812-1892	<b>Winifred McGrath</b> (daughter) 1864-1872  <b>Ellen Ryan Nee McGrath</b> (mother) 1864-1937

Entries in **Bold** are persons buried in one of the Upperchurch cemeteries.

Entries in *Italics* are persons mentioned on the gravestones in one of the Upperchurch cemeteries.

Entries in parenthesis are relationships indicated by gravestone inscriptions.

It is known from Edmond's death certificate that his father's name was Michael. From Edmond's Poor House Registration form, filed Aug. 16, 1892, it is known that Edmond was born in Upperchurch, County Tipperary. Therefore his father, Michael, was living in Upperchurch in the time period 1811-1813 when Edmond was born. No record of Michael has been found in any of the three graveyards in the Upperchurch R.C. Parish. In 1830 Edmond would have been between 17-19 years old and might have been out on his own but more likely was still living at home. The Tithe Applotment Book for ~1830 listed a Michael Magrath living in the civil parish of Moyaliff and Michael is a name that doesn't show up very often.

William McGrath might be the father of Michael given their relative ages and because Edmond, Michael and John all had William as a middle name. William's wife was named Margaret as was Edmond's only daughter. This is only circumstantial evidence for William being Edmond McGrath's grandfather and although not rock solid it is intriguing none the less.

Edmond's son John also had a son named John with a middle name of Joseph. In a document called "The McGraw Family Tree" by Lucy Waters Sprague that was compiled from conversations with present day relatives a comment was made that "Joseph was the name of a grandfather in Ireland." This makes a case for the Joseph McGrath, mentioned on Mary McGrath's gravestone, possibly being Edmond McGrath's great-grandfather. The book titled *The Real McGraw* by Blanche McGraw is the original source for the idea that there was a grandfather named Joseph in Ireland. The early life of John J. McGraw as described in this book is a source of much confusion and the author's inability to present that portion of John's background correctly might cast doubt on the grandfather Joseph information. Much early family information in Alexander's book, *John McGraw*, came from the earlier book called *The Real McGraw* by Blanche McGraw, John's wife.

"...they named their first baby John for the father and Joseph for the learned grandfather still in Ireland."

She got some of her information from John himself but didn't write her book until 1953. There is one piece of information that John would know for certain and would not suffer in the retelling. John Joseph McGraw would know who Joseph was. Therefore this piece of information has more credibility than some of the other John McGraw background information found in these books.

From a copy of Edmond's son Michael William's baptismal record we find sponsors John Magrath and Ally Sweeney. This John could be a brother or a cousin. There is no John Magrath (or McGrath) in any of the Upperchurch Parish graveyards. Later it will be seen that there were 3 John Magraths that showed up in the civil parish of Moyaliff.

The sequence of Moras, Thomas, Daniel, Patrick and Winifred may or may not be related to Michael McGrath. They have been included only because they are buried in one of the Upperchurch graveyards and their ages and birth dates are such that they fit a generational pattern. Moras and Thomas are father and son. Daniel and Winifred are father and daughter but there is no evidence in support of the other relationships.

This is a summary of what is known about Joseph, William, Michael and Margaret McGrath who are still among the missing.

- Joseph - Definitely died after 1792 and probably died around 1800. Too early for any church records since the Irish Roman Catholics were not emancipated until the 1820's and not fully emancipated until 1829. The Tithe Applotment records don't start until about 1826.
- William - Lived until at least 1823 and quite possibly longer but his name doesn't appear in the Tithe Applotment Records.

- Michael - He probably lived from about 1785 until about 1860. If he was living in the Upperchurch area his name appears in the Tithe Applotment books and the Primary Valuation Records. A Michael McGrath does appear in the Tithe Applotment Books for the parish of Moyaliff (~1828) but he doesn't show up in the Griffith's Valuation (1851). Neither he nor his wife are buried in any of the graveyards in the Upperchurch R.C. Parish.
- Margaret - The only record that I am aware of on Margaret is Doug Currie's mention of her baptism on June 27, 1842 at Upperchurch while the family was living in the townland of Drumdiha, civil parish of Moyaliff, Co. Tipperary. That information came in a letter from J. O'Meara, parish priest at Upperchurch, who found the reference to Margaret in the parish baptismal records.

The passenger list of the *British Queen* doesn't list a Margaret traveling with her mother and her two brothers. A more probable scenario is that she died during the Great Famine, possibly during the cholera epidemic of 1849 and may be buried in a mass grave with the other epidemic victims. Margaret was not among the McGraths found in the Upperchurch RC parish cemeteries.

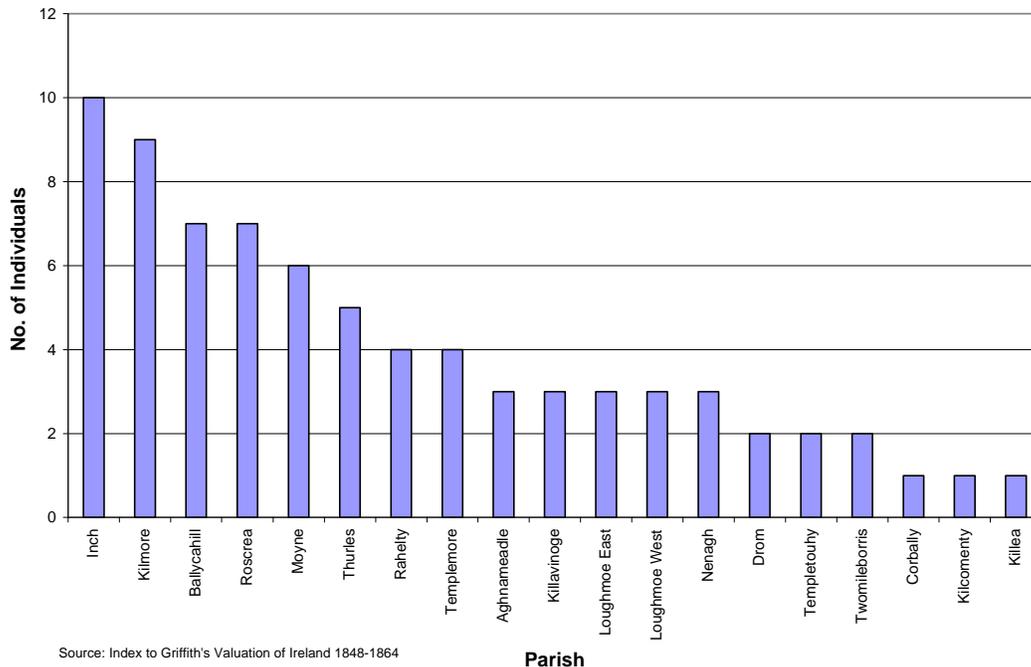
## The Banans of Ireland

There were 496 persons with the surname of “Banan” found in the entire Index to Griffith's Valuation of Ireland, which contains over one million names. There were also many spelling variations: Ban, Bann, Banon, Banan, Banion, Bannin, Bannon, Bannan, Bannen and Baninn.

Mary Banan McGrath's husband is believed to be the Joseph McGrath who erected her grave marker in the Moyaliff graveyard. She was born in 1743 and died in 1792. There were about 100 years and a devastating famine between the time when William would have met Mary and the time when the Griffith's Valuation captured the “Banan's” described in the charts below.

The greatest number of Bannan listings was found in Co. Tipperary and within Co. Tipperary the largest concentration was in the civil parish of Inch. This parish is adjacent to the parish of Upperchurch on the east. This relatively large number of Bannans in the area will present problems when trying to sort out the individuals.

**Bannan in Co. Tipperary**



There is a connection between the Banan family and the Fogarty family as shown in the excerpts from James Fogarty's will

Key Items in the Will of Dr. James Fogarty - 12 April 1788

- Lands: Garranroe Park; townlands of Garryvanus; Rossmult; Islands of Annfield; Barracurra; Tithes of Ballycahill
- Estate of Castle Fogarty otherwise Garranroe.
- “I also give and devise to **Mary Banan** the house and garden she now has on the lands of Garranroe rent free during the term of her natural life.”
- On May 9, 1798 – “Administration granted to Thomas Lanigan.”



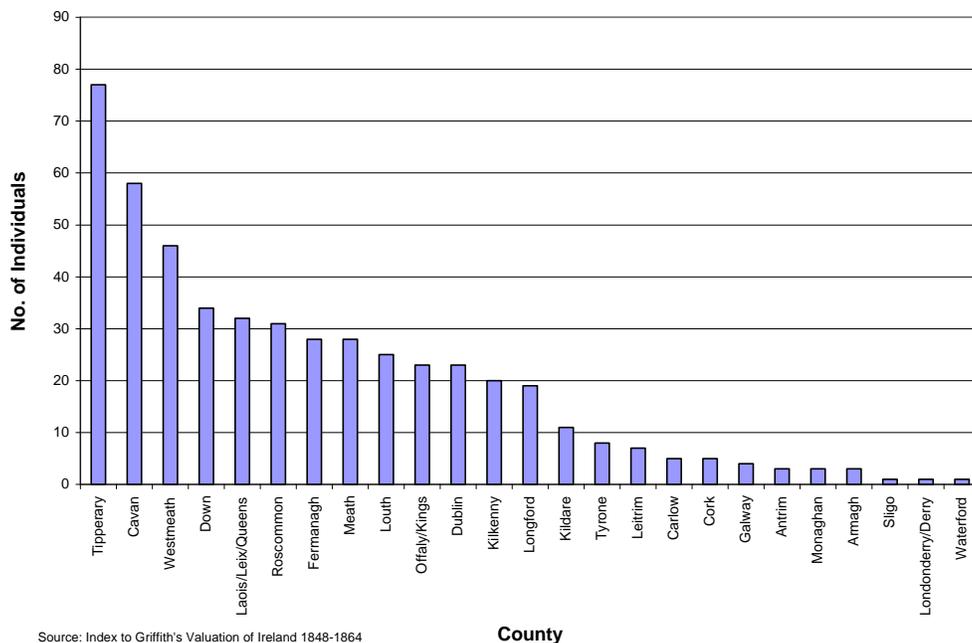
The book *Pioneer Irish of Onondaga* by Theresa Bannan<sup>17</sup> contains many interesting facts about the early Irish settlers of Onondaga County, NY. On the dedication page Theresa provides valuable information on her parents and grandparents.

Theresa Bannan's parents were Anastasia Nolan, daughter of Michael and Anastasia Cormac Nolan, born October 31, 1834 at Aghnameadle, parish of Toomyvara, Co. Tipperary and **Edward Bannan**, son of Michael and Mary Kinnally Bannan, born May 7, 1830 at College Hill, parish of Templemore, Co. Tipperary.

Checking the Index to the Griffith's Valuation for Co. Tipperary (1851) shows a Mary and Patrick Bannon in Templemore parish at Ballycahill. According to the section of the map shown to the right it can be seen that Ballycahill is the townland next to College Hill just north of Templemore. That was the townland that Theresa described in the dedication page of her book as the birthplace of her father Edward Bannan. This Mary might possibly be Theresa's mother and Patrick might be a brother.

The scale of the map is given by the fact that the grid squares are 1.0 kilometers on a side.

### Bannon Distribution



## Con Ryan of Glown, Upperchurch, Co. Tipperary

Gleninchnaveigh (now called Glown) was the townland in Upperchurch parish, Co. Tipperary, where Mary Ryan was living with her husband Edmond Magrath when their second son John William was baptized at the Roman Catholic Church in Upperchurch on June 24, 1844. Sponsors were Patrick Ryan and Mary Ryan. This Patrick is probably related to Mary and the female sponsor, Mary Ryan, might be Patrick's wife.

It is significant that Edmond and Mary were living in Gleninchnaveigh when John William was baptized as this was the townland where her brother Jeremiah was living. The reason for Edmond and Mary leaving Drumdiha and relocating to Gleninchnaveigh is unknown. The beginning of the Potato Famine the following year, in 1845, may be responsible for their not having a larger family. It made sense for Mary to remain with her other family members when Edmond traveled to America in the fall of 1848. It would be two years before Mary and the rest of the family would join Edmond in America in November 1850.

Many years were spent trying to make connect with a Con Ryan of Glown that Shirley McGraw Maloney had first read about by luck in a National Geographic article from 1981. We finally got a letter from him in late May 2000. This was less than 2 weeks before we were due to leave for a three-week trip to Ireland.

The first two letters had made their way to Con but they had subsequently been lost before he could reply. He later said that it was perhaps fortunate that the first letter got lost because in 1983 he was convinced that we were not related. He was descended from John Ryan (died ~1828) and Eleanor Ryan and none of their descendents emigrated. After receiving the second letter he again did some research but was unable to turn up a connection. The third letter, delivered via the parish priest Father Cunningham, was the magic letter. This time Con enlisted the help of his neighbor and cousin Michael Quinlan, who was also descended from John and Eleanor Ryan of Glown. They were able to determine there was a Jeremiah Ryan also living in Glown in the 1840's and that they are almost certain that Mary Ryan McGrath was one of Jeremiah's sisters. In addition they were able to discover that Jeremiah was related to John Ryan and therefore we are all related to everyone in Glown. The details are more easily understood by looking at the partial family tree that I constructed to outline the Ryan-Magrath connections. Michael Quinlan was able to find the record of a dispensation that had been granted for two Ryans to be able to marry, namely Edmond Ryan and Ellen Ryan. This meant that they were third cousins and hence there was a common ancestor back several generations but an ancestor who is still nameless at this point.

Con and Michael were also able to determine which cottage Mary had been living in prior to leaving for America with her two sons, Michael and John, in 1850. It is located next to Con's present home and in fact it is the same cottage where Con was born and raised. Con's daughter, Eileen, her husband, and her two children occupy the cottage today. In his letter Con invited us to visit him when we were in Upperchurch on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June and to "introduce you to all your cousins and hopefully you'll drink tea in the house your ancestor emigrated from."

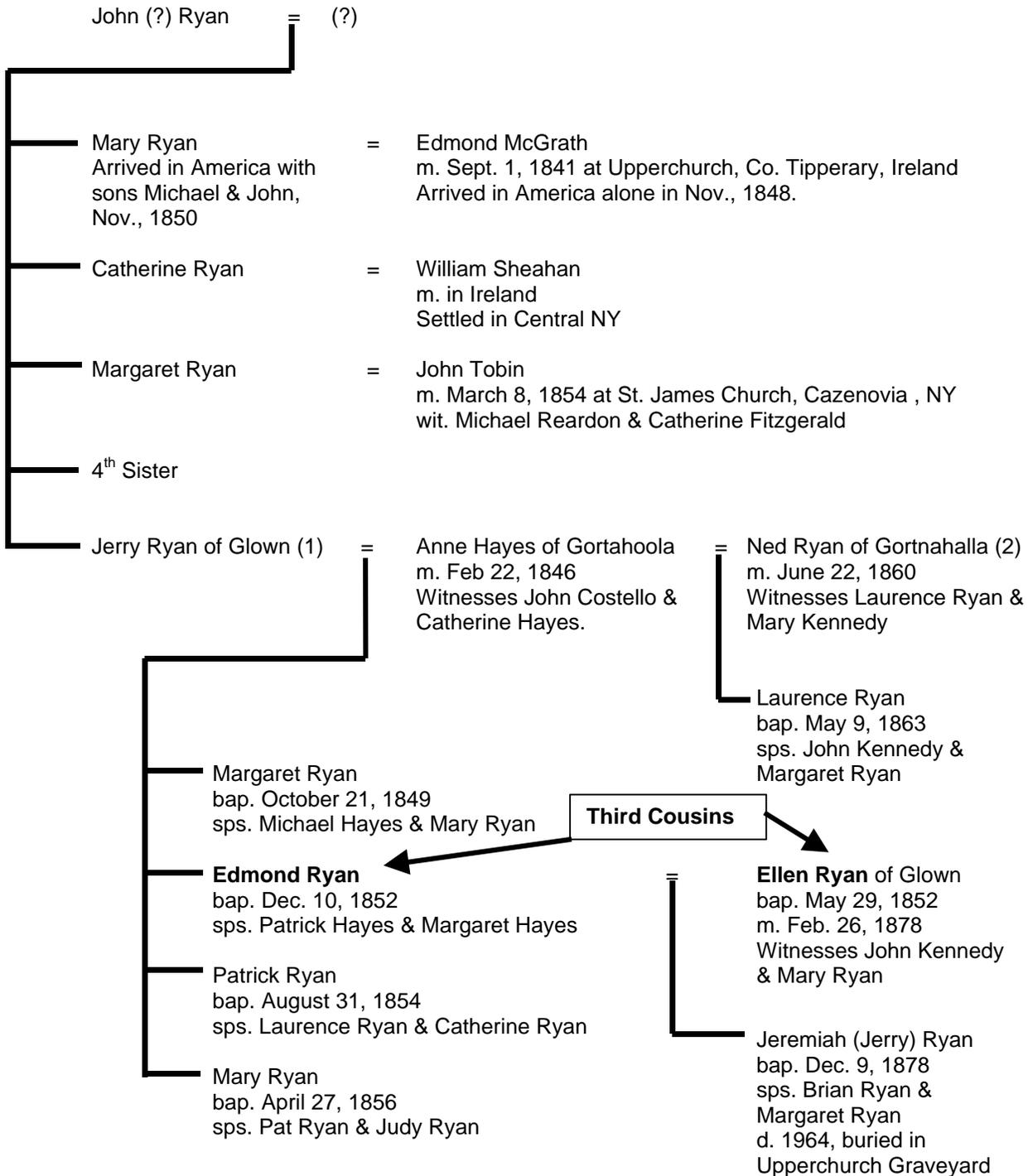
According to Con the cottage would have had a thatched roof back in 1850 whereas today it has a metal roof. The cottage was comprised of two large rooms. Some time ago they had divided the kitchen to make two small rooms on the north end for their children Declan and Ruthie. The kitchen was a combination family room, dining room and kitchen. The other large room, at the southern end of the cottage, was a more formal living room. When Con was growing up in this cottage he said that this other room contained all the better furniture and that he and the other

children were not allowed to play there. In even earlier times Con said that the family would have kept the farm animals there.

The first chart on the next two pages will help illustrate the connection between the McGraw family of Truxton and the Ryans of Upperchurch. The second chart traces the McGraw (McGrath) families back through eight generations and also shows the connection between the two families. The pedigree of Edmond McGrath has some early entrees that require a little explanation. John(?) is shown as a brother to Edmond because that was the name of a person who was one of the sponsors at Edmond's son Michael's baptism. "Margaret" was tentatively selected as the name of Edmond's mother assuming that Edmond and Mary used the Irish naming convention when naming their children. Since their first born was a daughter they would have named her after the paternal grandmother and since they named their daughter Margaret that is assumed to be the name of Edmond's mother. Edmond's father's name, Michael, came from Edmond's death certificate and they followed the Irish naming convention by naming their first born son Michael after his grandfather.

The next two generations back were based on information found by the Northern Tipperary Family History Foundation in Nenagh, Co. Tipperary. These names were found on gravestone inscriptions in the Moyaliff Graveyard in the civil parish of Moyaliff where Edmond and Mary were living at the time of the birth of their first two children. Margaret Dwyer McGrath and Mary Banan McGrath were both buried in the graveyard and their husbands names were found on the gravestone inscriptions but were not buried there themselves. William McGrath was the husband of Margaret (1763-1823) and Joseph McGrath was the husband of Mary McGrath (1743-1792). This assignment to Edmond's pedigree was based on relative ages and the occurrence of the names Mary, Margaret, Joseph and William in the McGraw family. Since that time (1997) further information has indicated that there were quite a few more McGraths (Magraths) in the area of Moyaliff and Upperchurch than had originally been assumed. It isn't possible to assign these two women (Mary and Margaret) to Edmond's pedigree with much certainty, without further proof.

## Mary Ryan's Relatives from Gleninchaveigh



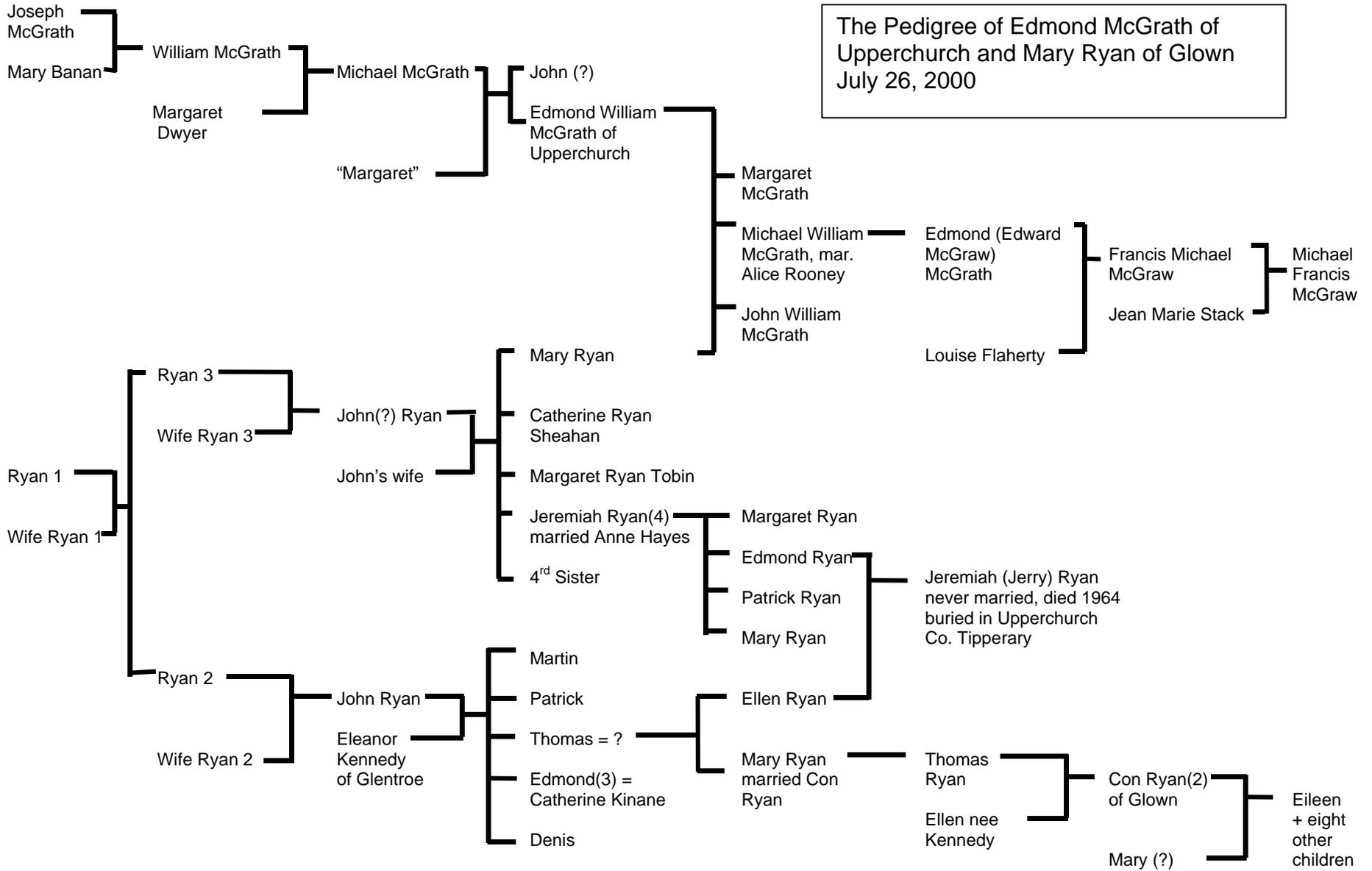
UPPERCHURCH GRAVEYARD

<p><b>1</b></p> <p>Roger Ryan, Park Rossmore died 13 Dec. 1935 Aged 77 years his wife Mary died 13 Nov 1942 Aged 67 years</p> <p>Erected by Peter Ryan in memory of his father Roger Ryan of Autshanbohy who dep this life May 11 1834 aged 70 years.</p> <p>Also his daughter Margaret dep Nov 1 1831 aged 26 years</p> <p>Jeremiah Ryan Park Rossmore died 22 June 1988 aged 83 years</p> <p>May they rest in peace</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>Ryan (Connie) Glown Cornelius Ryan Died 2 Dec 1925 Aged 85</p> <p>his wife Mary, nee Ryan Died 7 June 1924 Aged 63</p> <p>their son Cornelius Died 13 May 1905 Aged 9</p> <p>Thomas Ryan Died 23 Nov 1957 Age 70</p> <p>his wife Ellen nee Kennedy Died 27 Dec. 1975, Age 70</p>
<p><b>3</b></p> <p>Erected by Edmond Ryan of Glown in Memory of his wife Catherine Ryan alias Kinane who died 3<sup>rd</sup> December 1872 Aged 45 Years</p> <p>And Also in Memory of his Father and Mother John and Ellen Ryan and of his brother Denis</p> <p>May They Rest in Peace Amen</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>Erected by Ann Ryan alias Hayes in memory of her husband</p> <p>Jeremiah Ryan of Gleninchaveigh</p> <p>who departed May 27 1860 Aged ??</p>

1. This stone was pointed out to me by Con Ryan during our visit to Upperchurch in June 2000 but I can't figure out the relationship of these Ryans to the others. It might be possible that the eldest Ryan, i.e. Roger Ryan of Autshanbohy who died on May 11, 1834 at age 70, is some kind of common ancestor.
2. Cornelius Ryan and Mary Ryan nee Ryan were Con's grandparents  
Cornelius Ryan who died at age 9 was Con's uncle.  
Thomas Ryan and Ellen Ryan nee Kennedy were Con's parents
3. Edmond was the brother of Con's great grandfather Thomas Ryan.  
Catherine Ryan nee Kinane was Edmond's wife and Con's great-great aunt.  
John and Ellen Ryan were Con's great-great-grandparents.
4. Jeremiah Ryan was the brother of Mary, Margaret and Catherine Ryan



The Pedigree of Edmond McGrath of Upperchurch and Mary Ryan of Glown  
July 26, 2000



Mary Ryan was one of the Baptism sponsors of Margaret Ryan who was the daughter of Jeremiah Ryan and Anne Hayes.  
 Jerry Ryan, son of Edmond and Ellen Ryan was a very intelligent man. He worked at the bar trade as a young man. He never married and was the end of that line.  
 Edmond Ryan and Ellen Ryan needed to get a dispensation prior to their marriage because they were 3<sup>rd</sup> cousins.  
 John Ryan might be the father of Mary Ryan McGrath but so far there is no hard evidence of that fact.  
 Numbers in (..) refer to gravestone inscriptions in the Upperchurch graveyard shown later.



This is a picture of my family in front of the ancestral cottage in Glown, Upperchurch, Co. Tipperary during our visit to Ireland in June 2000. The cottage is at present home to Con Ryan's daughter Eileen and her family. Con was born and raised in this cottage that was the residence of Mary Ryan (wife of Edmond McGrath) prior to leaving for America in 1850. (Jennie, Noël, Mike, Chris, Jeremy)

It appears that Edmond traveled to America by himself and left his family behind in Ireland. This happened in 1848<sup>18</sup> with Edmond leaving from Liverpool and arriving in New York City on November 29, 1848 on board the *New Hampshire*. It seems to have taken Edmond two years to save up enough money for the passages of his family to America. The family remained in the Upperchurch area to stay close to family after Edmond left for America. There was a railway from Thurles to Dublin and Thurles was only 8 miles east of Upperchurch. This might be how the family traveled to Dublin to begin their journey to America. His family arrived from Dublin on the *British Queen* on November 7, 1850 and the family was reunited in New York City.

The year 1847 was said to have been the worst year of the Famine. It was the very next year that Edmond McGrath chose to leave his family behind and travel to America. As was seen earlier, Edmond and Mary were living in Gleninchaveigh in 1844 at the time of the baptism of their

youngest son, John. They were probably living there during the Famine and most likely Mary and the children remained in Gleninchaveigh when Edmond left for America.



This is Con and Mary Ryan in the kitchen of their modern home next door to the ancestral cottage where Con was born and raised. They are fifth cousins to everyone of my father's generation.

## **Family Status in Ireland from 1841 to 1848**

By the 1840's the land in Ireland had long since been given to British citizens or Irish gentry loyal to the crown of England. In many cases landlords were hired by these landowners to oversee the rental of their estate lands. Sometimes these much-hated "middlemen" would rent large parcels of land from the landlords and then sublet the land, to the people who would actually occupy it, at a much higher rate.

In Ireland, prior to the time of the Great Famine, there were several classes of individuals who attempted to make their living off the land. These were laborers, cottiers, small farmers, medium farmers, and large farmers. There was not a clear distinction between the small farmer and the cottier, but generally the small farmer was the better off of the two. We don't have any specific information on Edmond's land holdings because the family left Ireland prior to 1851 when the county of Tipperary was surveyed for the Griffith's Valuation. We can however draw some general conclusions based on the holdings of the Ryan family and the other McGraths in the parishes of Moyaliff and Clogher. The Ryan family had 83 acres in Gleninchaveigh, while the Magraths of Moyaliff had holdings that were about 20 acres in size on average as did the McGraths of Clogher. This would allow us to draw the conclusion that Edmond could have been somewhere between a small and medium farmer if he had the average sized holdings that the rest of the relatives had at that time.

The marriage of Edmond McGrath and Mary Ryan took place in the Roman Catholic Church in Upperchurch as did the baptisms of their children Margaret, Michael and John over the next few years. The family was living in nearby Drumdiha, parish of Moyaliff (Margaret and Michael baptisms) and later in Glaninchavee (Gleninchaveigh, parish of Upperchurch - John's baptism). Based on this evidence it is certain that the Edmond McGrath family was living in the Upperchurch area between 1841 and 1844.

From conversations that Doug Currie had with the locals, during a visit to Upperchurch, the name McGrath was not a common one in the area. The name Ryan however was a totally different story. A trip through the local cemetery can be a genealogist's nightmare or blessing depending on your point of view. The place is full of Ryans. [Note: The original Catholic Church was located inside the boundaries of the present cemetery, according to the owner of Dwyer's grocery across the street.] Even the locals have trouble keeping all the Ryans straight. Terry Ryan, who runs the Tipperary email list on the Internet, is the president of the Ryans Association of America. He has assembled a huge list of some 240 nicknames used by the Ryans of Tipperary.

Edmond's Cortland County Poor House Registration lists his birthplace as Upperchurch but this may have been a reference to the Roman Catholic parish of Upperchurch and not the civil parish of Upperchurch. The work in the previous sections show that the McGraths/ Magraths had been living just south of the town of Upperchurch, in the parish of Moyaliff for many years, possibly as far back as the mid-1700's. The civil parish of Moyaliff is in the Roman Catholic parish of Upperchurch.

# The McGrath Family Comes to America

## The Voyage to America by Mary, Michael and John

The ship named *British Queen* sailed from Dublin and docked in New York on November 7, 1850. Listed as passengers were<sup>19</sup>

McGrath, Mary - Age 45, Female  
Michael - Age 8, Male  
John - Age 6, Male

Edmond had arrived two years earlier on board the *New Hampshire*. These names were found on lists compiled from Immigration records and were originally generated by the captains of the various emigration ships. When they reached port the captain would present a list of the immigrants on his ship to the immigration authorities at that port. Large numbers of people died on each of these voyages during the height of the famine but most of the lists that I have seen don't indicate that an individual on the list died during the voyage.<sup>20</sup> The general impression that I get is that these lists are generated at the beginning of the voyage, based on the passenger regulations in effect at the time. The procedure was for "...collectors after mustering the passengers, were required to give a certified list to the master to be inspected by an official in the colonies before any passengers were allowed to land."<sup>21</sup> Therefore it is expected that the passenger lists should contain the names of those who died at sea.

In the case of Margaret McGrath if she had begun the voyage with her mother, Mary, and her brothers Michael and John then her name should appear on the passenger list. Her absence from the list indicates she may have died prior to the voyage since she was too young to leave behind on her own.

The vessel that brought Mary, Michael and John to America would sink less than a year later while transporting emigrants to America from Ireland. "One of the oldest vessels on the Atlantic during the mid-19th century was named the *British Queen*, not perhaps the best name for a ship carrying Irish emigrants fleeing the Famine. The 225-ton barque had been at sea for 66 years. She had seen out the last two decades of the slave trade and then earned her owner further profits during the six Famine years. As an emigrant ship, she had sailed from the Irish ports of Dublin, Sligo, Belfast and Liverpool bound for America and Canada. Her worthy service ended dramatically in December 1851, when she went aground in ice around Nantucket Island, but her passengers and crew were rescued by the islanders in a spectacular mission which remains part of the proud maritime history of the old whaling port of Nantucket Island."<sup>22</sup>

"The *British Queen* left Dublin with 228 passengers on October 22nd 1851. It must have been a difficult voyage, as she was still on passage eight weeks later. Yet even with unfriendly headwinds, another two or three days might have seen her safely berthed in New York, in time for her storm battered passengers to celebrate Christmas in the new country."<sup>23</sup>

"Among the survivors who settled on the island was a young Irish couple: 29-year-old farmhand Robert Mooney with his young bride Julia, who was 21. They raised a family of seven children and became tenant farmers until Robert earned the money to buy his own 200-acre spread. ...One of the Mooney family's treasured links to the past, to their Irish heritage and to that memorable event in 1851, is the *British Queen's* nameboard. Robert C. Mooney is the current guardian of this polished piece of wood, recovered when the wreckage washed up on shore. It hangs splendidly above the fireplace in his home."<sup>24</sup> Robert C. Mooney is the great-grandson of the original Famine emigrant and still practices law in Nantucket.

There was also a McGrath family aboard for the final voyage of the *British Queen*.

Name	Sex	Age	Occupation
William McGrath	male	55	farmer
Mary McGrath	female	33	matron
Francis McGrath	* ?	6mo	infant
Edward McGrath	male	12	child
William McGrath	male	13	child
John McGrath	male	10	child
James McGrath	male	9	child
Eliza McGrath	female	6	child
William McGrath	male	35	farmer

This is the order in which the names appear on the ship's manifest signed by Christopher Thomas Connay, Master filed at the Collector's Office, District of Nantucket, December 31st, 1851 and signed by the Collector, Wm. R. Easton.<sup>25</sup>

Over a year earlier when Mary, Michael and John McGrath approached New York City aboard the *British Queen*, in November, 1850, after a less terrifying journey, the ship would have stopped first at Staten Island for inspection from a health official. At that point the authorities would have removed any of the ill passengers to be quarantined on the Island. Continuing on to New York City they would have tied up at one of the many docks along South Street on the Lower East Side of Manhattan.

"In May 1855 an old fort at the tip of Manhattan, Castle Garden, was leased, renovated, and on August 1 reopened as a state immigration reception center: New York's Emigrant Landing Depot. The quarantine procedures would now be supplemented by the individual examination of immigrants. Every vessel bringing immigrants had to anchor at the Quarantine Station, 6 miles below New York City. There, a New York State emigration officer boarded to ascertain a count of passengers, deaths during the voyage, the degree and kind of illnesses suffered during the trip, and the overall cleanliness of the vessel. A report was sent to the general agent and superintendent at Castle Garden and the boarding officer remained on the ship as it steamed up the bay to ensure that no one from the ship contacted anyone on shore before the authorized disembarkation of emigrants. The prohibition was destined to inhibit the activity of runners and swindlers who accosted arriving immigrants with schemes and scams."<sup>26</sup>

In 1850 Castle Garden was in use as a concert-hall, where Jenny Lind made her first American appearance the same year and by 1890 it was operating as the New York Aquarium.<sup>27</sup> Ellis Island would not come into use as a reception center until around the year 1890.

## **Where did Edmund McGrath go when he first came to America?**

After Edmond arrived in New York City aboard the *New Hampshire* in late November 1848 he needed to make money as quickly as possible. There were quarry jobs up the Hudson River in Hurley, in the County of Ulster. Some of the Irish immigrants found work in the bluestone quarry industry that was developing in Hurley and the surrounding areas. The village of Ruby is on the northern border of this town and during the bluestone days most of the surrounding settlements were filled with Irish. The Irish settled in Stoney Hollow, Jockey Hill and Morgan Hill. Since the work was seasonal many of them turned to ice cutting during the winter months. Unless he had a specific destination in mind when he landed Edmond probably spent his first winter in America in the New York City area.

Since it was known that the Irish, with their control of politics in the New York City area, could vote the immigrants almost as soon as they stepped off the boat<sup>28</sup> there might be some voting records from Edmond's stay in New York City. The Irish areas in New York, around 1850, were Greenwich Village and an area known as Five Points<sup>29</sup>. Over the years the Irish moved out and were replaced by the Italian immigrants, Al Capone was born and raised in the Five Points area. Following the Italians came the Jews and today the Five Points area is part of Chinatown.

Around the beginning of the 20th the century this latter area was described in Baedeker's *New York* as follows: "Five Points, the district (roughly speaking) between Park Row (S.E.), Centre St. (W.), and Grand St. (N.), once bore, and to some extent still bears, the reputation of being the most evil district in New York, the home of rowdies, thieves, and drunkards. Like the Seven Dials in London, it has, however, of late been much improved by the construction of new streets, the removal of old rookeries, and the invasion of commerce. It took its name from the 'five points' formed by the intersection of Worth (then Anthony), Baxter, and Park Streets; and here now stand the *Five Points Mission* and the *Five Points House of Industry* (visitors courteously received)." <sup>30</sup>

## Records in The New York City Area

It seemed logical to search for Edmond McGrath among the records for the New York City area. Since it would have made sense to spend his first winter in the New York City area prior to heading west. Edmond was a farmer without enough money to buy a farm. This is based on the fact that he didn't have enough money to bring over the rest of the family with him when he came to America. Edmond and Mary didn't own a farm in Ireland as seen by the fact they were living with a relative who was himself living with another family.

The Naturalization records and the Declaration of Intent records of the Superior Court and the Court of Common Pleas for the County of New York were searched from 1846 to 1855 and no Edmond McGraths or Magraths were found.

Edmond responded on the 1855 New York State census that he had been naturalized. A person needed to be in the country five continuous years and in the state for one year just previous to becoming a citizen. However there wasn't any record of a naturalization for Edmond McGrath in New York County, in the time period 1850-1855.

In searching the naturalization records of New York County in both the Superior Court and the Court of Common Pleas there were no Edmond McGraths or Magraths found in the time period from 1847 to 1855. Since it took five years of residence in the United States prior to naturalization that means Edmond could not have been naturalized prior to November 29, 1853. When Edmond and Mary show up in the NYS Census of 1855 they were living in Cuyler, NY, Edmond has been naturalized and they had been there for three months, arriving in about March, 1855.

The only naturalization record for New York County that came close was an Edward McGrath who was naturalized in the New York County Superior Court on May 16, 1854. His witness was John McGrath of 146 Christopher Street (Greenwich Village), NYC. Could this possibly be our Edmond with a John McGrath again as a witness/sponsor? Everything fits but there is no hard evidence to prove that this is Edmond McGrath of Upperchurch. These searches were completed in 1997. Several years later Doug Currie found Edmond's Declaration of Intent filed in Onondaga County in late 1854. Evidently he was never naturalized, but it does place Edmond in Onondaga Co. in the 1854 time period.

There were parish records for the various Catholic churches in the area that might contain some records on Edmond. The first Roman Catholic Church in New York City, was St. Peter's located at 16 Barclay Street in what is now Greenwich Village. I searched the church records for all the

Catholic Churches in lower Manhattan that were old enough to have had the McGrath family as members and there was no record of Edmond or any of his family.

Doug Currie mentions a ship named the *Olive Branch* that some of the family were supposed to have sailed on during their journey to America. Although a ship of that name was in service at the time he could find no record of Edmond having been on board. We now know that Mary and the boys came over on the *British Queen* and Edmond on the *New Hampshire*. This raises an interesting question: If Olive Branch is not the name of a ship could it be the name of a place? Could the family have come to Truxton by way of a town called Olive Branch instead of on a ship called Olive Branch? There was a town called Olive Branch, located near West Hurley in Ulster County around 1850. Olive Branch was abandoned in about 1913 with the building of the Ashekon Dam and today lies under the water of the Ashekon Reservoir. The dam was built to create a source of water to supply New York City. With the completion of the reservoir the villages of Glenford, West Hurley, Ashton and Olive Branch disappeared beneath the waters of the Ashekon Reservoir. West Hurley and Glenford were relocated to their present sites in the Town of Hurley but Olive Branch was not rebuilt.

A preliminary search of some records in the Ulster Co. area gave no evidence of Edmond living in the area. A systematic search of the 1850 census records for Ulster county was conducted, starting with the most likely towns, and with 62% of the total 1454 pages completed no Edmond McGrath has been found. So far no additional information has surfaced that would provide evidence as to where Edmond went or what he did after arriving in America during the time period of 1848 – 1850.

Edmond came to America in November, 1848 and didn't arrive in the Town of Truxton, later called the Town of Cuyler until, March, 1855. A careful search of the 1850 census records for the Counties of Onondaga, Cortland and Madison turned up no evidence of Edmond, his family or Mary Ryan's sisters Margaret and Catherine. Margaret Ryan married John Tobin at St. James Church, Cazenovia on March 8, 1854, witnesses were Michael Reardon and Catherine Fitzgerald. An Edmond McGraw filed a Declaration of Intent in Onondaga County on 14 Jan 1855. Edmond and Mary were probably in Onondaga County prior to Margaret Ryan Tobin's marriage. This pushes the date of their arrival in Onondaga County back to early 1854.

As will be shown shortly, prior to 1855 the Edmond McGraw family was probably in the town of Fabius that would explain how Michael was able to attend the Bardeen School, so named for its location on Bardeen Road, Fabius township, Onondaga County. Michael also attended the Keeney Settlement school that could imply that the family might have moved a second time prior to settling in Truxton township (now Cuyler).

## **The Trail to Truxton**

The original paths were animal trails and these were used by the Indians in trailing their game and thus became more permanent. The original settlers came on foot or with teams of oxen pulling sleds and they followed these Indian trails. There were no wagons because the pathways contained too many stumps.

Log cabins came first because they could be built out of materials that were readily available. These were followed by frame construction of homes once saw mills were built on the local streams. Self sufficiency was the first goal of these pioneer settlers. As more and more land was cleared it became possible for farmers who had been raising grain to add the raising of animals. Excess production was sold locally and with the coming of the railroads the farmers were able to ship product out of the region in which it was produced. This tied the farmers into the national economy.

“The original township of Fabius was designated No. 15 of the Military Tract, and embraced the present town of that name and nearly all of the towns of Truxton and Cuyler in Cortland County. On the formation of the county the whole of this territory, together with Tully, Preble, Scott, and the southern parts of Otisco and Spafford, forming the military township of Tully, No. 14, was included in the civil town of Pompey, from which Fabius, including all of the towns and parts of towns just mentioned, was set off by act of the Legislature on March 9, 1798. “ When Cortland County was organized on April 8, 1808 that left Fabius with 50 lots which was basically the northern half of township No. 15 of the Military Tract. These lots consisted of 600 acres each and Lot No. 13 was given as bounty land to Capt. Joseph Savage for services in the Revolutionary War, as were most of the lots in the Military Tract.

In 1808, on the formation of Cortland County, the original town of Truxton had been created out of the southern half of the Town of Fabius. In 1815 the Town of Truxton was enlarged by the annexation of part of Solon, the town adjacent to the Town of Solon on the south. In 1858 the Town of Cuyler was created out of the eastern half of the Town of Truxton, both in Cortland County.

Approaching the Town of Truxton from the Albany area in around 1855 one would follow the main trail along the Mohawk River until reaching Manlius. From there the trail proceeded south through Pompey and into the Keeney Settlement north of Tripoli Corners and Cuyler. Looking at a topographical map of the region around the Keeney Settlement you will notice that it is characterized by flat valleys surrounded by steeply rising ridges, which are characteristic of the central New York area. Similar geographic structures, further to the west, that were closed, collected water and became the Finger Lakes region. The flat valley bottoms determined the paths of travel. Given Edmond's and his family's later association with villages to the north of Keeney Settlement it would indicate that he probably arrived from the north and settled initially in that area.

The story of Jacob Marshall of Syracuse and his journey to central New York might well be similar to that of Edmond

“Jacob Marshall. The patriarch of the Marshall family, after a rough crossing of the Atlantic in a sailing vessel from Germany, arrived in New York on September 1, 1849, at the age of nineteen. With only five francs (amounting to ninety-five cents in American money) in his pocket, it was necessary that he find work at once. He was young, strong, and did not mind manual labor. Like the Irish and German immigrants, he secured a job with a construction gang on the Erie Railroad, and later with the Central Railroad, working his way up to the Mohawk Valley. It was hard work, but he had a goal in mind. It was not for him to be a day laborer long. He was saving what little money he earned and wanted to settle in a community where he could live among other Jews.”<sup>31</sup>

Edmond might have found work as a laborer and moved around with the work crews and that would explain why it has been difficult to find any records of his residence during this early period in America.

It's still an open question as to why Edmond and his family choose Central New York. Therefore it is possible to propose reasons and see if any of them can be confirmed by existing records, or at least be made to seem plausible.

- The Keeney Settlement might have been the attraction. Perhaps Edmond knew of the settlement or persons living in the settlement prior to his leaving Ireland. Or perhaps Edmond heard of the settlement while he was living in the New York City area.
- Similarity of climate. The weather in central New York (with the obvious exception of winter) is very similar to that of County Tipperary, in Ireland.

- Similarity of geography. The rolling hills of the regions south of Syracuse are very similar to the terrain found in County Tipperary, in Ireland.
- Just north of Truxton was Lafayette which was at the then “cross roads” of New York State in the 1850 time period. This was where Route 11 crossed Route 20 (The Cherry Valley Turnpike).
- Main attraction of the different towns in Onondaga Co.: Salina – salt; Syracuse – canal work; Split Rock – quarry; Pompey – farming.

When the McGrath's first came to the Truxton area there was a Lantry McGraw already residing there with his sons Patrick and Myles. On checking the records this turned out to be Lanty not Lantry. In Ireland Lanty is a nickname for the name Lancelot. There was also a Patrick and Ann McGrath and their son Miles living in Fabius, Onondaga Co., NY. Both of these families will be examined in more detail in a later section.

## The Early Days of Cortland County

### Keeney Settlement

In the spring of 1794 Simon Keeney, father of the late John Keeney, came and “cleared land, erected a log house, and planted corn and potatoes, preparatory to bringing his family the following year.”<sup>32</sup> Simon Keeney was the first settler to establish a home in the valley that came to be known as Keeney’s Settlement. “In 1795 he, **Benjamin Brown**, Samuel Fox, and **Gurden Woodruff**, with their families and a part of the family of Samuel Webster, in all twenty-eight persons, established themselves in the log house erected the previous year by Simon Keeney.”<sup>33</sup> This house was located on **Lot No. 47**, on premises owned by Henry H. Clark in 1896. Other settlers soon came to the valley and eventually portions were subdivided and became part of Truxton and Cuyler in Cortland County.

Ezra and Hezekiah Dodge came to Pompey in 1795 and settled on a tract of land on Lot 50. Hezekiah settled on a portion that came to be known as John Wells farm and Ezra settled on a portion that came to be known as the Dodge farm. Ezra’s son David F. taught school and after converting to the Catholic faith in 1835 was instrumental in the establishment of a Catholic Church at Pompey Hill.

In the year 1801 there were no railroads to assist the early settlers of the area. The Erie Canal was still some years into the future so perspective settlers made the journey on foot with the aid of a team of oxen. Without roads horse drawn wagons were useless and so the early settlers relied on oxen to draw sleds.<sup>34</sup>

## The Final Word on the Tornado at Keeney's Settlement

Edmond McGraw had a homestead at one time that was destroyed, according to oral tradition, by a tornado that struck the Keeney Settlement Valley. The accuracy of this event has been determined to be true but the exact path of the tornado and the exact time at which this event took place had been uncertain for some time. The following is from the "Keeney Settlement."

"...A few still remember that Abner Brown, the leading man of the community. There is a tradition confirmed by the Hon. F.P. Saunders, that a cyclone came from off the western hill and swept across the valley, unroofing Mr. Brown's house, and leveling one of his large barns on the "flats," or meadow land, to the ground. It is said that some of the timbers of the demolished structure were carried by the wind as far as Cowles' Settlement, as the crow flies. "<sup>35</sup>

It was originally thought that this "cyclone" event had occurred sometime in the summer of 1867. That roughly coincided with the timing of Edmond's move to Truxton. According to this assumed path it came down the eastern side of Morgan Hill, passing through Edmond's home on Lot #76, passing through the flat of the valley hitting Abner Brown's farm and continued east leaving the debris scattered as far as Cowles Settlement. However, it was determined by an examination of the census records and maps of the region that there was no Abner Brown located on this assumed path.

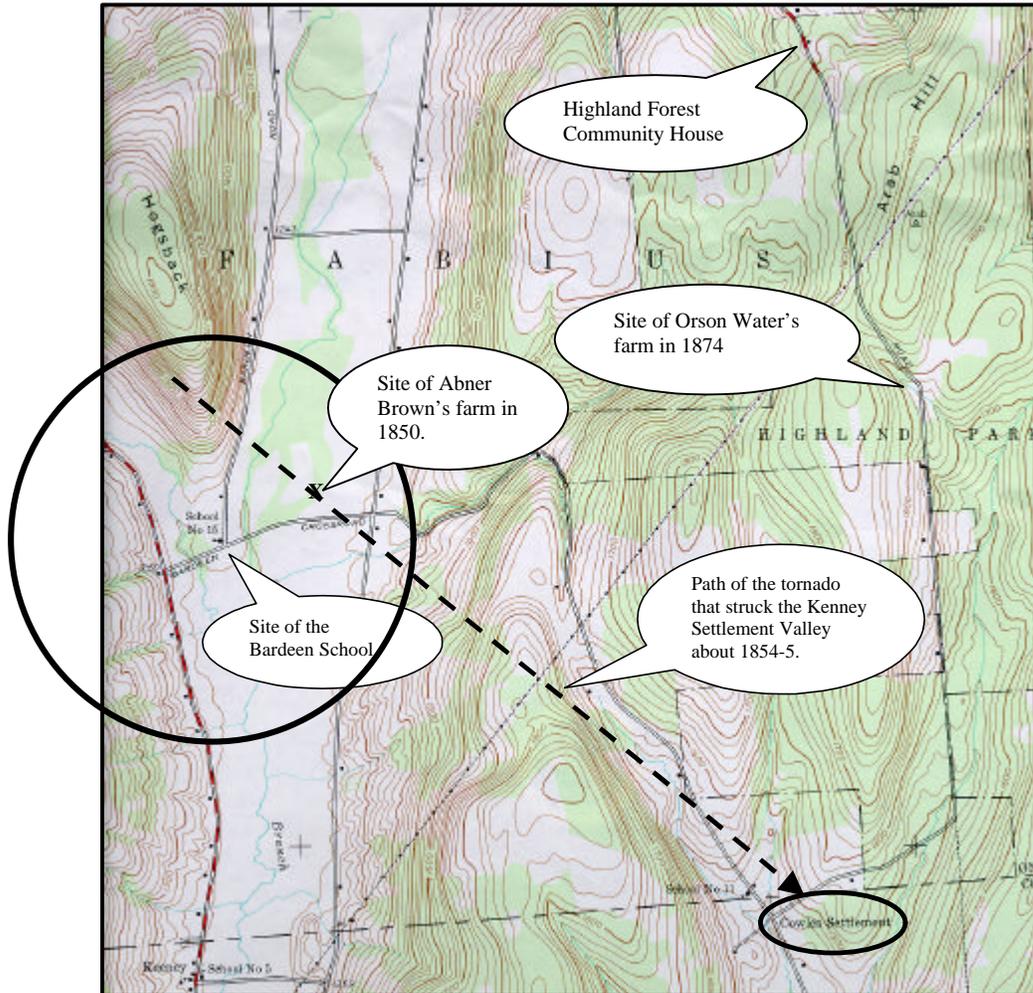
It was later determined that there was an Abner Brown living on Bardeen Road in Fabius Township about 1-1/2 miles north of the Cortland and Onondaga County border. The name J.D. Brown appeared on a 1874 map of the town of Fabius and by checking the 1850 census for that area it was determined that Abner Brown was living in that very same place 26 years earlier. Using the location of the Brown farm and the Cowles Settlement it was possible to plot a straight line path for the "cyclone" that passed through the "western hill."

J.D. Brown might have been a relative of Abner Brown. In 1874 Abner was 84 years old and was probably retire from farming. But in ~1854 he would have been only 64 and the farm was probably known locally as the Abner Brown farm. J.D. Brown didn't appear to be one of Abner's sons according to the census records.

Now I just had to fit Edmond McGraw into this scenario. According to the 1850 census Edmond was not in the counties of Cortland or Onondaga at the time of the census, however he arrived with his family sometime prior 1855. Edmond's son Michael attended the Bardeen school (school #15) so the family must have been living somewhere nearby that school. The next closest school to the Bardeen school is a little over four miles south in Keeney's Settlement. A circle approximately two miles in radius, centered on the Bardeen school, will encircle the area where Edmond and his family were most likely living when they first arrived in Onondaga County. Within that circle is the farm of Abner Brown and the proposed path of the "cyclone." Also living very close to this circular boundary in 1874 are the Woodruff and Webster families and O.W. Webster had stated that two of Michael McGraw's "early and valued friends" were Rev. A. D. Webster and Jerome Woodruff <sup>36</sup>. The time frame for this event is from 1850 to March 1855. Since Michael was also said to have attended the Keeney Settlement school (school #5) the family probably moved after the tornado destroyed their house and located further south such that the Keeney Settlement school became the closest and so Michael and most likely his brother John attended school there. From there the family moved onto Lot #76 subdivision 1 around March 1855 and at that time the McGraw boys might have attended the Whitmarsh school (school #8). However, attending the "Irish School" on Morgan Hill, just west of the Gleason farm, would have eliminated the hill climb at the end of everyday.

This places the tornado some 13-16 years earlier than originally proposed but there is more data to support the event in this time frame and following a southeasterly path. The tornado was

previously used as the reason for Edmond selling subdivision 1 in Cuyler lot #76 and subsequently purchasing subdivision 2 in the same lot – a new reason will have to be found for those transactions. Overall, the new assignment of the tornado to the earlier time frame and more northerly location has more corroborating data to support it and it also places the McGraw family near the Bardeen school that Michael was known to have attended.



Ironically, during their early days in Onondaga County, Edmond's family was living in the shadow of the hill, called Arab Hill, that would become Highland Forest. In the mid 1930s the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) carried out a couple reforestation projects on the land that had been confiscated by the State of New York for non-payment of taxes. This location was the site for many of the McGraw family reunions in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

These two maps illustrate the pathway of the tornado and the region in which Edmond McGraw and his family were probably living prior to March 1855 when they moved to the town of Cuyler. On the map below note the close proximity to the circle of the Woodruff and Webster families that are underlined.

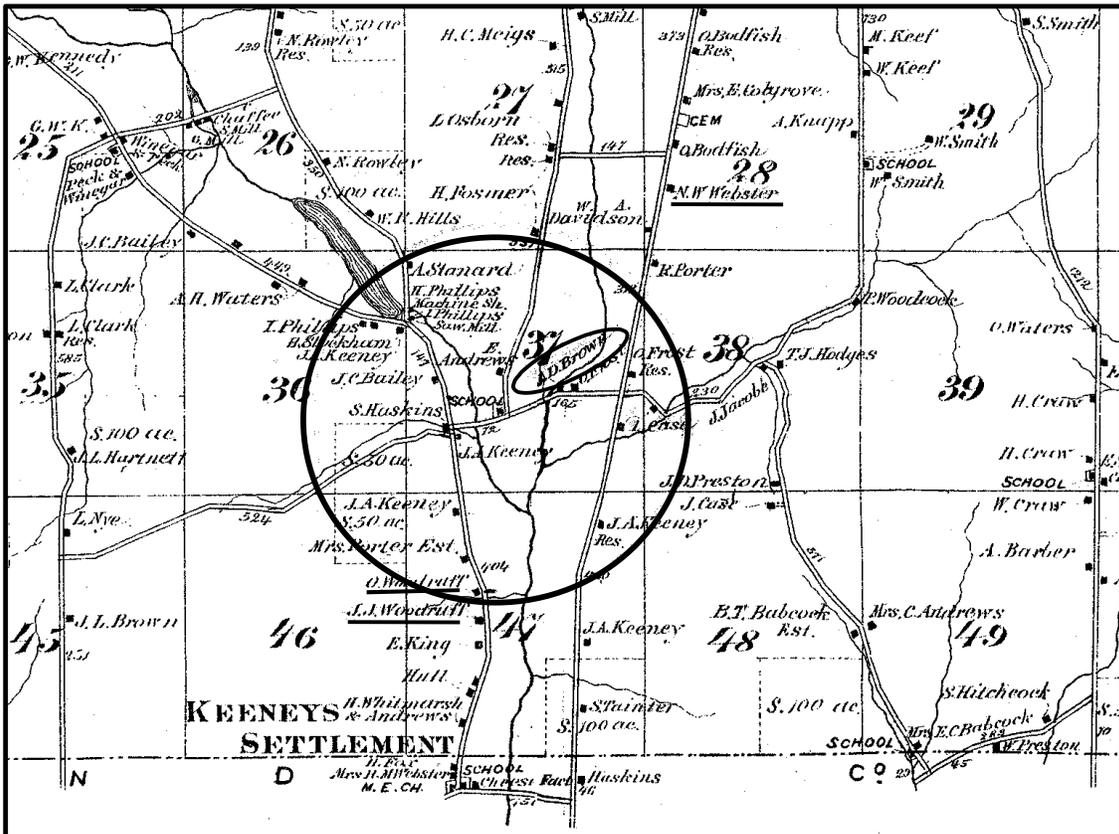
From Lucy Sprague (April 3, 1998):

“Michael (McGraw) was known to walk to mass from Keeney Settlement Road up to Pompey which is on the hill out of Fabius.”

From Lucy Sprague to Shirley McGraw Maloney (December 21, 1980):

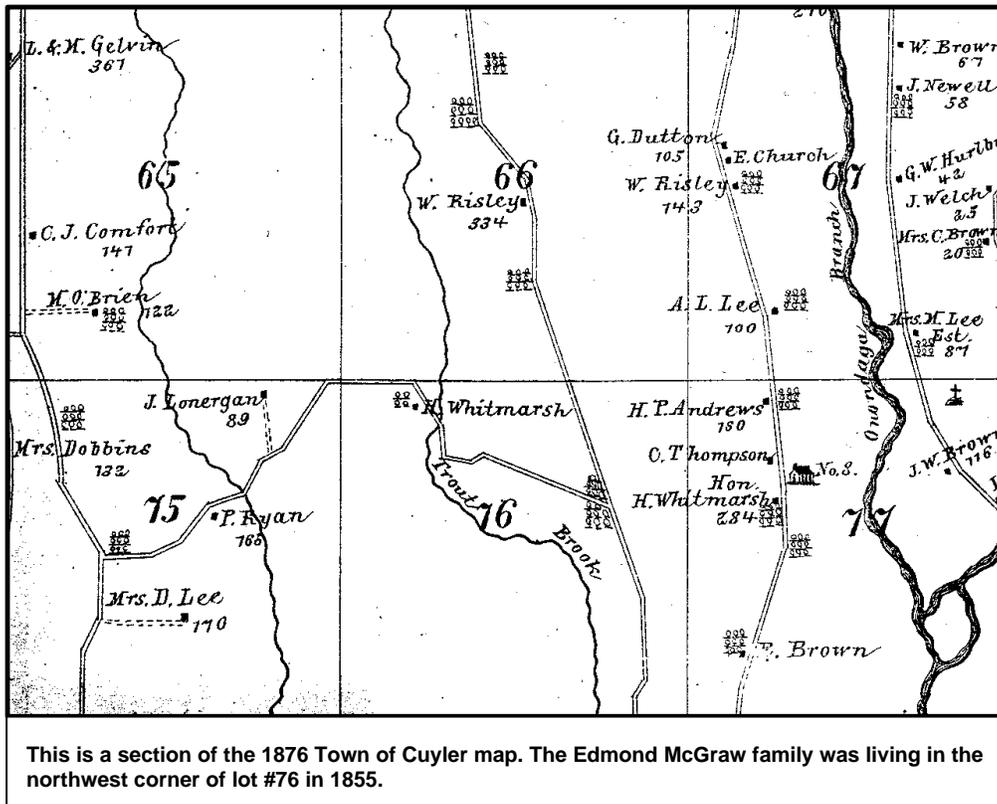
“Aunt Mary [Dadey] McGraw is the one who told me some disaster affected the McGraws in Cuyler and prompted the move. She thought it was a hurricane, windstorm that wiped out the crops, or something on that order.”

“Aunt Mary had relatives in Pompey. I think she stated that they could set their clocks by Mike McGraw walking by on his way to mass on Sunday at Pompey.”



## The Cuyler Residence

In conducting the census the families were numbered by the order in which the census enumerator conducted the interviews. James Lanergan (Lonergan) was listed just previous to Edmond McGraw in the 1860 Census for Cortland County. From this it can be concluded that they were neighbors and occupied adjacent farms in 1860. Oral tradition has said that the McGraws and the Lonergans were neighbors long ago and this evidence supports that tradition.



### The Origin of the Orchards

The original pioneers brought apples, pears, plums and cherries with them.<sup>37</sup> Almost every family established an orchard as can be seen in the 1876 maps of Cuyler and Truxton. Near most of the farms indicated on the 1876 maps are rectangular shaped figures filled with regular arrays of circular objects. These most likely represent the orchards that each of the families maintained.

“Apples were grown mainly for cider to drink and to sell. Apple juice and cider were legal tender. As early as 1843 there were itinerant grafters who peddled scions and would graft a whole orchard. The owners didn’t care what kind at that time. It was 1880 before orchard management came into being.”<sup>38</sup>

The above map of the western central section of the Township of Cuyler, Cortland Co., New York is from 1876 The road on the left in the map above that hugs the western border of the Town of Cuyler runs along the eastern slopes of Morgan Hill. This map depicts the situation about 16 years after the 1860 Federal Census and it was about 2 years after Edmond was foreclosed on his property in Lot 76. Notice that there is a J. Lonergan in the upper right portion of Lot 75. The Lonergans were said to be friends of the McGraw family from the early days.

There is reason to believe that Edmond's land in Lot 76 was in the northwest corner of the lot. On November 10, 1855 Edmond purchased 64 acres of land described as subdivision 1 of Lot 76 in Cuyler and sold the same piece of land on February 1, 1867. On February 27, 1867 Edmund McGraw purchased 63-1/2 acres of land described as subdivision 2 in Lot 76 Township of Cuyler. This subdivision 2 was foreclosed on April 28, 1874.

The numbering of lot subdivisions did not follow a standardized procedure and the use of subdivisions was never officially adopted. Just north of Cuyler is the Township of Pompey in Onondaga County where there were several examples of subdivisions used in dividing up parcels of land. Lots 43, 63, 79, 83 and 96 in the Township of Pompey contain subdivisions of different sizes and orientation. However, they have one thing in common, the subdivision numbering always commences in the northwest corner of all the lots. Subdivisions 1 and 2 are always adjacent in these examples and it is probably safe to conclude that a similar scheme was followed in Lot 76, Township of Cuyler, for Edmond's land. This location of Edmond's property in Cuyler Lot 76 subdivision 1 in the northwest corner of the lot is consistent with the order in which the families were recorded in the 1860 Federal Census. The 1876 Cuyler map shows H. Whitmarsh as the occupant of land in the northwest corner of Lot 76, in fact he is the only person shown on the entire lot. Edward Miller bought subdivision 2, Lot 76 at the foreclosure auction on April 28, 1874.

Some details are shown here that trace Edmond's movements:

DATE	EVENT
After 1850 - ~185X	Approximate arrival time in Onondaga County. Settled near the northern portion of the Keeney Settlement on Lot 37 in the Town of Fabius. Michael and John attend Bardeen Road School.
~185X – March 1855	Moved to a second location. The evidence is that the boys are attending a different school. The tornado in the Keeney Settlement could have been the cause of this second move, probably to Lot 47 in the Township of Fabius, or the move to Cuyler. Michael and John attended the Keeney Settlement School. These first two locations are interchangeable at this point because there are no dates available for the school attendance. The 1855 census showed Edmond living on Lot 76 in Cuyler in June 1855 and having been there for three months.
November 10, 1855	Edmond McGraw purchased Lot 76 subdivision 1
June 1860	Federal Census conducted. Edmond and family on Lot 76 subdivision 1 in the Town of Cuyler, Cortland Co., NY.
February 1, 1867	Edmond McGraw sells Lot 76 subdivision 1 Michael McGraw was 23; John McGraw was 22
February 27, 1867	Edmond McGraw purchased Lot 76 subdivision 2. The reason for the purchase of subdivision 2 on Lot 76 is uncertain.
September 16, 1867	John W. McGraw applies for an "Invalid Pension" with witnesses Michael McGraw and Thomas Sheahan, both of Cortlandville, Cortland Co. John was living in Cuyler, Cortland Co. with his Post Office listed as Kenney Settlement.
Feb 1867 – 1868	Homestead on Cuyler Lot 76 subdivision 2 was missing on a 1876 map.

	It was originally thought that it might have been destroyed during this time period by the "tornado" that had struck the Keeney Settlement Valley. Based on recent information that time period now appears to be 1850-5.
Jan. 8, 1868	Edmond McGrath along with his sons Michael McGrath and John McGrath purchased land in Truxton lots 51 & 52.
1869	Cortland County Directory showed no one was residing on lot 76 and Edmund McGraw and his wife Mary (post office Tully, Onondaga, Co.) residing on lot 51 & 52 Township of Truxton with sons Michael and John. Both Michael and John had their post office addresses listed as Truxton. Edmond and Mary had their post office listed as Tully, Onondaga County. The same directory showed the Honorable Hiram Whitmarsh owned 400 acres of land on lot 77 – 80 cows .
March 1, 1872	Edmond and Mary McGraw mortgaged Cuyler Lot 76 subdivision 2 to Edward Miller for \$650.
April 28, 1874	Edward Miller purchased Lot 76 subdivision 2 at foreclosure auction for \$835.
August 14, 1874	Edward Miller purchased the McGraw land on Truxton Lots 51 and 52, at a foreclosure auction, for \$6000.
1876	Cuyler map published showing H. Whitmarsh on lot 76 (subdivision 1)

The timing of the sale of the family Cuyler homestead's in 1867 and the mortgage on that same property in 1872 needs some analysis.

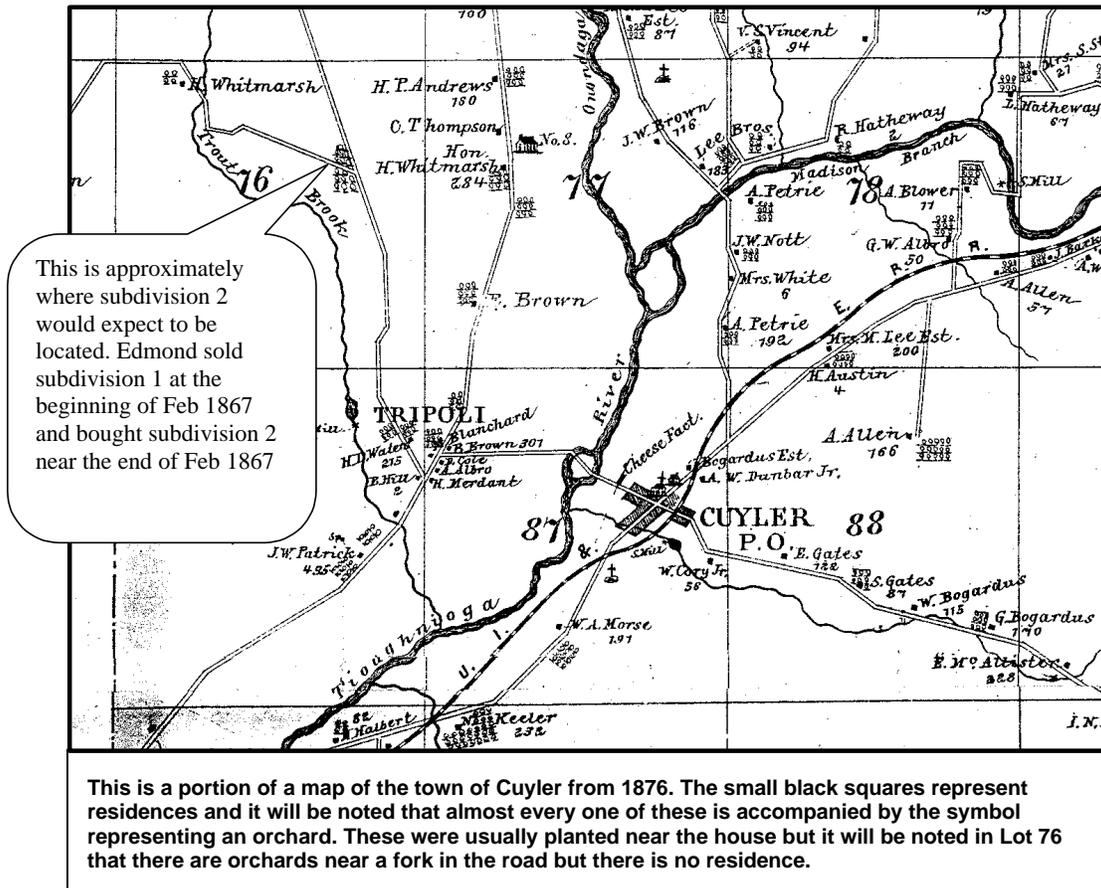
- The 1876 map shows a building near an orchard (usually a residence) in the northwest corner of the Lot 76 occupied by H. Whitmarsh. This was subdivision 1 in the upper left corner of the lot while subdivision 2 was located to the east of subdivision 1. Edmond had been living in subdivision 1 from November 10, 1855 until February 1, 1867 when he sold it. About four weeks later Edmond purchased subdivision 2 next to it on February 27, 1867. Notice that there is an orchard at the T in the road in Lot 76 but there is no house that would be expected because of the presence of the orchard. The T would be an excellent location for a residence giving quick access to both roads. This was the location of subdivision 2 and the lack of a residence is unexplained at this time.
- The \$650 mortgage on the Cuyler property seems like a small amount for land during a period of time when prices were escalating rapidly. It works out to about \$10 per acre whereas the 255 acres on Lot 51 & 52 that Edmond and the others bought for \$10,000 was going for \$39 per acre. The low value of the mortgage could be due in part to the lack of a serviceable residence on the property that reduced its value. The reason for taking out the mortgage could mean that the family was already running short of money a full two years before the foreclosures.

John W. McGraw's "Application for Invalid Pension" was dated September 16, 1867 and listed John as a resident of Cuyler, Cortland Co., and gave his Post Office address as Kenney's Settlement, Cortland Co. The two witnesses to the application were Michael McGraw and Thomas Sheahan and they said that they were residents of the town of Cortlandville, Cortland Co. NY. Therefore in Sept. 1867 Michael McGraw was not living with his parents on their farm on

Lot 76. John had been out of the army for two years, why did he pick then, in Sept 1867, to file for an Army pension? There are several pieces of important information in this pension application.

- John gave his Post Office address as Keeney Settlement. He was probably working and living on the farm of Patrick Gleason in the Town of Cuyler on Lot 56 a few miles west of Keeney Settlement. Edmond's Post Office address at this time, relative to Lot 76 would have been Tripoli a few miles to the south east of his farm. John had been working on the Gleason farm prior to his enlistment in the army back in the summer of 1862 and he probably returned to the Gleason farm after his discharge in 1865 when he returned to the Truxton area in late August or early September 1865.
- Michael McGraw, John's brother was living in the Town of Cortlandville and therefore it would appear that Edmond was farming subdivision 2 of Lot 76 by himself unless he had a hired man. As for Michael, his occupation at this time was not known.
- Thomas Sheahan shows up in the records for the first time. Thomas is the son of Mary Ryan's sister Catherine and he is also living in the Town of Cortlandville.

A possible scenario begins with Edmond McGraw's residence on Lot 76 in the summer of 1867. Perhaps something happened to it and Edmond needs to find another place for he and Mary to live. Perhaps nothing happened to the residence itself but Edmond wanted to take advantage of the existing economic opportunities. The inflation of the post Civil War era was causing land prices to rise and perhaps Edmond suggested to his sons Michael and John that they throw in



with him and purchase another farm that they could all work together. Since it is near the end of the season there is probably still a crop to harvest and livestock to tend on Lot 76 subdivision 2. In this scenario the timing of John's pension application could be seen as an attempt to raise money for a down payment on the new farm.

## The Move to the Township of Truxton – Kettlebail Road

On January 6, 1868. Edmond, Michael and John purchased land totaling 255 acres on Labrador Hill in the township of Truxton on Lots 51 & 52 for \$10,000. At that time they took a mortgage from Edward Miller in the amount of \$9,650<sup>39</sup>. Between the three of them they could only scrape together \$350. This small down payment was caused in part by the first loan payment being due in less than 2 months from the date of the purchase.

Edmond still retained ownership of subdivision 2 on Cuyler Lot 76. The Census of 1870 showed that Edmond, Mary, Michael and John were living in the township of Truxton, probably on the Lot 51 part of their property where there were two residences straddling the beginnings of Kenney Brook. Some time in 1870, but after the Census of 1870, John McGraw married Ellen Comerford [Note: Some of the early census records list the name as Comerfort but the gravestones all list it as Comerford]. Whether he stayed on at the family farm after his marriage to Ellen is not known for certain but since he was a part owner he probably stayed.



Of prime importance in 1808 when Cortland became a county was which settlement would be the county seat. Homer and McGrawville lost to Cortland, hardly a bump in a county road compared to the other two. The wood courthouse rose between today's Monroe Heights and Pleasant Streets on West Court Street. Thirty years later, an imposing new courthouse was built on the northwest corner of Court and Church Streets. By 1900, the columns had been subtracted and additions made, including a jail.

It was from the front steps of this second Cortland County Court House that the property of Edmond and Mary McGraw in Lot 76 Town of Cuyler was purchased at a foreclosure auction by mortgage holder Edward Miller on April 28, 1874. [Picture from Kane, Mary Ann, *Images of America – Cortland County*, Arcadia Publishing, Charleston, SC, p. 48].

The McGraw family had borrowed \$9650 from Edward Miller and the terms of the mortgage called for annual payments of principal and interest of \$1200 to begin March 1, 1868. On March 1, 1872 Edmond and Mary McGraw took another mortgage from Edward Miller but this time on their land on Lot 76 in Cuyler. The amount was for \$650 and was to be paid back in full with interest on March 1, 1873. This would indicate that by the spring of 1872 the family was in need of money and the timing would indicate that the purpose of this second loan was to help make the March 1<sup>st</sup> payment on the first mortgage.

In January of 1874 Edward Miller filed papers for foreclosure on the McGraw properties in Cuyler and Truxton. A series of weekly announcements were published in the "Cortland County Republican" starting January 29, 1874 and terminating on April 23, 1874<sup>40</sup>. This would indicate that the family had missed the March 1, 1873 payment on both loans. The papers listed Thomas Sheahan as one of the mortgagees on the Truxton property that was in default. At some point the family must have let Thomas buy into the operation and that could be another sign that they were having trouble making the mortgage payments and needed an infusion of cash. Whether Thomas helped by working on the farm is unknown.

The subsequent foreclosure auction of the Cuyler property took place on April 28, 1874 and the Truxton property was sold at a foreclosure auction on August 14, 1874. Both properties went to the mortgage holder, Edward Miller, who made the highest bids of \$835.35 and \$6000 respectively. The Truxton sale was conducted "...at the front door of the premises in Truxton, N.Y." and the Cuyler sale was conducted "...at the front door of the Court House in the town of Cortlandville, in the County of Cortland." This is yet another indication that there was no residence on subdivision 2 of Lot 76 in Cuyler, it having been destroyed in some manner.

It would appear that the family had been able to make payments on the first mortgage from '68 until '72 for a total of \$6000. It was probably a missed payment on March 1, 1873 that had caused Miller to initiate foreclosure procedures but not before waiting nine months. Initially Miller seems to have been patient in waiting for his money but that all changed in September with the Panic of 1873. Miller was the high bidder on the Truxton property with a bid of \$6000. After subtracting the outstanding amount of principal and interest on the mortgage and court costs there probably wasn't any money left for the McGraws or Thomas Sheahan to divide among the four families.

This is probably the point in their lives where John went to work for the railroad and Michael might have begun teaching school or working as a stone mason. According to the 1880 Census John was working for the railroad but Michael was working on a farm as a laborer and not as a teacher at the time of the census (June 1880).

The post war Depression that was kicked off by the Panic of 1873 created the situation in which the McGraws found themselves along with other families in the Cuyler and Truxton area. This was a national problem whose effects were felt by farmers and businesses alike across the country.

"The intoxicating economic expansion of the Age of Capital came to a wrenching halt in 1873. In September, Jay Cooke and Company, a pillar of the nation's banking establishment, collapsed after being unable to market millions of dollars in bonds of the Northern Pacific Railroad. Within days, financial panic engulfed the credit system. Banks and brokerage houses failed, the stock market temporarily suspended operations, and factories began laying off workers. Throughout the western world, the Panic of 1873 ushered in what until the 1930's was known as the Great Depression, a downturn that lasted, with intermittent periods of recovery, nearly to the end of the century."<sup>41</sup>

"Not until 1878, a year that saw more than 10,000 businesses fail, did the depression reach bottom. Growth resumed the next year, but the sixty-five months following the Panic of 1873 remains the longest period of uninterrupted economic contraction in American history."<sup>42</sup>

“For farmers, too, the depression brought economic dislocation and galvanized new forms of protest. Farm population and output continued to increase throughout the decade, but as agricultural prices and land values tumbled, postwar prosperity gave way to hard times. Throughout the world, the depression devastated small farmers producing for the international market. In the United States, Western farmers in particular found themselves falling further and further into debt, while the number of tenants unable to acquire land rose dramatically and the wages of agricultural laborers plummeted. By 1878, the Midwest even witnesses episodes of machine-breaking by groups of farm workers unable to obtain jobs.”<sup>43</sup>

On the eve of the Great Depression of the 1870s the McGraw family was mortgaged to the hilt. As early as March 1872 there were signs that they were already having trouble covering their mortgage payment. The Panic of 1873 began in September and by April of 1874 the McGraw family had lost the Cuyler property to a foreclosure sale with the Truxton property to follow in August of the same year. This all serves to indicate the swiftness with which the depression had set in and how thinly the McGraw family had spread themselves financially. The result was that the McGraw families had been foreclosed on both properties in less than 12 months from the beginning of Great Depression.

The McGraws were not alone in their financial troubles. Even the descendants of the Keeney family that originally established the Keeney Settlement, where Edmond and his family originally settled upon arriving in the Township of Fabius in the early 1850s, were caught up in the downward economic spiral.

“Alonzo (Keeney) and his father, John, did a large business both with their own dairies and buying and selling hay and butter and cheese. Tons and tons were shipped to New York. Alonzo Keeney kept adding to his real estate until he had over 1,000 acres in his name – purchased when prices were high, his ambition being to pay for a farm for each of his children. In those days, businessmen signed each other’s notes. Banks were not so convenient as now. Both John and Alonzo used each other’s names freely. But the accommodation extended further than the family [could afford] and when the financial crash, following the Civil War, reached Keeney Settlement, many were financially ruined, the Keeney’s among others.

“Then followed a sheriff’s sale and everything except a few household goods were sold to satisfy the creditors. I’ve been told how, on the day of the sale, Grandmother Lois left the house to the crowd and going to the far side of the orchard, where she could neither see nor be seen, sat down on a fallen log and wept, while her sister’s husband, the dep[ut]y sheriff at the time, performed his unpleasant task of conducting the sale.”<sup>44</sup>

The foreclosure wasn’t a total surprise. After the missed mortgage payment in March 1873 everyone knew it was a definite possibility. The growing season of 1873 evidently didn’t help improve the families’ financial situation. Due to dropping agricultural prices even an abundant “harvest” could not turn the situation around. The McGraws were probably dairy farmers using their land for hay and grazing and probably some crops for their own use.

## **Residence Locations From Census and Map Information**

On August 14, 1874 Edmond and the boys, along with cousin Thomas Sheahan, were foreclosed on their property on Lots 51 & 52 in the town of Truxton. The Census of 1880 provides a chance to discover where these families had scattered in the aftermath of the foreclosure. The whereabouts of Thomas Sheahan in 1880 is unknown but tradition has it that he was living in Tully. It has not been determined if Thomas was helping on the McGraw farm or whether he just purchased a share of the farm to help the McGraw families.

In rural areas the census doesn't record street names and numbers but the houses and families are recorded with sequential numbers that reflect the order in which the families were visited to record the information. By using a map of the Township of Truxton produced in 1876 that contains the names of most of the residents it is possible in many cases to determine where an individual was living in 1880 by using the sequence information contained in the census. In the case of Edmond McGraw, who was recorded as Edward, he and his wife Mary were living on a farm on Shackham Road in Lot 54 in the northeast corner of the Town of Truxton. Edmond's occupation was listed as a "Laborer." This process is not exact but it would appear that in 1880 Edmond and Mary were living on the 1-1/2 acre farm that was owned by J. Welch in 1876. In light of his foreclosure in 1874 it would seem logical that he would select a small farm. In addition this is the same farm that was owned by his son John McGraw and sold by him to his older brother Michael and his wife Alice on October 24, 1892. According to the deed this property was bounded on the north by land owned by James Fellows (which is found in the 1880 census information) and formerly owned by Harry N. Lewis whose name appears on the 1876 map just north of the J. Welch property. Therefore it is 100% certain that Edmond and Mary McGraw were occupying the old Welch property at the time of the 1880 census.

In 1880 John McGraw was living on a farm, on the North Road out of Truxton, less than a mile south of the Shackham Road turn off. Using the sequence information from the 1880 census and the names from the 1876 map it would appear that in June 1880 John and his family were occupying the farm owned by the Newell family in 1876. There was no deed recorded in the Cortland County Court House that would associate John McGraw with this property and so it might be that he was only renting the property. John listed his occupation as a "Railroad hand." Along with John (34) was his wife Ellen (26) and their children Mary (8), John (7), Anna (5), Catherine (4), Eddie (2) and Margaret (less than 1, born ~ October 1879).

The next farm south of John McGraw, heading towards the village of Truxton, was occupied by Patrick Comerford (36) and his family. This was the brother of John's wife Ellen Comerford McGraw. School House No. 2 where all the McGraw children went to school was located across Route 91, which is the official name for the North Road, from John McGraw's farm. This was the same building that was moved to Berry Road in Apulia Station in 1947 and became the home of John and Evelyn Casey. They are still living there today (2001) <sup>45</sup>.

Michael McGraw was harder to find because he wasn't in Cortland County in June 1880, but instead, he was up in the Town of Tully in the southern part of Onondaga County. Michael (37) listed his occupation as a "farmhand" on the Miles farm. The James M. Miles family farm was located in the Town of Tully on what is known today as Sky High Drive less than a mile north of its intersection with Route 80 right on the border between Tully and Fabius. The closest village at that time was Summit Station, located to the east, in the Town of Fabius that today it is known as Apulia Station.

## **Shackham Road**

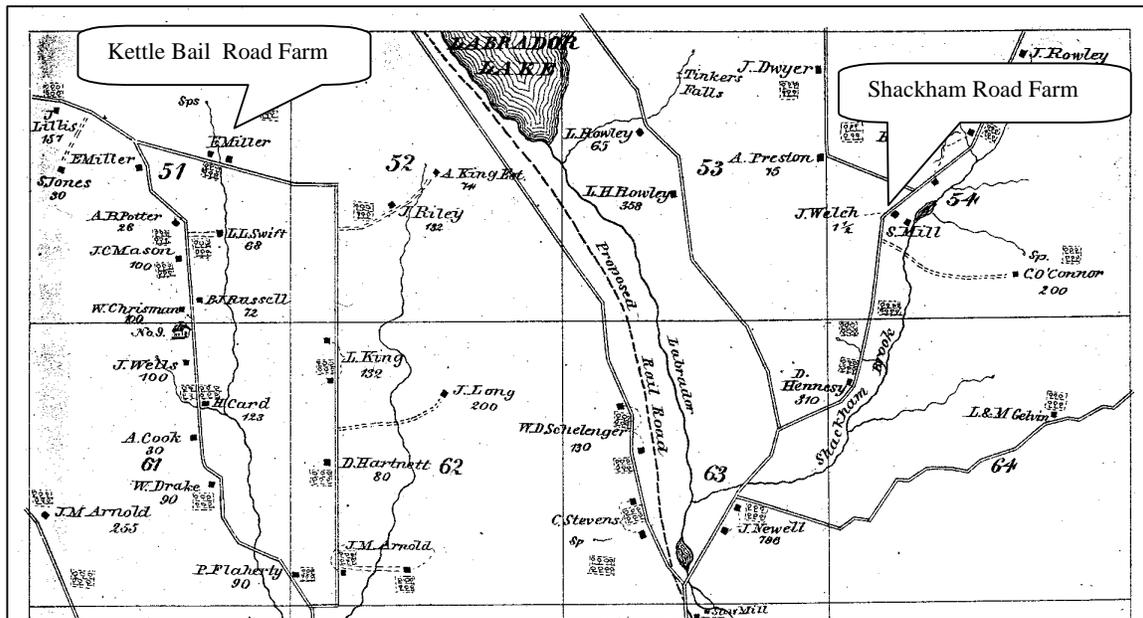
Immediately after the foreclosure the families split up. John McGraw and Thomas Sheahan were married with wives and young children to support. John went to work for the railroad and Thomas Sheahan also probably sought employment. Rental properties would have to suffice for the near future due to their temporary lack of financial resources. However, with prices dropping it was probably a good time to stay out of the real estate market. Michael McGraw was single and hired himself out to another farmer or sought employment where possible.

In 1874 Edmond was 61 and Mary was 64. They were at that age where, given better circumstances, they would be turning the family farm over to their sons and settling back to enjoy

their growing army of grandchildren. However those options weren't in Edmond's and Mary's immediate future.

The scattering of the families set in motion by the loss of their farm required a search through the land and census records to track them down. The findings from this search helped pull together fragmentary information gathered from relatives about the families early history.

On October 31, 1999 several pieces of information came together about the McGraws and the area around Shackham Road. In a note from Lucy Sprague of 9/9/99 she said "Mary Stoddard



said there used to be a settlement up that road called 'Shackham' and that both McGraw families (i.e. Michael's and John's) lived there at one time."

Mary had mentioned this area to me before in one of her letters – but more on that later. The deed registrations from the Cortland County Court House, area maps, both old and new, and the various census records from 1850 to 1900 have enabled a fairly complete picture of the movements of the McGraw families to be reconstructed.

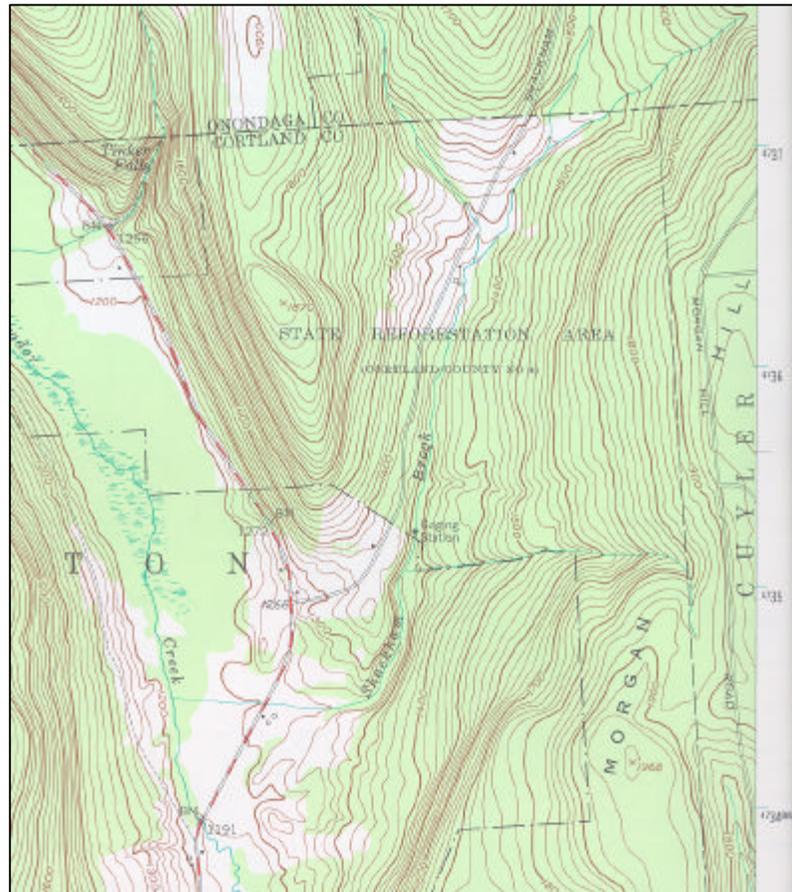
Two of the land transactions found at the Cortland Court House were related to the sale of the 1-1/2 acres in Lot 54 belonging to J. Welch on the 1876 map of Truxton. On October 24, 1892 Michael McGraw purchased this property from his brother John McGraw and John's wife Mary Rooney. Michael turned around and sold the property to James Neff on November 1, 1892. At first it was difficult to see how Michael could have established his residence on this property since he only owned it for less than two weeks. A little over five months later, on April 4, 1893, Michael purchased the 10 acres in Lot 83, on the North Road, that was shown on the 1876 map as belonging to J. Kent. Later it will be seen how these property sales fit into the big picture.

It isn't clear how long John had owned the property in Lot 54 because it wasn't necessary to register every deed at the courthouse. According to the 1880 census Edmond and Mary McGraw were residing on this property at the time of the census in June 1880.

John married his second wife, the former Mary Rooney, sister of Michael's wife Alice, on February 11, 1890. John had purchased 6-1/2 acres in Lot 82 from Jeremiah O'Connor on November 26, 1890 and the deed was recorded at the Cortland County Courthouse on December 26, 1890. In the Cortland County Directory for 1889 John McGraw was listed as the occupant of 6

acres of land in the Township of Truxton. This is most likely a reference to the land in Lot 82 that John purchased in 1890 and therefore he was probably renting the property prior to his purchase. This is the 6 acre property shown on the 1876 Truxton map as belonging to P. Hennesy. This property was located about 2 miles out of Truxton on the West Road. The location of the farmhouse on the 1876 Truxton map places the structure on the west side of the West Road heading out of the village of Truxton on the way to the Village of Tully. On a visit to Truxton as a young boy, with my family, my father pointed out to us the location of John McGraw's farm on the West Road. The house was no longer standing in the 1960's when our visit took place but the general location was consistent with the land records and the 1876 map.

There was a tradition that this farm on the West Road was where John was living when diphtheria struck down members of his family in 1883. In fact this was the version of the story related to us by my father during our trips to Truxton. However, it didn't make sense to purchase a property where four members of your family died and then expect your new wife to live there.



**This is a portion of a U.S. geodetic survey map of the northeastern corner of the Town of Truxton in the County of Cortland. Shackham Road is shown branching off of Route 91 (the North Road) and following Shackham Brook off to the northeast.**

On June 20, 1998 Mary Stoddard had written and told me of a time long ago when her mother (Marie Conners McGraw) had taken them up on Shackham Road. They went to a location there that was just above the Flaherty farm where there were some stone slabs. On them were the "...markings of all the (John) McGraw's – mother & four<sup>46</sup> children who had died of diphtheria." Mary said that she believed this location was in the town of Cuyler but that some of that area was also in Fabius. Combined with Mary's earlier statement that both the McGraw families had lived on Shackham Road the story started to get interesting.

I have been able to determine that John McGraw was living on the North Road with his family in the summer of 1883 when diphtheria struck. Sometime after the deaths of Mary, Catherine, Patrick and Ellen it is possible that John moved into the village of Truxton with the remaining family (John Joseph, age 10; Anna, age 8; Margaret, age 4; James, age 2; and Helen or Nellie, a new born). The existence of the stone slabs reported by Mary would indicate that Ellen and the children might have been buried somewhere nearby, at least initially. We'll return to the gravestone mystery in a little while.

"Black diphtheria, they called it. The Union Free School was closed. Doors were locked, and all churches suspended services. Poor Dr. Nelson was blamed as a carrier. He had treated two diphtheria patients 'in the hills' just before ushering in Ellen's last baby, Nellie, who miraculously survived."<sup>47</sup>

The original oral tradition concerning the deaths in John McGraws' family went something like this: The mother Ellen and three of her children died from diphtheria caused by bad well water and John J. was living in a hotel in the village of Truxton at the time and was therefore spared. The hotel part would eventually be true but not in the late summer of 1883 because John J. was only 10 years old at that time. Ellen's death certification listed her cause of death as related to her recent childbirth. The three children died from diphtheria and that is a very contagious and potentially life-threatening bacterial disease. Diphtheria spreads from person to person very easily with symptoms usually appearing about 2 to 4 days after infection. Diphtheria is not readily characterized as a "bad well water" type of disease such as typhoid. Therefore Mrs. McGraw's story describing Dr. Nelson as a carrier might have some validity to it. At that time the reaction of the people of Truxton had been to consider this an epidemic but the number of deaths that resulted did not bear out the epidemic designation.

Most women with large family experience didn't employ doctors to deliver their babies but instead relied on the services of family, friends or midwives. If difficulties arose, as in the case of Ellen Comerford McGraw, then a doctor would be called in to deal with the complications. According to Doug Currie "Ellen's cause of death on August 29, 1883 was listed (on her death certificate) as perimetritis." This is an inflammation of the membrane covering the uterus and was most likely related to the birth of her daughter Nellie just a month before. The death certificate of the eldest daughter, Mary, gave diphtheria as her cause of death on September 12, 1883. Patrick Edmond died on September 7, 1883 and his sister Catherine died on September 28, 1883.

When John remarried in 1890 the ages of his children would have been John Joseph –17, Anna – 15, Margaret – 11, James – 9 and Nellie – 7. "In 1890 the 5 foot 6-1/2 inch, 118 pound (John J.) McGraw entered professional baseball at Olean and subsequently Wellsville, New York, and over the winter he traveled with a team to Florida and Cuba (then still a Spanish colony)."<sup>48</sup> John J. was therefore accounted for but Anna, Margaret, James and possibly Nellie might have moved in with John and Mary. Later that year John McGraw purchased the farm on the West Road on Lot 82. By April 1891 John J. McGraw was in Cedar Rapids, Iowa<sup>49</sup>. The reason for the uncertainty is that according to Charles Alexander, author of the book *John McGraw*, the children moved in with other families during their time living in the village of Truxton prior to John's marriage to Mary Rooney.

Oral tradition says that Nellie was raised by Michael and Alice McGraw who had probably been living with on Edmond and Mary McGraw's farm on Lot 54 with Nellie. In the following years they started a family of their own: Mary (1886), James (1888) and Edmund (Edward) (1890).

As Michael's family continued to grow he looked around for a larger farm. On October 24, 1892 John sold the property on Lot 54 to Michael who subsequently sold it to James Neff on November 1, 1892. On April 4, 1893 Michael purchased the 10 acre farm, owned by J. Kent in 1876, from Mary Arnold for \$600. This is the farm on the North Road that most people associate with Michael and Alice and which burned to the ground in about 1915.

The erroneous West Hill location for John McGraw and his family in the summer of 1883, at the time of the diphtheria deaths, comes from a book on John J. McGraw written by his wife Blanche entitled *The Real McGraw*. The book *John McGraw* by Charles Alexander also has John and his family living on the West Hill. However, these books contain so many confused explanations of the facts and errors that this location on West Hill will be seen to be a mistake. It is stated in the book that John and part of the family moved into the village of Truxton shortly after the death of his wife and three children and that part of the story might have some element of truth in it.

In order to sort out all this confusion it is necessary to go back and purge out those elements of the early history of the McGraws that came from these two books and examine it in detail. The version by Mrs. Blanche McGraw provides more details but Alexander's version propagates the same erroneous family information. Alexander's version will be the one corrected in detail.

Alexander tells the story of John McGraw coming to Truxton in about 1871 as a widower with a daughter who is later identified as Anna but Anna was actually the name of John's third daughter. John then marries Ellen Comerford and leases a house out on West Hill (on the West Road), according to Alexander. What really happened here was that John returned to Cuyler in 1865 after serving three years in the Army during the Civil War – but he returned unmarried. John married Ellen Comerford in 1870. The widower story is from after Ellen's and the children's deaths in the summer of 1883 – which Alexander translates to the winter of 1884-5. The widower John McGraw does buy a farm on West Hill on Lot 82 but he does this in 1890 not in 1871.

Included in the Appendix is a detailed comparison of all five authors who have written biographies of John J. McGraw. There is John J. himself, Graham, Mrs. Blanche McGraw, Durso and Alexander. The comparisons show where the erroneous information first originated.

<b>“John McGraw” by Charles C. Alexander</b>	<b>The Evidence</b>
<p>“John McGraw, a widower in his mid-thirties, who in 1871 came to the town of Truxton, in Cortland County, New York.” p. 9</p>	<p>John was born in June 1844 in Ireland and in 1871 he would have been 27. He actually became a widower in August 1883 when he was 39. He arrived <u>back</u> in the Truxton area in late August or early September 1865 after his service with the Union Army during the Civil War. He settled back in with his parents and brother who were living in the town of Cuyler on Lot 76 and went back to work for Patrick Gleason. He gave his mailing address as The Keeney Settlement<sup>50</sup> in 1867 indicating that he might have been living on the Gleason farm.</p>
<p>“Fifteen or so years earlier he and an older brother, Michael, had come over from Ireland.” p. 9-10.</p>	<p>Fifteen or so years earlier would have been around 1856. John and Michael arrived in the town of Truxton (the area was later divided from Truxton and became the town of Cuyler [1858] near Keeney's Settlement) with their parents Edmond and Mary McGraw in March, 1855. Edmond arrived at New York City from Ireland in November 1848 while Mary and the boys followed him in November 1850.</p>
<p>“John McGraw...was drawn as a recruit for the Army of the Union.” p. 10</p>	<p>On August 29, 1862, shortly after his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, John enlisted in the Union Army at Fabius, New York. The word “drawn” might mean that John was drafted. John served in several groups but spent the majority of his time in Company D, Battalion of U.S. Engineers mostly in Northern Virginia. When his three year enlistment was up he was honorably discharged on August 23, 1865 at Willet's Point, Long Island, New York. He</p>

	<p>returned to the Cuyler area in late August or early September 1865.</p>
<p>“Somewhere along the line, probably not long after the war, he married. After losing his wife in childbirth, he found his way with a baby daughter to the valley of the little Tioughnioga River, ...” p. 10</p>	<p>Alexander puts this in because he has to connect his story with an out of sequence segment of John McGraw’s life story. His has translated John the widower moving to town from the farm on the North Road in 1883 into John the “widower” returning to town in 1871 after the Civil War. Ellen Comerford was the wife who died in August, 1883 one month after giving birth to Nellie. John and Ellen were married sometime after the June, 1870 census.</p> <p>Alexander never does say why John picked Truxton or where he was living when he joined the army. At the time of his enlistment John was working and probably living on the farm of Patrick Gleason in the town of Cuyler. There is no indication that the author was aware that John’s brother Michael and his parents Edmond and Mary McGraw were living just south of the Gleason farm in the Town of Cuyler, east of the Town of Truxton.</p>
<p>“...apparently in the hope that he might find a teaching job and thereby make use of the ten or twelve years of Catholic schooling he had received in Ireland.” p. 10</p>	<p>John was 6 and Michael was 7 when they left Ireland with their mother Mary in 1850. Neither of these boys had the opportunity to pick up more than a couple years of education in Ireland. Given that the famine had started soon after they were born it is quite likely that the educational process in Ireland had suffered some disruptions. Any schooling that John had received most likely occurred after he arrived in America.</p>
<p>“So John McGraw went to work helping build the railroad originally called the Midland and, under a subsequent corporate reorganization, renamed the Elmira, Cortland &amp; Northern, connecting Elmira to the southwest with Canastota on the main New York Central line.” p. 10</p>	<p>In 1872 the “Old Midland” railroad was completed through Cuyler. This fits neatly into Alexander’s narrative. However, until the family lost their Cuyler and Truxton lands to foreclosure, in April and August of 1874 respectively, John and his brother were working on the farm on Lots 51 and 52 in Truxton that they owned with their father Edmond McGraw. It was around the time of the foreclosures in 1874 that John probably sought employment on the railroad.</p>
<p>“It took him only a short time to find another wife, a young women just out of her teens named Ellen Comerford, from a local Catholic family.” p. 10</p>	<p>John did marry Ellen Comerford but shortly after June, 1870 and not the 1872-3 time frame that Alexander indicates – and she was his first wife. Alexander describes Ellen, at the time of her marriage, as just out of her teens which indicates that he was aware that she was born in 1853.</p>

<p>"The new husband, wife, and stepdaughter moved into a little rented house on West Hill, about two miles from the center of town." p. 10</p>	<p>This sequence of events is essentially correct but it involves the wrong people and it is out of place by about 17 years. On February 11, 1890 John McGraw (the widower) married Mary Rooney in St. Patrick's Church in Truxton. Being married in the village of Truxton would indicate John was living in the village or close to the village at that time.</p> <p>On November 26, 1890 John McGraw purchased 6-1/2 acres on Lot 82 in Truxton from Jeremiah O'Conner. It was located on the West Road about 2 miles from the center of town. There is evidence in a local gazeteer that John was occupying the farm prior to his purchasing it.</p>
<p>"In that house on April 7, 1873, Ellen Comerfort McGraw bore her first child, a boy with an abundance of black hair and eyes that were so dark brown everyone would always say they were black. They named him John, after his father, and Joseph, for the baby's grandfather in Ireland." p. 10</p>	<p>John's birth date is correct but he wasn't Ellen's first child. The first child born to John and Ellen was Mary who was born in 1871. John Joseph's grandfather's were Edmond McGraw on his father's side and John Comerford on his mother's side. At the time of John's birth Edmond was living on Lot 51 in the town of Truxton and John Comerford was living on Lot 65 in the town of Cuyler. Perhaps Joseph was a great-grandfather on the Comerford side of the family.</p>
<p>"In less than twelve years, seven more McGraws – three boys and four girls – were born on West Hill." p. 10</p>	<p>After John only six more children were born to John and Ellen – four girls and two boys. They were Anna – 1875, Catherine – 1876, Patrick – 1878, Margaret – 1879, James Michael - 1881 and finally Nellie – 1883. James Michael could have possibly been mistaken for two children with one being named James and the other Michael. The number of years is chosen as "less than twelve" because Alexander knows that John Joseph was born in 1873 and he has the "epidemic" set in the winter of 1884-5. Graham's statement that John J.'s age was 12 at the time of his mother's death drives this 1884-5 date. Mrs. Blanche McGraw repeated the '12 year old' information while Durso and Alexander translate this into the 1884-5 timeframe statement. But the ultimate authority is the McGrath monument in the Truxton Catholic Cemetery that clearly gives the year of the deaths as late Aug. and Sept. 1883.</p>
<p>"In the winter of 1884-85, a diphtheria epidemic moved through the Tioughnioga Valley, closing local schools and churches and causing people to lock their doors and avoid contact with others as much as possible." p. 11</p>	<p>The deaths occurred in the late summer of 1883. Oral tradition says that it was bad well water that caused the deaths and that it was not a wide spread epidemic that struck the valley. In addition the story goes that John Joseph was spared because he was living at</p>

	<p>the hotel in town at that time (since John was only 10 at this time it is doubtful that he was living in town at that age). A study of deaths in Truxton and Cazenovia over the 1881 – 1885 time period doesn't support the epidemic theory. See Appendix for details.</p>
<p>"Within a few days after giving birth to a baby girl, her eighth child, Ellen McGraw came down with a high fever and severe sore throat. In another two days she was dead. A week later thirteen-year-old Anna also died, choking and gasping as her father and stepbrothers and stepsisters watched helplessly. By the end of January three more McGraw offspring had succumbed." p. 11-12</p>	<p>Ellen died first on Aug. 29, 1883 (exactly one month after giving birth to her eighth child Helen "Nellie") followed by her son Patrick Edmond on September 7, 1883; Mary on September 12, 1883 and Catherine on September 28, 1883.</p> <p>Anna is portrayed by Alexander as the "step daughter" that came to town with John in 1871. In actuality she was the third child born to Ellen and John. He meant Mary who was the first born in 1871. According to Alexander, John Joseph was the first born and Mary was the "stepdaughter". Mary was actually the third one to die and she was 12 years 2 months old. Only three children died in addition to Ellen and not the four claimed by Alexander. Patrick Edmond might have been mistaken for two different children</p>
<p>"They (people) convinced him that he would be better off moving into town, particularly so he could get somebody to look after the baby girl who had miraculously survived." p. 12</p>	<p>This probably did happen.</p>
<p>"Over the next few years (1885-1888) Johnny McGraw watched his brothers and sisters move out of the house across the road into other people's homes." p. 13</p>	<p>According to Alexander, John McGraw and the remainder of his family moved into a frame house across the street from Mary Goddard's hotel in 1883. John Joseph moved moved across the street to Goddard's Hotel in the fall of 1885, according to Alexander. According to oral tradition, Nellie was raised by John's brother Michael and his wife Alice. There was only one brother, James Michael, who was sometimes mistakenly described as James and Michael. It was very probable that some of the other children moved into other people's homes.</p>

The version of the story told by Alexander gives no indication that he was aware of any of John's family living in the Truxton area. The version by Blanche McGraw did note the presence of John J.'s father John and brother Michael and relatives on the Comerford side of the family. There was no evidence there that John W. McGraw's family was living on the West Road in the summer of 1883 when the diphtheria deaths occurred because he has John's second marriage to Mary Rooney confused with John's first marriage to Ellen Comerford. Therefore the existing evidence from land records, census records and maps from that period lead to the conclusion that John and Ellen McGraw were living on the North Road just south of the Shackham Road split. Located

on Truxton Lot 63, on a farm formerly occupied by the Newell family (in 1876), at the time of the deaths of Ellen and three of her children in the late summer of 1883. This was just across the road from Truxton Schoolhouse No. 2 where all the McGraw children went to school.

## **John and Ellen McGraw**

By the fall of 1874 John and Ellen McGraw had two children, Mary (1871) and John Joseph (1873). They were probably the ones who first rented the Welch farm on Shackham Road. It was only 1-1/2 acres but John probably derived his income from working on the railroad and purchased the property at some time prior to his move to the North Road where the 1880 census found him. Most likely his parents, Edmond and Mary moved in with him and his small family. This scenario makes sense and Mary Stoddard had said that both McGraw families had lived up on Shackham Road at one time. As John's family grew he moved them to the former Newell farm on the North Road some time prior to the 1880 census.

It's quite possible that Michael and his new bride Alice moved in with Edmond and Mary on Shackham Road shortly after their marriage in April 1882 since John and his family had moved out prior to June 1880.

John probably continued living on the farm on the North Road where he was living at the time of the 1880 census until after the fall of 1883. In August 1883 Ellen Comerford McGraw gave birth to her and John's eighth child who they named Helen (Nellie). By late August Ellen was dead from complications of childbirth and possibly diphtheria. During the following month three of their children died from diphtheria. This has been referred to as an epidemic that swept the valley but the oral tradition in the family was that the diphtheria was caused by bad well water. However that wasn't the primary mode of infection for this highly infectious disease. An analysis of the number of monthly burials in the Truxton Cemetery, in Onondaga Co., and in St. James Catholic Cemetery, in Cazenovia in neighboring Madison Co., for the years 1881-1885, provided no evidence for a rise in the deaths for the year 1883. This increase would have been expected had an epidemic swept through the area. Following these deaths John left the farm on the North Road and moved to town so that he could find help caring for the rest of his children.

The Census of 1890 would have provided some very useful information about the property on Shackham Road on Lot 54 and which McGraws were living there at that time. Unfortunately the Census of 1890 was destroyed in a fire in 1921. The censuses of 1790 through 1880 had been filed in the offices of the county clerks but for some reason that was not required for the 1890 census. The entire set of original schedules was forwarded to Washington. On January 10, 1921 "all the schedules could be found piled in an orderly manner on closely placed pine shelves in an unlocked file room in the basement of the Commerce Building."<sup>51</sup> There was a vault in the basement where other census results from other years were stored but the 1890 census was outside the vault where according to one source they were "first in the path of the firemen." [Need references from the 1890 Census article]. This was the first census that used punchcards and electrical tabulation.

## **John J. McGraw in Truxton**

"One night in the early fall of 1885, when Johnny McGraw was still only twelve, his father paid a caller for one more broken pane and then turned on his son in what seemed like a murderous rage. He grabbed the boy and threw him into a corner of the little front room, then jerked him up and began slapping and punching him. The boy managed to break free and get upstairs, where he crammed some possessions into a sack. Bolting back down the stairs, he got past the man and out the front door. After a dash through rain and mud across the road, he reached the side alley of the Truxton House and found refuge in the kitchen of Mary Goddard.

"Mary Goddard<sup>52</sup> was a kind-hearted woman in her late thirties. Widowed a few years earlier, she was now trying to raise two sons of her own while she operated the two-storey hotel in white clapboard with green shutters that was the best accommodation to be found between Cortland and Cazenovia. When John McGraw came looking for his son, she persuaded him that the sensible thing was to let the boy remain with her. When he left the Truxton House that day, John McGraw may have realized that his son's flight was the beginning of the breakup of what remained of his family.

"Over the next few years Johnny McGraw watched his brothers and sisters move out of the house across the road and into other people's homes. Finally his father also moved, and from then on the boy rarely saw him."<sup>53</sup> This move by his father could easily have been his move to the farm on the West Road in 1889.

For a little perspective on the history of the hotels in Truxton there is the History of the Town of Truxton by Smith that was published in about 1883 (Chapter XXIV)

The first hotel in the village was opened by Thomas Buell in 1808.

There were two hotels in Truxton village in 1828, when **S. Goddard** (no apparent relation to Mary Goddard) moved to the place. The first was kept by L.L. Merrill and was known as the **Mansion House**. He kept it until about 1845, when he removed to a farm in the town. **The house was burned about the year 1867.**

The **second hotel** was located about 20 rods from the one above described, and was kept by Arnold Hicock, who was succeeded by Abel Perry, an eastern man. He sold it to Wm. Jones in 1842, who converted it into a dwelling. **It was burned about the year 1850.**

**The Stearns Hotel** was formerly a dwelling and owned by Enoch Benedict, but was changed into a hotel by **Abijah Pierce**. **Rial Schellinger** owned it afterwards several years. After him came **John Hills, B.F. Stearns** (1872) and **C.H. Smith**, the present proprietor, in **January 1882.**

NOTE: This place was called Schellinger House in 1869 – Cortland County Directory 1869. B.F. Stearns shown on 1874 Village of Truxton map at corner of Cheningo Road and Main Street. This is the location of the present day Hiawatha Hotel – they might be the same structure. There was no C.H. Smith listed in the 1889 directory.

**The Ryan Hotel was built by Asa Goddard in 1826;** a portion of it was used by a **Mr. Van Allen** as a store and a portion as a dwelling. During the late war (Civil War) it was transformed into a hotel by **George Pond**. He kept it but a short time, and was followed by **I. Rogers, John Wheeler, A.L. Pomeroy, James H. Ashby** and the **present proprietor, M. Ryan who took charge of it in March, 1882.**

NOTE: George Pond d. Feb. 14, 1889, 74y 8m 7d; Anna Pond, wife of George, d. June 6, 1863, 46y 6m. – Truxton Village Cemetery. G. Pond Hotel shown on 1874 map of the Village of Truxton. In the 1889 Directory Mary Goddard was listed as the proprietor of the Truxton Hotel and Will S. Goddard was listed as a hotel clerk and was probably one of Mary's sons. There was no M.Ryan listed.

The early hotels in the country places received perhaps a more liberal patronage than in later years. The roads were traveled in such localities by numerous stage coaches, and all the merchandise and stock for manufacturers were brought in by teams, all of which made business at the hotels.



The Real McGraw also contains a description of the hotel. "It was white and neat with green shutters on all of its many four-pane windows. A small sign stuck out from the roof of the square-pillared porch that extended halfway across the wooden sidewalk. The sign was lighted at night by a single street lamp, and it was John's job to see that kerosene was always in the lamp."<sup>54</sup>

So in this picture we are probably seeing John J. McGraw outside the hotel where he was living at that time. What we don't know is whether this is the former Sterns Hotel or the G. Pond Hotel. If it is indeed the latter then young John J. McGraw in this tintype is standing almost on the same spot where his monument now stands in Truxton today.

Based on this evidence it's not possible at this time to associate one of these hotels with Mary Goddard as the hotel that she was running in 1885 when she convinced John J.'s angry father to let his son stay with her at the hotel. Once this assignment can be made then it might be possible to identify the "house across the road" where John was living with the remnants of his family.



This was an 1887 battered tintype reproduced in the *Elmira Telegram* in 1910. The 14-year-old boy, second from left, is John J. McGraw. M.T. Roche, the young man on the far left, was for several years the president of the State Baseball League. The paper reported that McGraw delivered the news throughout Truxton, taking credit for McGraw's success in life because of his diligence as a carrier.

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Source: Kane, Mary Ann, *Images of America – Cortland County*, Arcadia Publishing, Charleston, SC, p. 113. A description of the Truxton Brass Band in *The Real McGraw* allows the individuals in the above picture to be identified: Left to right - M.T. Roche (Bass drum), John J. McGraw (no instrument), Jack O'Neil (Snare drum), Charlie O'Grady (Fife), D.M. Roche (Trumpet), Will and Frank Goddard (Coronets), and W.J. Roche (Peck horn or low alto)<sup>55</sup>.

## John J. McGraw Living on His Own

In 1889 John's oldest son, John J. McGraw, was living at Mrs. Goddard's hotel in the Village of Truxton. To earn money during the summers he was working as a "butch boy" on the train that passed through Truxton. He would ride the train selling candy, magazines, fruit and gum to the passengers all the way to Syracuse and back to Truxton. The following incident is told by John McGraw himself in his book, *My Thirty Years in Baseball*, that was published in 1923. The incident probably took place in the summer of 1888 or 1889<sup>56</sup>.

In those days people scoffed at the idea of anybody making a baseball curve. It was but a few years ago, in fact, that many sceptics were really convinced.

In the smoking car, where I kept my stuff, there were many conversations and arguments about baseball. Very few believed that anybody could pitch a curve.

"What are you talking about?" said a man from my town to his companion, "there" – he pointed at me – "is a little fellow who can pitch a curve."

"Bet you \$10 he can't," the other came back. "At least, he can't prove it to me."

"I'd like to take a dollar of that myself," I chimed in. I was pretty fresh in those days.

The argument grew warmer and warmer until the money was finally put up. The conductor in the meantime had come along and got in it.

"I'll put up three stakes, twenty feet apart," I suggested, "and I will stand at one end of the row and the catcher at the other. I'll bet I can make the ball go on the right-hand side of the middle stake and the catcher will catch it on the left-side of the end one. That would be a curve, wouldn't it?"

"Yes, it would prove it all right," the man declared, "and I'm betting \$10 that you can't do it."

I had a ball and a glove in my kit. So, at the next town the conductor held the train while we all got out on a vacant lot near the depot. All the passengers went with us. A man from the train said he would catch the ball for me.

As cocky as you please, I got out there, wound up, and, sure enough, I pitched an outcurve that went inside one stake and outside the other. The ball didn't break more than four inches to do this. I could easily put an eight-inch bend on it in sixty feet.

Well, my backer won the \$10 and gave me \$1 of it. The other man admitted that a curve ball could be pitched

Certain parts of the events described above by John J. McGraw are very similar to those found in a scene from the movie "The Natural" starring Robert Redford. In the movie Redford is a young ball player and he is a passenger on a train. The train is stopped while all the passengers disembark to watch Redford's response to a challenge issued against his pitching abilities. He pitches against a well known baseball player of that time and strikes him out thus winning the bet. It is quite possible that John J. McGraw's curve ball story was the inspiration for that scene in the movie.

## Gravestones on Shackham Road

Now it's time to deal with those mysterious gravestones that Mary Stoddard said belonged to Ellen Comerford McGrath and her three children that died in September 1883. A number of questions concerning these gravestones quickly come to mind.

- When were the bodies of Ellen, Mary, Catherine and Patrick buried in the Catholic Cemetery in Truxton?
  - Were they transferred from somewhere else?
  - Were they ever buried out on Shackham Road?
- Who paid for the markers? John J. McGraw?
  - It was prior to John's (the father) death in 1926 because his marker is newer looking than the others.
- Are the stone slabs described by Mary Stoddard up on Shackham Road still in existence and visible?
  - Were they in an area that was used as a cemetery? No.
  - They were probably on the property that Edmond and Mary McGraw occupied in 1880 thru 1892.

Most likely explanation:

During a trip to Truxton in June 2001 I had a phone conversation with Mary McGraw Stoddard's daughter Karen. She had told me that at one time she had lived on Shackham Road and that there was a man made lake on a portion of Shackham Brook and she used to take her kids down there to the lake. There was a trail that led down to the lake, according to Karen, but I wasn't able to find it from the road as I drove back and forth. While following that trail Karen said that she had seen the gravestones that her mother had described as having seen as a child, in a letter to me back in 1999. When Karen saw the gravestones they were stacked together and there was anywhere from 2 to four of them. It had been about 15 years since she had seen them and she was going by memory. Karen told me that there wasn't any "writing" on the stones anymore and by that she meant that the writing wasn't legible anymore.

The trail that leads down to the man made pond is just past the last house at the top of the hill where Shackham Road flattens out. This was just about 1 mile from where Shackham Road turned off from the North Road and that is the approximate location where the Welch farm was located in 1876 that Edmond and Mary McGraw were occupying in June 1880. On the 1876 map there was a sawmill on Shackham Brook right behind the Welch farmhouse. A sawmill would have been built at a location where it was easily to build a dam to trap the water for powering the mill. The saw mill is long gone but it would be a good bet that the same spot on Shackham Brook

was chosen again to make the man made lake. This all helps make the case that these gravestones are on the property that was occupied by Edmond and Mary McGraw in 1880.

Karen knew a logger who worked in the area who had also seen the stones so the existence and location of these seemingly mysterious objects has been firmly established. There was another person that Karen thought might know something about the gravestones. This was Patricia O'Connor Dwyer whose family had lived up on Shackham Road. There was a C. O'Connor farm of 200 acres shown on the 1876 map just east of Edmond that is probably one of her ancestors. Karen thought another possible source of information would be the book called *Shackham* written by Emily Estey who was a Rowley. In 1876 there was a J. Rowley living a little further up Shackham Road with a farm of 102 acres, close to the point where Truxton, Cuyler and Fabius meet. I was able to track down a copy of this book with the help of Richard Frisbie who runs the Hope Farm Press and Bookshop in Saugerties, NY.

It turns out that there were about 6 Rowley families on or near Shackham Road and most of them were in the town of Fabius with the remainder found in the town of Truxton. Although Estey's little book covers the time period of the 1920's in the Town of Fabius many of their conditions were the same as those experienced by Edmond and his family living on Shackham Road. The Model T Ford's and the telephones would have to be removed but much of the remaining experiences were probably the same despite the intervening 30-40 years.

It is assumed that the gravestones did belong to the McGraw family and at one time they were on the graves of Ellen Comerford McGrath and her three children in the Truxton Catholic Cemetery. At some point they were removed from the graves and placed on the Shackham Road property while it was still in the McGraw family. The Shackham Road property was sold, on November 1, 1892, to James Neff by Michael McGraw. It is safe to assume that the gravestones were placed on the property at some time prior to that date.

A small variation in this scenario is possible here. Ellen and the three children might have originally been buried in the small cemetery on the North Road. It was convenient in that it was located only about one-half mile south of where John and Ellen McGraw were living in 1883. The cemetery has no name as far as can be determined from an inspection of the property and a search of various maps over the years.<sup>57</sup> There is no evidence of any church being associated with this cemetery. The earliest burial was ~1817 and the latest burial was ~1849 with mostly Protestant sounding names (Andrews, Norton, Smith, Forbes, Albro, Cornwell, Fitch, Haight, etc.) with the lone exception of one Riley.

After the 1891 baseball season John J. McGraw returned to Truxton when a planned off season baseball tour of the southern states broke down in New Orleans. He had joined the Baltimore Orioles in August and was making \$200/month. It is quite possible that John decided to use some of his new found wealth to purchase a fine monument for the family plot in the Truxton Catholic Cemetery. If the deceased members of John J's family had been buried in the small cemetery on the North Road then this might have been the time when they were reinterred in the Truxton Catholic Cemetery.

When the new monument was ready, perhaps before the next baseball season began, something had to be done with the old gravestones that the monument was meant to replace. Since this was John W. McGraw's family plot he was the most likely recipient of the old gravestones. He had recently remarried and was trying to rebuild a normal family life on his newly purchased farm out on the West Road. Therefore he probably didn't want the gravestones deposited on his property. Michael McGraw, John's brother, was living with his growing family on his 10 acre farm on the North Road near Robbins Road and he might have been asked by John to take custody of the gravestones. Eventually they wound up on the property on Shackham Road where Edmond and Mary McGraw were living in 1891. In subsequent years with Edmond being admitted to the Cortland County Poor House twice and the sale of the Shackham Road property by John to Michael and then by Michael to James Neff and Mary moving in with her son Michael while

Edmond was in the Poor House for the second time the old gravestones were probably just forgotten.

They were not totally forgotten however because Mary McGraw Stoddard's mother, Marie Conners McGraw, had shown them to her when she was a young child and explained that they belonged to Ellen Comerford McGrath and three of her children.

## Residence Summaries

### Residence locations for Michael McGraw in Cortland Co., New York

1. September 16, 1867  
Gave P.O. address as Cortlandville, Cortland Co., NY
2. 1869  
In the Cortland Co. Gazette Michael gave his P.O. address as Truxton, Cortland Co., NY
3. June 1870  
At the time of the 1870 census Michael was living with his parents and brother on the farm on Lot 51 & 52 in the Town of Truxton.
4. Between August 1874 and June 1880  
This was the time period between the foreclosure on the property on Truxton Lots 51 & 52 and the 1880 census. On the 1880 census for Onondaga County, town of Tully, Michael McGraw was recorded as a laborer on James M. Miles farm. In 1880 Alice Rooney was still in Newry, Co. Down, Ireland.
5. Between June 1880 and April 7, 1882  
This was the time period between the 1880 census and Michael's marriage to Alice Rooney. Michael was probably living on the Miles farm during this time period and Alice Rooney might have been living on the same farm or a nearby farm after her arrival in America in 1881.
6. An earlier residence: Between April 7, 1882 and ~188X  
Michael had been working as a farm laborer in June 1880 and was probably still a hired hand at the time of his marriage. Therefore he needed to find an appropriate place for himself and his new bride to live.
7. Edmond and Mary's Farm on Shackham Road: 188X and ~1889  
Michael and Alice might have moved on to the farm on Shackham Road with his parents Edmond and Mary sometime after their marriage in 1882 and remained there until the late 1880's.
8. The farmhouse on the North Road: Between ~ 1889 and 1915.  
Since Michael and Alice's son Edward was born on this farm the family had to be occupying it prior to January 1, 1890. This one is pretty firm but a date and details of the fire are missing.
9. The house on Upper Prospect: ~1915  
This is where the family moved immediately after the fire. They remained there until they bought the house at Prospect and Main.
10. The house at Prospect and Main: Between 1915 and 1923.

This is well documented by a deed filed at the Cortland County Court House. Michael died in 1923 and Alice remained in the house until her death in January 1940. Ownership of the house was transferred to Alice's sons Bill and Tom McGraw in June 1938.

#### Residence locations for John McGraw in Cortland Co., New York

1. Sept. 16, 1867 – Jan 1868  
John gave his P.O. address as Keeney's Settlement. He was probably residing on the Gleason farm on Lot 56, Town of Cuyler at this time.
2. 1869  
In the Cortland Co. Gazette John gave his P.O. as Truxton, Cortland Co., NY
3. June 1870  
At the time of the 1870 census John was living with his parents and brother on the farm on Lot 51 & 52 in the Town of Truxton.
4. Shackham Road: Between August, 1874 and ~187X  
This was the time period between the foreclosure on the property on Truxton Lots 51 & 52 and the late 1870's. John and Ellen & family along with his parents Edmond and Mary moved onto the Welch farm on Shackham Road sometime after the 1874 foreclosure.
5. John's farmhouse on the North Road: Between ~187X and 1883.  
Sometime prior to the 1880 census John, Ellen and their family moved from the farm on Shackham Road onto a farm on the North Road across from the Truxton Schoolhouse No. 2. This is where they were living when Ellen and three of her children died. Sometime after the death of Ellen and the children John probably moved into the village of Truxton.
6. Village of Truxton: 1883 – 1889  
After Ellen's death John probably moved to the village of Truxton with the rest of his children. Tradition says that the remaining children were farmed out to family and friends.
7. John McGraw's farm on the West Road 1889 - ~189x  
In 1889 John was listed in a Truxton directory as occupying 6 acres of land. This would indicate that he was living on the farm on the West Road prior to the time when he purchased this same farm in 1890.
8. Village of Truxton 1900  
According to the 1900 census John McGraw was residing with the John Miller Jr. family in the Village of Truxton without his family.
9. November 1926  
When John McGraw died he was living in the home of Anna Ryan in Truxton. In some as yet undetermined way Anna was related to the Comerfords.

In the early years Edmond and his family seemed more connected with the villages to the north such as Pompey, Fabius and Tully as opposed to the villages to the south such as Tripoli Corners and Cuyler. Michael attended the Bardeen School that was in the Town of Fabius on Bardeen Road. Michael used to walk to the Immaculate Conception Church in Pompey every Sunday. When John enlisted in the Union Army in 1862 he did so in Fabius. Even after the family moved

to the Town of Truxton on Lots 51 and 52 around 1868 Edmund maintained his mailing address at Tully, Onondaga County.

It was only after the foreclosures on the McGraw family properties in 1874 that they probably moved into the Village of Truxton, at least for a while. This might be where the story got started that they had come to this country in ~1875. I have noticed that people have a tendency to extrapolate back in time from whatever might be their oldest memories. People remembered the McGraws coming to the village of Truxton around 1875 but had no recollection of the family prior to that time because the family interacted with the towns and villages to the north. Therefore in subsequent years if you asked people in the village of Truxton about the McGraw family they would put together coming from Ireland with showing up in the village and assume that they had just come over to America at that time when they first showed up in Truxton.

## **Alice Rooney**

This new information on the whereabouts of Michael McGraw in 1880 may shed some further light on the Alice Rooney mystery. The 1900 census had Alice's year of immigration as 1881 and she didn't show up in either the Cortland or Onondaga census for 1880. According to tradition Michael and his friend Orson Waters went to Albany to meet Alice and her sister Mary when they arrived from Ireland. The tradition also says that they were sent to Albany by relatives to pick up the girls. It is fairly certain that the McGraws and the Waters were not related to the Rooneys. Therefore maybe the relatives were the Miles who owned the farm where Michael was working. Since Michael was working for James Miles his trip to Albany would have needed Miles approval to be away from his job for a few days. The most logical explanation would be that there was a connection between the Miles and Rooney families. Michael would probably want to be paid for those days he was away and why would Miles pay him if this wasn't one of his relatives or friends that Michael was meeting in Albany.

In the Griffith's Valuation from County Down (1863-1864) there is a James Rooney living in the parish of Kilkeel in the townland of Tullyframe. That was the townland where Alice Rooney was born and her father was named James Rooney. In that same survey there were four Miles families living in County Down and one of them was a Mary Miles<sup>58</sup> living in the townland of Greencastle in the same parish of Kilkeel as James Rooney. Although it isn't possible to nail down the exact relationship, if any, between these two families with this limited information it does make it plausible that the Rooneys might have contacted the Miles in Tully and asked them to have someone meet the girls in Albany. The Casey farm, in the 1920s, just over the Tully-Fabius border, was almost adjacent to the Miles farm. If Alice had stayed on the Miles farm and someone pointed this farm out to another person in the 1920's or 1930's it might have been gotten confused with the Casey farm. From something as simple as this the tradition could have started that Alice Rooney had lived on the Casey farm after she and her sister Mary Rooney came to America.

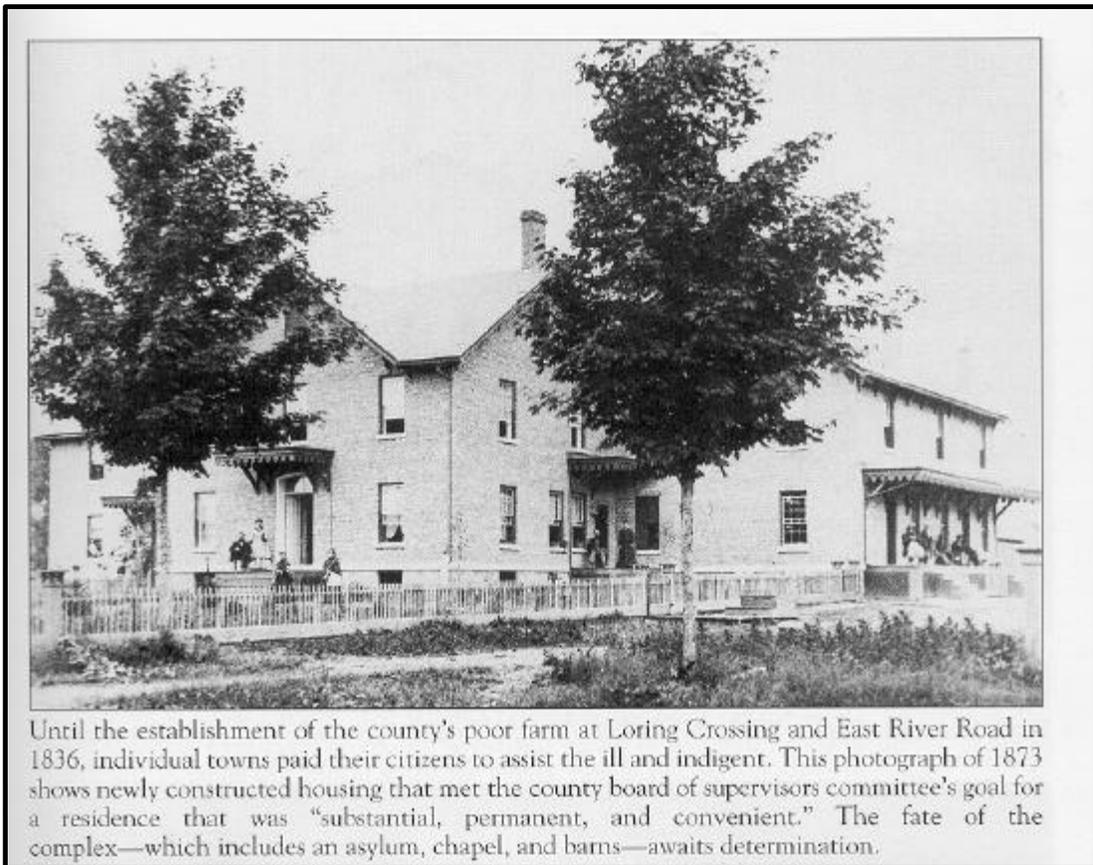
## **The Land Transactions of 1890-1893**

John McGraw married Mary Rooney on February 11, 1890 and purchased a farm later that year on Lot 84 in the town of Truxton out on the West Road from Jeremiah O'Connor on November 26, 1890. This was the 6 acre farm owned by J. Hennesy in 1876. Michael and Alice had their fourth child and third son, John Arthur in October, 1891.

The key to understanding the land transactions over the period 1890-1893 is Edmond's admission to the Cortland County Poor House in 1892 and again in 1893.

In 1892 Edmond McGraw was approximately 79 years old and his wife Mary Ryan McGraw was approximately 82 years old and they were probably still living on the old Welch farm on Shackham Road in Lot 54, Town of Truxton. On August 16, 1892 Edmond was admitted to the Cortland County Poor House for the first time and he remained there for 23 days. The reason for his admission was given as his being "Intemperate"<sup>59</sup> but this could have been a sign of his deteriorating condition with advancing old age. Edmond was released on September 7, 1892 but a little more than five months later he would be admitted to the poor house once again on January 15, 1893, this time for a longer stay.

By the fall of 1892 the family reluctantly came to the conclusion that Edmond would need to go back to the poor house again. John had been living on the West Road since before November 1890 but he still owned the property on Lot 54 where Edmond and Mary were living. In rather quick succession John sold the property on Lot 54 to Michael on October 24, 1892 having come into possession of the farm at some earlier time. For some reason the deed was never recorded at the courthouse. Michael turned around and sold the same property to James Neff on November 1, 1892. Right after the first of the year Edmond was admitted to the poor house once again on January 15, 1893. On January 21, 1893 Michael and Alice's 5<sup>th</sup> child was born and he was named George Francis. Less than three months later, on April 4, 1893, Michael purchased the property that was located on the North Road, across from Robbins Road, on Lot 83, from Mary Jane Arnold. This was the farm that most people associate with the family of Michael and Alice McGraw and which burned down in about 1915.



**This is the Cortland County Poor House where Edmond McGraw was admitted in 1892 and again in 1893. The building is still in existence today. [Picture from Kane, Mary Ann, *Images of America – Cortland County*, Arcadia Publishing, Charleston, SC, p. 13].**

The oral tradition is that Michael and Alice's son Edmond (Edward) was born on the farm on the North Road. Edmond was born on January 1, 1890 and this would indicate that Michael and Alice were living at the farm on the North Road prior to the date on which they purchased the property (April 4, 1893). Therefore Edmond and Mary had been living up on Shackham Road by themselves. During Edmond's time in the County Poor House his wife Mary might have moved in with Michael and Alice McGraw. Perhaps anticipating a longer stay at the Poor House for Edmond this time it was decided to have Mary move in permanently with Michael and Alice and to sell the property on Shackham Road.

On September 1, 1893 Edmond left the poor house for the last time and moved in with Michael and his family at the farm on the North Road. This was the 52<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of Edmond and Mary's wedding back in Upperchurch, Co. Tipperary, Ireland and it's possible that the timing of his release was more than coincidental. Two weeks later, on September 15, 1893, Michael and Alice's son George Francis died, "apparently from a problem with 'unpasteurized milk' " <sup>60</sup> and was buried in the family plot in the Truxton Catholic Cemetery. This was the first family member to be buried in the McGraw family plot.

## **History of the Property on the North Road – the Old Homestead**

This parcel of land was originally part of a tract of land that had belonged to Anthony Case some time before 1870. At some point it came into the possession of David Mathews who sold it to Jerome Kent on April 1, 1870. This is the J. Kent whose name appears on the Truxton Map from 1876. The black dot shows the location of his farmhouse that was on the west side of Labrador Road. This is probably the same farmhouse that later became the McGraw homestead with Michael William McGraw's purchase of this property from Mary Jane Arnold on December 12, 1893.

The 8 acre block was rectangular in shape and straddled Labrador Road and was bounded partially on the south by Robbins Road. The red barn was located across the road from the farmhouse and ran parallel to Labrador Road. There was a driveway from the road giving access to the upper level of the barn and the working entrance was below the level of the road. According to Doug Currie he believes that the barn was still standing into the 1960's.

The farmhouse was destroyed by fire sometime prior to 1915. According to Doug Currie, who had visited the site as a youngster, there was only "a pile of rocks and rubble" at that time. According to Doug's mother, Anges McGraw Currie, Michael and his family moved to Upper Prospect Street after the fire and lived there for a while prior to moving to the house at the corner of Prospect and Main.

Labrador Creek runs by the farm on Lot 83 and into town passing along the northern border of the property at the corner of Prospect and Main. My father, Francis Michael McGraw, used to tell how when they were kids they used to be able to ice skate from where the old farm was all the way into town on Labrador Creek when it froze in the winter.

At some point Donald McGraw, son of Art McGraw, purchased the property when he heard that it was going to be sold for taxes. It appears from the land records that the property was eventually "sold at a tax sale" at some time prior to 1966. In February 1982 the County of Cortland notified Donald that the County was claiming the property as the time had passed for redeeming it from the tax sale. In March 1982 Donald sold the property to the Labrador Development Co. for \$1.00. With this last transaction it appeared that the farm homestead of Michael W. McGraw had passed out of the McGraw family hands. However, the Labrador Development Co. is related to the Labrador Ski Resort and that operation has been run by the Wilson family for many years. One member of that family, Bruce Wilson, is married to Kathy Stoddard, Mary McGraw Stoddard's

youngest daughter. Mary's father was Art McGraw and she is the oldest grandchild of Michael W. and Alice McGraw. Therefore, in a very roundabout manner, the property is still in the family.

## **The Final Years of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century**

During the latter 1890s Michael McGraw was a school teacher. Sometimes he would be away from home for the week returning on the weekend. According to Agnes McGraw Currie, by way of her son Doug Currie, the McGraw boys (Jim, Ed and Art and possibly Tom but he was pretty young) were "real hellers." When Michael was away one time, the older boys "got a B-B gun and broke some windows in the house or hen house. Alice knew that if Mike came home it would go hard on the boys, so she took her money, went to town for the glass and replaced it before Mike returned. Good old Mom!" Doug Currie – September 24, 1999

In early December 1896 John J. McGraw visited Truxton after a European trip with some of his team mates – he had come to tell his family that he was getting married. John McGraw's son John J. McGraw was married on the evening of February 3, 1897 at St. Vincent's Church on Front Street in Baltimore, Maryland. Attending the wedding from Truxton was the Reverend Joseph Butler, pastor of St. Patrick's Catholic Church and friend Bert Kenney and his wife. None of John's family attended the wedding. His bride was Minnie R. Doyle of Baltimore and she lived with her recently retired father at 1815 Guilford Ave in the northern part of the town.

John J. and Minnie's happiness would be short lived as Minnie died of an undiagnosed case of appendicitis when her appendix burst in August 1899. John J. hurried back from a road trip with the Orioles to be at his young wife's side but peritonitis had set in followed by blood poisoning and so it was just a matter of time. Minnie Doyle McGraw was only 22 when she died on August 31, 1899.

In 1899 both Edmond and Mary McGraw passed away and Michael and Alice had their last child, Michael (William Michael), who was born in November 1899. Edmond died on May 14, 1899 at age 86 and Mary died on Dec. 1, 1899 at age 89. They were both buried in the McGraw family plot in the Truxton Catholic Cemetery.

## **Michael W. McGraw's Schooling**

There is a reference to Michael McGraw in a booklet written by O.W. Webster in 1917. It was titled "Keeney Settlement":

"Michael McGraw, now of Truxton, N.Y., attended school at the Bardeen school house and at Keeney Settlement. Mr. McGraw was an early and valued friend of Rev. A.D. Webster, Jerome Woodruff and George Saunders. He gained a reputation in his schooldays of being proficient in mathematics. There were but a few who equalled him in that branch of learning. In after years, Mr. McGraw taught school and maintained his reputation as a scholar. The writer of these lines called upon him last autumn (~1916) at his home and held a very pleasing conversation with him. Mr. McGraw inquired about old friends and old schoolmates, one and all, showing that early associations had made a deep impression upon him."

Even some thirty years after his death people in Truxton still remembered Michael McGraw's talents as a mathematician.

“A few (40) years ago – a man [named] Daniel Hartnett met me as I was wheeling my daughter to the store. He admired her and said, ‘Mike McGraw (our grandfather) was the smartest man that ever walked the streets of Truxton – a brilliant mathematician’.”

Mary McGraw Stoddard – June 20, 1998

Recently I heard for the first time that Michael was a member of the first graduating class at Syracuse University.<sup>61</sup> The first class began on September 11, 1871 in downtown Syracuse in the Meyers Block at the southeast corner of Montgomery and East Genessee Streets. There were 41 students enrolled in Liberal Arts.

In 1873 the first building on the Syracuse University campus was dedicated. The Hall of Languages was the only building on the 50 acre farmland campus and would be the only building for the next 14 years.

There are problems with Michael McGraw being in the first Syracuse University graduating class.

- Michael would have ended his local schooling around 1860. Then 11 years would pass before starting his college education. This is a long time to be away from academics.
- The Panic of 1873 was the start of a depression that lasted until the end of the decade. The first class would have graduated about May-June, 1875. The foreclosure of the McGraw properties in Cuyler and Truxton in 1874 probably would have ended Michael’s college career due to a severe lack of funds.
- Ed Galvin of the Syracuse University Archives researched the following information concerning Michael William McGraw (McGrath).
  - Michael was not in the first graduating class. They have a list of 20 or so members of that first class and Michael's name does not appear.
  - The surname McGraw does not appear in the list of Syracuse University graduates up to 1925.
  - The name McGraw doesn’t appear in the records of the non-graduates through 1910.
  - The records show that no McGrath attended Syracuse University in the 1800’s.



**"When the state acted in 1866 for the establishment of Normal Schools to train teachers, Cortland village immediately lobbied for one. On March 3, 1869, the school opened between Church and Greenbush Streets, with the condition that an academic department (high school) be maintained and village students would not be**

charged tuition. The building, with its twin towers, accommodated boarders in third-story dormitories.” [Picture from Kane, Mary Ann, *Images of America – Cortland County*, Arcadia Publishing, Charleston, SC, p. 71].

“On February 27, 1919, the eve of the Normal School’s 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, a fire, believed to be caused by spontaneous combustion, roared through the brick building, which was layered inside with oak. Students and neighbors saved records and the library. Classes continued in churches, the fire station, the courthouse, the second floor of a Court Street laundry, and with split sessions with the Central School body. This lasted four years while decisions were debated at the state and local levels.”<sup>62</sup>

Did they save all the records? Edward C. McGraw’s records might have been destroyed and any evidence that his father Michael W. McGraw might have attended Cortland Normal could also have been destroyed.

The second Cortland County Courthouse burned down at about the same time as the Normal School. The third and present Cortland County Courthouse rose on the spot where the Normal School had been located.

Like all oral traditions some portions of the college story are probably true – but what parts? Interestingly enough Cortland Normal School opened in 1869 and Cornell University opened in 1868. If he attended either of these colleges Michael would have been able to graduate prior to the foreclosures on the family farms. Cortland is the most likely candidate since Michael earned his living as a teacher for a while and this was a teacher preparation college and it was much closer to Truxton than Cornell. I have sent a couple requests to Cortland for information on Michael but so far no response. By comparison Syracuse University got back to me in less than 48 hours. Of course I did mention that I had received three degrees from Syracuse which might have helped. I have also heard from Cornell University and they have no record of a Michael McGraw or McGrath.

## **Michael W. McGraw’s Teaching Career**

Michael McGraw, according to tradition, was a school teacher during some period of his life and taught in Truxton, Cuyler and Solon. Doug Currie describes this period as being after Michael bought the farm on the North Road in 1893. At this time Michael would have been 50 years old and he did not fit the profile of the typical teacher in the area. The following statistics for the number of teachers were found in the 1880 census for the various towns around Truxton: Fabius (9), Homer (4), Pompey (17), Solon (1), Taylor (7), Tully (6). There were 35 females and 9 males with an average age of 24 with only 2 being 40 years of age and the oldest at 45. The typical teacher profile in 1880 was an unmarried 24 year-old female living with her family. The pay wasn’t very good and the job typically attracted individuals right out of school who had no family to support. According to the birth certificate of Agnes McGraw, who was born January 27, 1898, her father Michael was a school teacher at that time. The 1900 census lists Michael McGraw as a stone mason where the average age of those of this occupation, in the above listed towns, was 50.5 years of age. At this time Michael was 55 years old and probably fit in better as a stone mason than as a school teacher.

## **The Visiting Professors**

The story about the professors that came to visit Michael McGraw when he was living in Truxton is conveyed in a 1998 letter from Mary McGraw Carr:

“When he lived in Truxton & taught school, Dad (James Leo McGraw) said professors would come to Truxton to have Grandpa help them w/ a problem. When Grandma (Alice)

saw them coming, she'd get a tray of homemade cookies, cakes & a pot of tea & take it upstairs to his (Michael's) room where they were in conference."

Not having any firm dates as to when Michael McGraw was employed as a teacher I will attempt to use the above quotation to narrow down a time frame for these visits. Since James Leo is present that means that the time period was after ~1893 when he would have been 5 years old and perhaps aware enough of what was going on around him to remember the incidents. They were living in Truxton on the North Road at that time. Going forward there are other possible residences where these events might have taken place.

1. The farmhouse on the North Road: Between ~1889 and ~1915.
2. The house on Upper Prospect: ~1915
3. The house at Prospect and Main: Between ~1915 and 1923.

Mary McGraw Carr's 1998 letter states that Grandma (Alice) took the refreshments "upstairs to his (Michael's) room." There is a reference in Lucy Sprague's letter to me of August 5, 1999 to a statement her mother (Mayme McGraw Waters) had attributed to her mother (Alice Rooney McGraw). "Mother (Mayme) said Grandma (Alice) moved him (Michael W.) out of her bedroom when she was forty after Uncle Bill was born (1899), as he was an old man (~57) and she had nine kids." Therefore if Michael had "his room" upstairs the year for these visits was after 1899.

If James Leo McGraw (born April 20, 1888) was living at home when these visits from the professors took place, and the narrative would seem to indicate that this indeed was the situation, then the visits would have to have occurred prior to the time he left home. James probably finished his local schooling in about 1905 at the age of 17. If James started his academic career at the Cleveland School of Technology in the fall after finishing his local schooling then he would have been gone from Truxton by the fall of 1905. This would imply that these professorial visits that he remembered probably took place between 1899 and 1905 when Michael, Alice and the family were living in the farmhouse on the North Road.

Note:

Michael and Alice McGraw had been living with Edmond and Mary McGraw on Shackham Road prior to about 1889. Edmond had been admitted to the Cortland County Poor House in 1892 and was re-admitted in 1893. Edmond was released from the Poor House on September 1, 1893 and moved in with Michael and Alice along with his wife Mary at their farm on the North Road. Edmond died May 14, 1899. Michael and Alice's last child, William, was born in October 1899. Mary died on December 1, 1899 and so by early 1900 there would have been an empty room at the old McGraw homestead on the North Road. Edmond and Mary probably had a room on the ground floor given their advanced age their assumed difficulty climbing stairs. Since Michael's room was upstairs it is possible that Michael and Alice's room was originally upstairs and she moved downstairs to Edmond and Mary's room in early 1900 after Mary's death.

## **The New Century Begins**

At the time of the 1900 census Michael McGraw, John Casey, Michael Flaherty and John McGraw were living fairly close together. Their residence numbers in this census were Michael McGraw (129), John Casey (132), Michael Flaherty (134) and John McGraw (145). John McGraw was alone and was boarding with John Miller, Jr. and gave his age as 54 (actually 56) and his occupation as a "farm laborer." John's wife Mary wasn't living with him and wasn't found living anywhere else in Truxton or the surrounding area. Also absent were the children of John McGraw but since the youngest (Nellie) would have been almost 17 years old they were probably all on their own.

Michael and Alice McGraw raised Nellie according to tradition, however Nellie wasn't shown as living with Michael in the 1900 census. Perhaps she was with her step mother Mary Rooney McGraw, who was also among the missing in the 1900 census.

Michael's occupation on this census was given as a "stone mason." It is interesting to note that this hand written occupation of "stone mason" bears a striking resemblance to "store manager" which had also been described as one of Michael's occupations.

This clustering of families, especially the close proximity of the Flaherty family to the McGraw family, adds credibility to a conversation that took place many years ago between Edmond (Edward) McGraw (my grandfather) and Anna Flaherty (his mother-in-law). Anna was my great-grandmother and her daughter Louise was my grandmother. Anna had come up from Cortland to take care of my grandfather and his family after his wife Louise (Anna's daughter) died in 1950. She remained with Edmond until her death in 1971 at the age of 93.

This conversation took place in the 1960's at my grandfather's home at 512 Garfield Ave., Syracuse, NY. Anna was reminding Edmond (Edward) about the time he cut her clothes lines, an event that he still denied some 60 years later. This event required the families to be living fairly close together and in 1900 Edmond was 10 years old and in the prime of his clothes line cutting years. She described the details with such crystal clarity that the casual listener would swear that the events had taken place only the week before. However, I was certain that my grandfather had given up that bad habit years before.

### **Information from the 1910 Census<sup>63</sup>**

In the 1910 Census John McGraw was staying at the O'Connor Hotel that was run by John O'Connor. This was the same hotel that was known as the Truxton House when Mary Goddard was running that establishment. This was the very hotel where John's son, John J. McGraw, would live for several years after his father chased him out of the house one cold rainy night in the fall of 1885. Even though his second wife was still alive and living in the area John told the census enumerator that he was a widower.

Michael (age 67) and Alice McGraw (age ) were living in the farm house on the North Road. They had been married 27 years and had 8 of their 9 children still living. Michael was a laborer. According to this census Michael came to America in 1850 while Alice came to America in 1881 which is compatible with the other records. Four of their children were living at home at the time of the census: Edwin C. (age 20), Alice (age 13), Agnes E. (age 12) and William M. (age 10). Edwin's occupation was listed as a teacher in a public school. Although he was born as Edmond and went by Edward for most of his life this is the first time that the name Edwin before had been associated with him.

### **Information from the 1920 Census<sup>64</sup>**

At the time of the 1920 Census Mary McGraw, age 54, was living with the Patrick Comerford family in the village of Truxton. Patrick was the brother of John McGraw's first wife Ellen Comerford. Mary was recorded as being married (to John W. McGraw) at the time of the census and told the enumerator that she had come to America in 1888 and had been naturalized in 1895. If the 1888 year was correct then Mary Rooney McGraw did not accompany her sister Alice Rooney McGraw who came to America in 1881. Her occupation was given as a servant to a private family, probably the Comerfords. The residence was on the Truxton State Road (Route 13) near the end of Kenney Brook Road (West Road).

The William and Anna Ryan family was living on the Truxton-Cuyler State Road. They had a boarder named John McGraw who this time around, in contrast to his 1910 census information,

listed his marital status as married. Even though both John and Mary McGraw acknowledged that they were married they were still living apart but in the same small village. John probably continued to board with the Ryan family after 1920 because he was living there at the time of his death on November 8, 1926 and Anna Ryan provided the information for his death certificate.

## **The Grandchildren of Edmond and Mary**

### **Michael and Alice McGraw had nine children**

Probably born at the Shackham Road homestead

Mary Isobelle (b. 1886)

James Leo (b. 1888)

Born at the North Road homestead

Edmund Charles (b. 1890)

John Arthur (b. 1891)

George Francis (b. 1893, d. September 15, 1893)

Thomas Joseph (b. 1894)

Alice Rooney (b. 1896)

Agnes Ellen (b. 1898)

William Michael (b. 1899).

### **John and Ellen (d. Aug. 29, 1883) had eight children**

Born at Kettlebail Road homestead

Mary (b. 1871; d. Sept. 12, 1883 )

John Joseph (b. 1873)

Born at Shackham Road homestead

Anna (b. January 28, 1875)

Catherine (b. 1876; d. Sept. 28, 1883)

Patrick Edmond (b. 1878; d. Sept. 7, 1883)

Ellen became pregnant for Anna at the end of April 1874, the same month that Edmond's Cuyler property was being foreclosed. In August 1874 when the Kettlebail Road property was foreclosed Ellen was four months pregnant for her third child, Anna.

Born at North Road homestead

Margaret A. (b. 1879)

James Michael (b. 1881)

Helen "Nellie" A. (b. 1883)

## **Michael and Alice Rooney McGraw's Children**

The following information on Michael and John's children is from Doug Currie: *A Genealogy of the McGraw's of Truxton, New York*. Only a few minor changes have been made to correct errors or to include newly found information.

The eldest child, Mary Isabelle (Mayme) was born on December 30, 1886. While working on the farm of George Waters on the North Road in Truxton, she met Levi Waters, who was working there. On August 3, 1910 she married Levi Orson Waters at St. Patrick's Church in Truxton. James McGraw and Almeda Waters were the attendants. The Waters operated a farm in DeWitt, New York and Levi was also active in the Waters' Brothers Construction Company. Mayme and

Levi had five children: Robert Orson, Arlene Alice, David Curtis, Lucy Emogene and George Milton. Levi died on January 29, 1947 at the age of sixty and Mayme continued to live in DeWitt until her death at her daughter's house in Watertown on May 4, 1966 at the age of 79. Levi and Mayme are both buried in St. Mary's Cemetery in DeWitt.

NOTE ADDED BY AUTHOR - According to Lucy Sprague (Nov. 16, 1999) her mother's (Mayme's) best friend growing up in Truxton was Fannie Highmoor. The Highmoor family were neighbors of the McGraws living on the next farm along the North Road. Fannie Highmoor was born in August 1887 and Mayme was born in Dec. 1886. The Highmoors had lived at that location since at least 1876 while Michael and Alice McGraw had moved to the North Road location some time before 1890. Lucy said that Fannie died young "probably in childbirth."

James Leo, the eldest son, was born on April 20, 1888. He was a graduate of Cleveland School of Technology in Ohio with a degree in mechanical engineering. During World War I, he served in the Army Air Corp as a mechanic. In April, 1920 he married Mary Dadey and subsequently moved to the Dadey farm in DeWitt near present day Shoppingtown Mall where he raised his family. James operated a gas station on Genesee Street in DeWitt for forty-two years with his brother-in-law, James Dadey – the Dadey & McGraw Service Station [Sunoco]. It is now the present day location of the Post Office. James and Mary had eight children: Mary Agnes, William, Joseph Dennis, James Leo, Jr., Theresa Anne, Raymond, John Thomas and Alice. James died on June 15, 1980 at the age of 92. Mary continued to live in DeWitt until her death on December 20, 1992 at the age of 89. Both are buried in St. Mary's Cemetery, DeWitt.

Edmund Charles was born January 1, 1890. He graduated from Cortland Normal School and taught in a one room schoolhouse in Truxton. Later, he taught at a private boys school near Nyack, New York. While working on the farm of Michael W. Flaherty in Truxton, he met the farmer's daughter Louise. Edmund and Louise Marguerite Flaherty were married on September 3, 1919 in St. Patrick's Church in Truxton. The best man was his brother, James McGraw. Apparently he preferred the name "Edward" to "Edmund", as that is the name he went by for most of his life. [Added by author - It wasn't until shortly before he died that it was discovered that his given name was Edmund and not Edward. He had even named one of his sons Edward Charles McGraw, Jr. – imagine his surprise and that of HIS son Edward C. McGraw III. Francis McGraw, my father, was the executor of Edward's estate and so the task of proving Edward and Edmund were the same person fell to him. He had to track down a childhood friend of Edward's from Truxton, who himself was about 90, and got him to produce an affidavit that stated that he had known Edward all his life and that Edward and Edmund were indeed the same person.] In 1919, he was employed by the U.S. Post Office Railway Mail Service as a Railway Postal Clerk and continued at this post for 37 years until his retirement in 1955. Edward and Louise had six children: Marjorie Katherine, Francis Michael, Louise Elizabeth, Shirley Alice, Edward Charles, Jr., and Rosemary Ann. Louise died on November 4, 1950 and her mother Anna Flaherty moved to 512 Garfield Ave., Syracuse from Truxton to care for the family. She remained with Edward and his family until her death at the age of 94 on May 27, 1971. Edward remained in their Syracuse home until he died on September 27, 1979 at the age of 89. He and Louise are buried in St. Mary's Cemetery in DeWitt.

John Arthur was born October 17, 1891 and in 1910 was working as a hired man on the farm of Patrick Connors in Truxton. On September 6, 1913 he married Marie Connors, Patrick's daughter who was 15 years old. Arthur as he was known, was about 22 at the time. The Arthur McGraw family lived on Main Street in Truxton while he was a supervisor of the Sheffield Farms Milk Plant in Truxton. He and his family moved to Norwich, New York in the 1940's where he became a manager of a division of Sheffield Farms, from which he retired in 1953. John Arthur and Marie had seven children: Mary Helena, Josephine, John Arthur, Jr., Jane, Donald, Barbara and Gerald. Marie died on November 23, 1945 at age 47 and John Arthur continued to live in Norwich until his death on November 19, 1962 at age 71. Both are buried in St. Paul's Cemetery in Norwich.

Thomas Joseph was born December 15, 1894. He entered the U.S. Army as a Private in the 153<sup>rd</sup> Depot Brigade during World War I and after the war was employed at the Sheffield Farms milk plant in Truxton. Thomas never married and on March 1, 1959 he died in Truxton at the age of 64. Thomas is buried in St. Patrick's Cemetery in Truxton in the family plot. [Added by author – Thomas is not there.]

George Francis was born on January 21, 1893 and died seven months and 24 days later on September 15, 1893, apparently from a problem with "unpasteurized milk." There is no record of any other details relating to George Francis. He is buried in St. Patrick's Cemetery in Truxton in the family plot with his parents.

Alice Rooney was born on September 26, 1896. She studied to be a nurse at one time and later went to Central City Business Institute. In 1921 she was employed at a business office in Syracuse. While in the Syracuse area, she lived with her sister Mayme in DeWitt and later with her sister Agnes at her brother Edward's home in Syracuse. In 1929, Alice was confined to the State Hospital at Binghamton as a result of emotional problems, where she died on April 17, 1980 at age 83. Alice never married. She is buried in St. Patrick's Cemetery in Truxton.

Agnes Ellen was born on January 27, 1898. She also attended C.C.B.I. and was employed by Excelsior Paint Company in Syracuse. She lived at this time, along with her sister Alice, at her brother Edward's home on Elk Street in Syracuse. On June 16, 1924, Agnes married Walter Beattie Currie and moved to Buffalo. Agnes and Walter had known each other in high school and after Walter's service in the Merchant Marines in World War I, he returned to Central New York. Walter was employed by the U.S. Post Office Railway Mail Service as a Railway Postal Clerk and in 1935 was transferred to Syracuse where the family settled in the Eastwood section. Agnes and Walter had three children: Douglas Daniel, Richard John and Colleen Marie. Walter retired from the Railway Mail Service in 1950 on a physical disability as a result of a heart attack and died on January 23, 1952 at the age of 53. Agnes remained in the Eastwood home and was employed by St. Joseph's Hospital and Marine Midland Bank until she retired in 1962. She suffered a heart attack in 1979 and spent time in the St. Joseph's Hospital Extended Care Facility and later in James Square Nursing Home, where she died on December 18, 1988 at the age of a month less than 92. Agnes and Walter are both buried in St. Mary's Cemetery, DeWitt.

William Michael was born on October 4, 1899. He was employed at the Sheffield Farms milk plant in Truxton and was the regular third baseman on the Truxton Giants Baseball Team. On February 26, 1946, he married Dorothy Deveraux. The couple resided in Truxton at the old McGraw homestead and had one child, Doris Mary. William died on April 29, 1959 at the age of 59. Dorothy remained in Truxton until moving to her daughter's home in Fairport, New York where she died on May 9, 1984. William and Dorothy are both buried in St. Mary's Cemetery, Cortland.

## **John W. and Ellen Comerford McGraw's Children**

Ellen Comerford McGraw (b. 1853; d. Aug. 29, 1883) – Perimetritis – an inflammation of the membrane covering the uterus.

Patrick Edmond (b. 1878; d. Sept. 7, 1883) – Death certificate?

Mary (b. 1871; d. Sept. 12, 1883) - Diphtheria

Catherine (b. 1876; d. Sept. 28, 1883) – Death certificate?

The following information is also from Doug Currie

The eldest surviving daughter, Anna, who was born January 28, 1875, married Francis Gray about 1895 and settled in New Canaan, Fairfield County, Connecticut. Francis and Anna had two children: William, born in 1897, and Bertha, born in 1899. Anna was still alive at that location in

1934 when her brother John died, but nothing else is known about her or her family, other than her husband Francis was a farmer.

Margaret G. McGraw, the next oldest daughter, was born on August 28, 1879 and in 1922 was married to Grenville F. Bowker. Grenville was the son of Fred Bowker, who in 1921 was the Chief of police in Cortland, New York. In 1923, Margaret and Grenville lived at 25 Logan Street in Auburn, New York and, from one source, were reported to have had two adopted children. Grenville was employed by Cayuga County since March 1921, as a Probation officer and also operated a music store on State Street in Auburn. On December 6, 1923, the local newspaper reported the sudden disappearance of Grenville Bowker, which left his wife Margaret disconsolate and in seclusion. Apparently foul play was suspected since the Court immediately ordered an audit of the Probation Department's account. It turned out that not only was Grenville missing, but also a sum of money from the Probation Department account. There was no further word of Grenville and two months after his disappearance, on February 10, 1924, Margaret McGraw Bowker died of bronchial pneumonia at the age of forty four. Her body was later taken to Camillus, New York where she was buried on April 29, 1924 in Maplewood Cemetery in the family plot of her younger sister Helen Donnelly. There is no record of any adopted or other children in the available records, including her obituary, which lists her father, brothers and sisters as the only survivors. Thirteen years later, on December 14, 1937, the Auburn newspaper reported the death of Grenville's mother and Fred Bowker's widow, Mrs. Julia C. Honeywell Bowker. The only survivor was a son, Grenville F. Bowker, of Chicago, Illinois. No reference to grandchildren at all.

James M. McGraw (or M. James, or Michael in some references) was born in June 1881. He was at one time manager of the Syracuse store of A.G. Spaulding and Brother, manufacturers of sporting goods. He later joined the business staff of the Buffalo Bisons baseball club of the International League and ultimately became the club secretary. A few years later he was made Executive Secretary of the Toledo Mud Hens of the American Association. James was never an active baseball player and apparently was a bachelor, at least there is never any reference to any family. He lived in Toledo, Ohio for five or six years prior to his death which occurred on February 12, 1930 at the age of forty-eight. The cause of death is listed as appendicitis. In the spring, his body was shipped to Camillus, New York for burial on May 17 in Maplewood Cemetery, in the family plot of his sister, Helen Donnelly. In Maplewood Cemetery, a monument was erected with Donnelly on one side and McGraw on the other. Individual headstones locate James M. McGraw (1881 – 1930) and Margaret McGraw Bowker (1879 – 1924). A Syracuse newspaper account of May 17, 1930 indicates that John J. McGraw, James' older brother and famous manager of the New York Giants came to Camillus for James' funeral and that James was also survived by Mrs. James Donnelly of Camillus and Mrs. Anna Gray of Connecticut.

John McGraw's youngest child was Helen, referred to throughout her life as Nellie. Helen was born in July 1883 and tradition has it that after her mother's death she was raised by her aunt and uncle, Alice and Michael McGraw. In 1923, when she was about 40 years old, Nellie married James L. Donnelly of Camillus, New York, who was employed by O'Hara Brothers, a cooperage and hauling firm. The Donnelly's resided in Camillus for several years, but there is no record of any children from this union. James Donnelly died on January 2, 1932 of appendicitis at the age of 53. Nellie lived in Camillus for some time after his death and was employed by the Camillus Cutlery Company. She later moved to the Mizpah Hotel in downtown Syracuse. She went to Community Memorial Hospital in Hamilton, New York in 1975 and lived there until she died on July 12, 1978 at the age of 95. Nellie is buried in Maplewood Cemetery in Camillus in the Donnelly plot, adjacent to her husband and the graves of Margaret and James. When she died, the local funeral home in Camillus was unable to locate any survivors at all. Eventually they did find two of her husband's relatives and somehow found out that Monsignor John McGraw was related.

Note: This section was added by the author.

There are many fine books that describe the baseball details of John J. McGraw's life and rather than try to summarize them here I want to point out some of the other aspects of his life. For instance his part in the creation of the sport of Duck Pins.

Duckpins has been around since 1900. It is mostly found on the east coast of the United States. It is found in only eight states. "The game is similar to tenpins except the ball is no larger than five inches and the pins stand 9.406 inches tall."

"The game was born in Baltimore in the year 1900. It was first played at the Diamond Alleys located on Howard Street in Baltimore. The owners of the Diamond Alleys were Wilbert Robinson and John J. McGraw, who were members of the original Baltimore Orioles baseball club. The idea to cut down a set of tenpins came from the manager of Diamond Alleys, Frank Van Sant. The pins were cut down by John Dittmar & Sons Bowling Alley Supplies on Pratt Street in Baltimore."<sup>65</sup>

John's first wife died in 1899 and after a while he met Blanche and a short courtship followed. John J. McGraw married Blanche Sindall on Wednesday evening, January 8, 1902 at St. Ann's Church in Baltimore, MD. The Rev. Cornelius F. Thomas presided and he was assisted by Rev. John Boland, who had performed the ceremony for John McGraw's first wedding to Minnie Doyle, and six other priests. In attendance were many of his fellow Giants and his younger brother James.

The following techniques and plays developed by McGraw and the old Baltimore Orioles<sup>66</sup>.

- The Hit and Run
- Sacrifice bunt
- Squeeze play
- Double steal
- "They'd scuff up a baseball or discolor it with tobacco juice to help their pitchers."
- "They'd cut corners running from first to third when the umpire's back was turned."
- "They'd hold a base runner's belt to delay his departure from a base."
- "They developed the 'inside baseball', the tight, close-to-the-vest brand of ball that scratched out a run or two and then protected it with strong pitching and deft fielding."

"He modernized the use of the bunt in the contemporary strategies of the game. He was the first manager to hire a player for the sole purpose of pinch-hitting. He also utilized pitchers exclusively out of the bullpen."<sup>67</sup>

Upon arriving in New York McGraw took over a losing team and turned them around. The World Series was first played in 1903. The 1904 series did not take place because John McGraw refused to let his National pennant-winning Giants to play the champions of the newer American League.

In 1908 McGraw invested in yet another pool hall in Manhattan. All of his partners were never known but a particular silent partner would later become notorious in the world of baseball. This was Arnold Rothstein, a poker player and pool shooter, who would later be at the center of the fixing of the 1919 World Series.



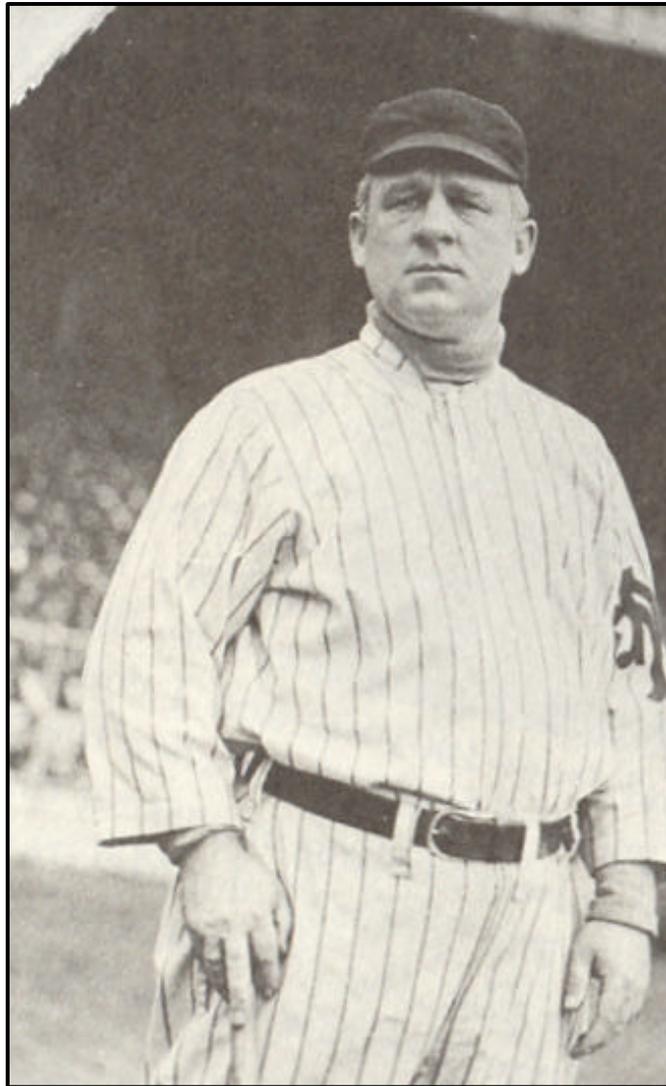
Christy Mathewson, John McGraw and Joe McGinnity in 1903 – Source – Brown Brothers

The Giants held spring training camp in Marlin, Texas which was a small town on Route 7 about 25 miles southeast of Waco, Texas. Their headquarters was the Hotel Arlington. The Giants trained there every spring from the 1908 season through the 1918 season. After the end of World War I McGraw thought the weather in Texas in April had hurt the team the previous year and so decided to move the location of their spring training. Gainesville Florida would become the new home of the spring training camp for the New York Giants.

John J. McGraw is still remembered in the Lone Star State. The Collin Street Bakery of Corsicana, Texas mentions him in all their marketing literature. The bakery is world famous for their fruit cakes that they ship all around the world. At one time there was an elegant hotel located above the bakery and John J. McGraw stayed there once upon a time and they still mention it to this day.

After the 1914 season John made a trip around the globe to promote baseball to the world. Included in his entourage was his old friend from Truxton, Bert Kenney, who had bankrolled his initial venture into baseball with a \$70 advance. Also along was the Olympic champion Jim Thorpe whom John McGraw had signed to a baseball contract on February 1, 1913. During the world tour John had arranged to meet the Pope in Vatican City. It had been quite a journey for this group and standing there with Pope Pius X were John J. McGraw, Jim Thorpe and Bert

Kenney and other friends. John and Jim had both been raised in small towns and had risen to the top of their fields through a lot of hard work. Thanks to his wise investment in the early career of John McGraw, Bert Kenney was invited to go along providing yet another example of John McGraw's life long loyalty to his friends.



John J. McGraw in 1913 at age 39. He seems to have aged tremendously from the previous picture that was only ten years earlier

After the tragic 1919 World Series McGraw decided to move the Giant's spring training back to Texas and this time he picked San Antonio. "Working out at the Texas League ballpark, lodging at the well-appointed Crockett Hotel near the ruins of the historic Alamo, sampling Tex-Mex cuisine, sometimes going by streetcar south to the mineral baths at Hot Wells. McGraw's players seemed to find the new spring base quite an improvement over either Marlin or Gainesville." p. 219 Charles Alexander.

"Jenning's successor at Detroit was Ty Cobb. The bad feeling between Cobb and McGraw was still strong. Cobb also trained his Tigers at San Antonio that spring (1921), but neither manager would hear of exhibition games between the New York and Detroit ball clubs. Nor, despite the

fact that their hotels were only a block apart (McGraw at The Crockett and Cobb at The Menger – both of which are still operating), was there any commingling of players – at least none that McGraw or Cobb knew about.”<sup>68</sup>

In San Antonio through the 1923 season the John McGraw Giants switched to Sarasota, Florida for the 1924 spring training camp at the urging of his friend John Ringling who wintered his circus operation there.

A few weeks into the 1924 season McGraw fell in Chicago and injured his right knee. “By early June, still on crutches, McGraw could watch games from his office window in the center-field clubhouse and order pitching changes and pinch-hitters over a telephone line into the home dugout.”<sup>69</sup>

The Giant’s won 10 pennants under John McGraw’s leadership in: 1904, 1905, 1911, 1912, 1913, 1917, 1921, 1922, 1923 and 1924. They were the first team to win three pennants and the four pennants in a row. McGraw also led them to World Series victories in: 1905, 1921 and 1922. After the 1924 season he never did produce another pennant winning team.

His health had been declining for years but by the 1932 season it was clear to him that he could no longer perform the duties of manager and he offered the job to Bill Terry on June 1, 1932 who immediately accepted the position.

In failing health he was admitted to New Rochelle Hospital on February 16, 1934. His wife Blanche had known for the last 12 months that this would be his last year due to the advance of his Prostatic and intestinal cancer. John McGraw died shortly before noon on February 25, 1934. His funeral service was held in St. Patrick’s Cathedral in New York City and he was buried in the New Cathedral Cemetery in Baltimore, Maryland.

## The House at Prospect and Main

The grandparents<sup>70</sup> home has always held some very happy memories for the grandchildren. Michael and Alice's home on the corner of Prospect and Main in the Village of Truxton was no exception. The only people who could describe that experience and do it justice are the grandchildren themselves. Therefore I have chosen to let their words tell the story.

"The house set back about 10 or 15 ft. from the road (Main St.) and had a porch on the front and east side. Two stories; two or three bedrooms upstairs; parlor, dining room, grandma's bedroom and the kitchen downstairs and the bathroom." Labrador Creek ran along the northern edge of the property about 40 or 50 feet from the back of the house. A garage was added some time after World War II and was located between the house and the creek on the west side of the house. The driveway extended south from the garage and ended at Main St.

Doug Currie – August 17, 1999

"Grandpa McGraw (Michael) was a school teacher walked to & from a rural school."

"[In] [l]ater years he (Grandpa Michael McGraw) didn't know us - kept telling us to get home & would swing his cane at us."

Mary McGraw Stoddard – February 9, 1998

"I thought they had a hand pump at the sink that had to be primed before they could get the water flowing. Uncle Tom and Bill were very good to us and treated us to ice cream cones very frequently."

Doug Currie – September 24, 1999

"When I was young, maybe 8 or 9, my mother (Agnes McGraw Currie) would send me to stay with Grandma McGraw for a week or so in the summer. The boys, Tom and Bill, would get up at 3 or 4 AM to go to work at the milk factory and when I got up at 7 or so, grandma would make breakfast and send me off with a milk pail and lunch for the boys. The milk plant was a fascinating place, so I really enjoyed these stays. Grandma was pretty deaf at that time, so communication was a little problem."

Doug Currie – August 17, 1999

"There were thirty of us grandchildren, and we knew everyone of our first cousins. Uncle Jim (James Leo McGraw) lived around the corner from us and we grew up with his eight. We are so sorry that none of them came (to the 50<sup>th</sup> McGraw Reunion in 1999), only family with all still living. We went to Truxton and Uncle Art (John Arthur McGraw) lived down the street and there was one that matched all five of us in age to hang out with. When Aunt Agnes (Agnes McGraw Currie) came back from Buffalo and moved to Glencove Road we saw a lot of the Curries. Uncle Ed (Edward Charles McGraw) used to come to Grandma's on a Sunday, too, with the gang. They were not far from us on the east side of the city. I think I went to every graduation of his six kids from St. Anthony's. When Bill (McGraw) got married we watched Doris Mary grow up. Another one we miss at the reunions, as well as Uncle Art's, of which only two are living now."

"We went to Grandma's every Sunday and while Mother visited with Grandma, Dad and the five of us went over to the ball game. We were there for the Giant's game (August 8, 1938), the proceeds of it going to a monument of John McGraw."

Lucy Waters Sprague - August 5, 1999

"I remember Grandma (Alice) McGraw saying her rosary in her kitchen rocker every evening."

Lucy Waters Sprague - December 21, 1980

"Grandma (Alice) was very deaf & hard to communicate with her. Aunt Mary lived with her & she was deaf. I worked for them weekends & summers."

Mary McGraw Stoddard – February 9, 1998

"I remember pumping water from the well and Grandma scolding us – and to keep away from the creek! We would run up to the Kinney's store to buy some ice cream cones & bubble gum. I remember Bert Kinney and thought he was very nice to us, but others doubt if it was Mr. Kinney."

Note: Bert Kenney was a lifelong friend of John J. McGraw and he was the one who gave John \$75 to help bankroll the early years of his professional baseball career. He was also present at John J. McGraw's wedding to Minnie Doyle on Feb. 3, 1997 in Baltimore. Shirley McGrawDavis was born in 1924 and Bert died on Sept. 30, 1931 so it was possible that she does remember Bert Kenney.

"I do have some fond memories of Grandma's house in Truxton with Uncle Bill (McGraw) and Uncle Tom (McGraw) sitting in rockers on the porch. They were probably thinking 'When are these kids going to go home?' "

Shirley McGraw Davis – September 1999



This is the front porch of my grandfather's house at 512 Garfield Ave., Syracuse, NY. The year was about 1955. My sister Nancy is sitting on my grandfather's knee (Edward C. McGraw, Sr.), I'm sitting right behind my grandfather. Just in front of my father (Francis M. McGraw) is my brother Mark and next to my father is my youngest sister Shirley.

## The Trip to Truxton – June 18-19, 2001

After visiting with my cousin Bill Casey I took a small tour with my uncle, John Casey. We left the Casey farm and headed south on Berry Road. We turned east on highway 80 and took the first right onto Route 91 and headed south toward Truxton. On the way we went by Jones Road that headed east up to the top of Jones Hill. These hills have broad flat tops that are suitable for farming. Continuing south we passed the trail leading up to Tinker's Falls that has been a favorite site for picnics for over 150 years. Another mile down the road we came to Shackham Road which headed off to the east and proceeded uphill in a northeasterly direction for a while and then follows the terrain as it parallels Shackham Brook. We drove up Shackham Road to the Truxton/Fabius border and then turned around. We were looking for the former property held by Edmond McGraw that was shown as the Welch farm on the 1876 Truxton map. This was located 1.0 mile from the Shackham Road turn off from Route 91. The area where the farm was located is now part of a State Reforestation Area and it was doubtful if any traces of the McGraw homestead still remained. A detailed search would have to wait for the next day.

We continued south on Route 91 and passed a sawmill operation on the left that John said my father had told him at one time had been where the McGraws were living. This was just before crossing Labrador Creek. This wasn't where I placed the property but this might be due to confusion between two properties along this road owned by someone named Newell. John McGraw owned a former Newell property a little further south on the road across from School House #2. In 1947 John Casey had this schoolhouse moved to Apulia Station and he and his wife Evelyn are still living in it today and in fact that is where this little tour began and where it would end. The place where the McGraws lived backed up to the Casey property and the Casey boys were cautioned by their mother not to play with the McGraw boys because they were too rough. John was of the opinion that the Casey boys were up to the task of dealing with the McGraw boys.

Further down the road toward Truxton there was a little cemetery [Apulia Cemetery] on the east side of the road across from the Labrador Mountain Ski Lodge. I stopped to inspect the gravestones, of which there were only a few dozen, and there weren't any relatives buried there and there didn't seem to be any burials after about 1850. About one half mile further south from the cemetery, where Route 91 meets Robbins Road, was the site of Michael and Alice McGraw's farm from about 1890 until a fire destroyed the house in about 1915. Later in the day I planned on returning to see if I could locate the foundation of the old farmhouse that was located on the rise on the west side of the North Road (Route 91).

We continued south, down Route 91, and turned onto Route 13 and headed west towards the center of the Village of Truxton where the monument to John J. McGraw was located. This monument was erected in 1942, after the death of John McGraw. An exhibition baseball game between the New York Giants and the Truxton Giants was held in August 1938 to raise funds for the monument. There was still an old house located on the northwest corner of the West Road and Academy Street that has been abandoned for many years. It can be seen in the background of a picture from 1958 taken during the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Cortland County at the John J. McGraw monument. At that time the house appeared to be better maintained. I asked John Casey about the house and he didn't have any information concerning the owners of the house. [The house belonged to a S. Goddard family in 1874 – not related to Mary Goddard.]

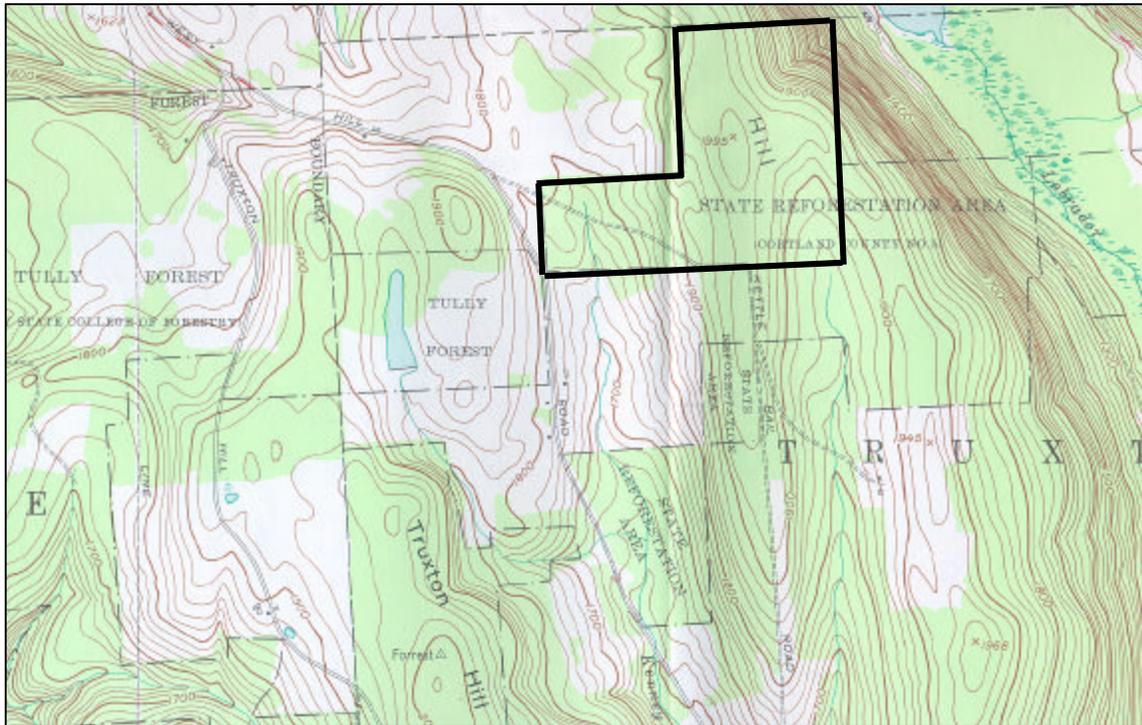
We proceeded out West Hill Road that leads from the Village of Truxton to the Village of Tully. John W. McGraw had bought some 6 acres of property on this road back in 1890 shortly after his marriage to Mary Rooney. This property was owned by P. Hennesy in 1876 as shown on the Truxton Town map from that year. The farmhouse was located on the west side of the road about 1.4 miles out of the Village of Truxton. There weren't any signs of a farmhouse in the approximate area where it should have been located but we didn't have time to get out of the car and poke around in the underbrush for signs of a foundation.

The next stop was the area around Lots 51 and 52 where Edmond and his sons had purchased some 250 acres in 1868. The homestead(s) were close to the intersection of West Hill Road and Kettlebail Road and located on Kettlebail Road about one-quarter mile east of the intersection. On the 1876 map of the Township of Truxton there are two homesteads on Kettlebail Road straddling the beginning of a creek called Kenney Brook that flows south. The 1876 map shows E. Miller as the owner and this was the Edward Miller who bought the McGraw's land at the foreclosure auction in August 1874. The area today was heavily wooded as a result of the State Reforestation effort and any kind of farming would be out of the question. The actual property lines can still be traced out on modern maps. The land that Edmond and the boys purchased was described in the deed registered at the Cortland County Courthouse on January 16, 1868 as follows:

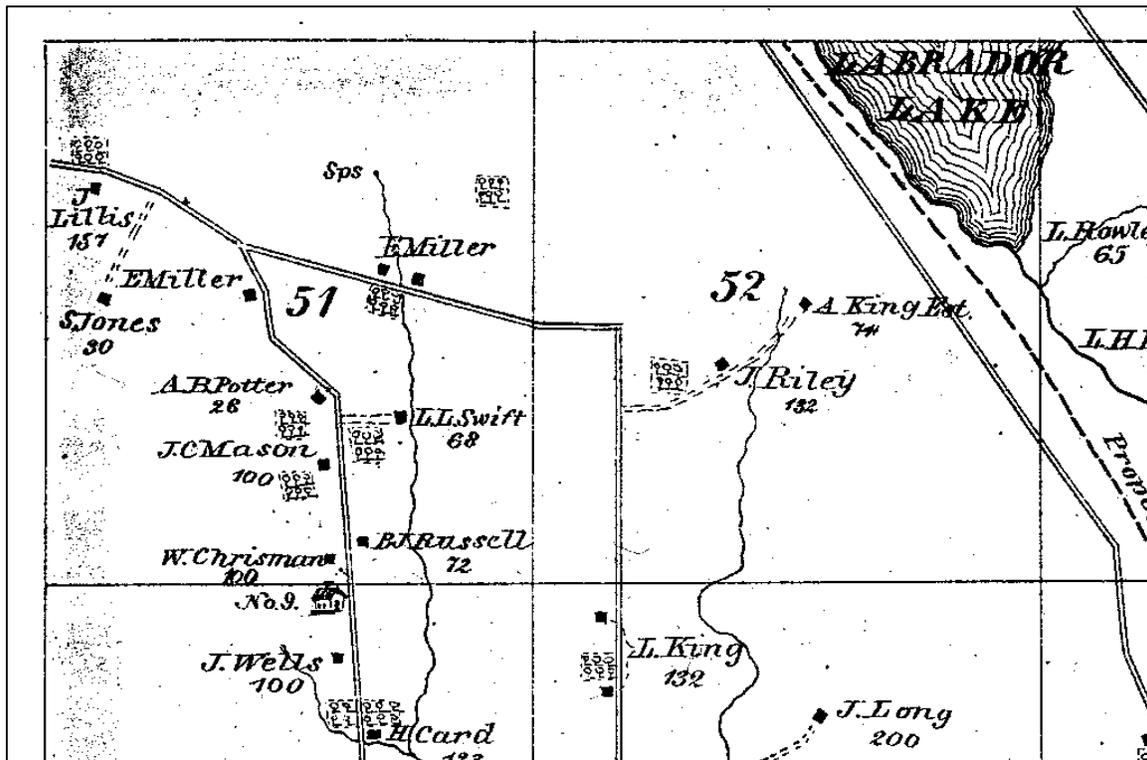
“Beginning in the west line of Lot 52 thirty one (31) chains and fifty (50) links north of the southwest corner of the lot: thence east along the land formerly owned by L. King & Co. (now in the possession of J. Riley) thirty one (31) chains and seventy five (75) links; thence north to the north line of Lot 52; thence west to the northwest corner of said Lot 52; thence south to within fifty one (51) chains of the southwest corner of said Lot 52; thence west thirty one (31) chains and sixty two links (62); thence south nineteen (19) chains and thirty seven (37) links; thence east thirty one (31) chains and sixty two (62) links; thence south twelve (12) links to the place of beginning, reserving the right of way on the south line of said land to land now owned and occupied by Ashel King Jr. but is not to leave the fences open but to keep the same closed only at the time of passing and repassing. Also all that certain other piece or parcel of land situated in Truxton aforesaid and bounded and described as follows viz: Bounded on the north by the highway and the lands of Simeon Jones; and on the west by the lands of Simeon Jones and James Sheedy; and on the south by the lands of John Mason, Aaron Potter and the highway; and on the east by the piece or parcel of land first herein described supposed to contain 35 acres of land. This grant is intended to convey in the two above described pieces 255 acres more or less.”

The property was mainly in Lot 52 and included the peak of Labrador Hill and a portion of land around the peak that was reasonably flat at the top of the hill that could be farmed. The poorer farmers were relegated to the hill tops and during the 1930's many of these farmers were unable to pay their taxes and the state took over the properties. Of course this was many years (~60) after Edmond and his family lost this property. What followed was the State Reforestation project found on many of the hill tops in Cortland and Onondaga County. The northern and western boundaries of the McGraw property are still easily traced on the Tully Quadrangle Topographic Map from the U.S. Geological Survey by the borders of the State Reforestation Area on Labrador Hill. Kettlebail Road was a one lane dirt road covered with crushed stone. As we proceeded downhill to the location of Kenney Brook, which marked the location of the two homesteads shown on the 1876 map, we realized that there wasn't any obvious way to turn around and we hoped that we didn't meet anyone coming the other way. We didn't see any sign of the remains of any man made structures in the vicinity of the brook although we only looked from the road and didn't venture into the swampy region on foot. I didn't want to have to go back and tell Bill Casey that I had lost his 87 year-old father in the swamp. Proceeding uphill from the brook we found a couple of small newer houses in the forested area that were presently occupied. Upon reaching a wide spot in the road we were able to turn around and work our way back to West Hill Road.

We turned right and proceeded north on West Hill Road and headed for the Village of Tully. John Casey gave me a quick tour around Tully - that only took a few minutes. Then we headed east on Route 80 towards Apulia Station. At the Tully/Fabius border we took a left turn and headed north on Sky High Drive that runs parallel to the borderline between the two townships on the Tully side of the line. The barn on the Miles farm from 1880 when Michael W. McGraw was a farm hand there was still standing on the west side of Sky High Drive. There was also a Miles cemetery on the east side of the road near what was the Miles farm in 1880. About a half-mile up the road we took a right turn onto Dailey Road and headed west toward John's farm across the valley. The



majority of John's farm, which is now owned by his eldest son Bill Casey, was located primarily north of Dailey Road. After leaving John off at his home, that was formerly Truxton schoolhouse #2, I made my way back to Truxton for some more detailed searching.



These maps show the northwest corner of the Township of Truxton. The portion of the property owned by Edmond McGraw and his two sons from 1868 until 1874 is shown by the dark outline above. The larger vertical rectangle is in Lot 52 while the smaller horizontal rectangle is in Lot 51. The second map is a portion of the 1876 map of the Township of Truxton showing the same area.

## The Michael McGraw Homestead on the North Road

The 10 acre farm owned by Michael and Alice McGraw was located on both sides of the North Road with Robbins Road forming the southern boundary of the property on the east side of the North Road. The house burned in about 1915 but the ruins were readily visible well into the late 1930's on the rise on the west side of the North Road a little north of the corner of Robbins Road. The barn, located across the North Road from the house, remained standing for many more years. I believe that the barn was still standing in the 1960s.

The likely location for the house was a cluster of trees located about 40 feet from the road. Most of the original homesteads were surrounded by trees to help shelter them from the weather. Therefore tree clusters are always the logical place to begin a search. I made my way up the incline, wading through the waist high weeds, and as I worked my way into the cluster of trees I found an old abandoned, rusted farm implement. Working my way to the right the terrain dropped off slightly and so I moved to the left towards higher ground. Proceeding left into the center of the cluster I worked my way over several fallen trees and I came upon the foundation of what appeared to be a small cellar. The walls were made primarily of slate with a few bricks here and there. The north and east walls were very much intact and displayed excellent workmanship. The west and south walls were partially collapsed and there was an opening in the southeast corner with a sloped walkway for external access. There was a large rectangular stone located at the ground level of the sloped walkway. The walls appeared to be only about three feet high but lacking the proper tools no attempt was made to dig down through the material and refuse that had fallen into the cellar to determine its true depth. The overall dimensions of the cellar were fairly small and this may not have been a full cellar that extended under the entire house. The walls were about 12 inches thick and the structure was longer in the east west direction that was perpendicular to the North Road. The dimensions of the cellar were approximately 10' by 6'. There didn't appear to be any remains of a burned down house in the area, not even in the cellar.



View of the site of Michael and Alice McGraw's homestead (~1890 – 1915) from the intersection of the North Road and Robbins Road looking northwest.



The northeast corner of the foundation of the Michael & Alice McGraw homestead on the North Road across from Robbins Road.



A "trail" leading up the southeastern side of Morgan Hill coming from Tripoli in the Town of Cuyler. This was just a little north of the southern border of Lot 76 and was not the road up Morgan Hill that should have led to the location where Edmond McGraw owned some 60 acres between 1855

and 1874. The road to Edmond's property couldn't be located and might have been overgrown or plowed over as there was considerable cultivation in the area. The picture below shows an extensive area under cultivation on top of Blanchard (Eaton) Hill. The road to Edmond's place should have been near the beginning of this cultivated area but none could be found.



This photo shows the relatively flat area at the top of Blanchard (Eaton) Hill that was cleared and under cultivation on June 19, 2001. Many of the hilltops in Cortland and Onondaga County in the last century (19<sup>th</sup>) were active farms, mostly by Irish farmers.

About 100 feet south of the "trail" in the previous picture was a stone fence running perpendicular to Blanchard (Eaton) Hill Road. This was the approximate location of the east-west boundary between Lots 76 and 86, and probably was constructed by one of the early farmers in the region to mark his property line. In many of the overgrown areas it is still possible to trace the old property lines by following the stone fences.

#### Shackham Road – Welch Farm Site

The Welch farm site was occupied by Edmond and Mary McGraw at the time of the 1880 census. According to the 1876 map this homestead was located on the east side of Shackham Road between 0.9 and 1.0 miles from where Shackham Road branches off from the North Road (Route 91). The property was very small measuring only 1-1/2 acres in size. At about 0.95 miles from the branch off point I stopped and ventured through the waist high weeds into the pine forest following the remnants of a dirt road trail down to Shackham Brook. The absence of undergrowth in the portion covered with pine trees allowed an accurate determination to be made that there were no signs of man made structures in that immediate area.

The previous evening I had had a phone conversation with Mary McGraw Stoddard's daughter Karen. She had told me that at one time she had lived on Shackham Road and that there was a man made lake on a portion of Shackham Brook and she used to take her kids down there to the

lake. There was a trail that led down to the lake, according to Karen, but I wasn't able to find it from the road as I drove back and forth. While following that trail Karen said that she had seen the gravestones that her mother had described as having seen as a child, in a letter to me back in 1999. When Karen saw the gravestones they were stacked together and there was anywhere from 2 to four of them. It had been about 15 years since she had seen them and she was going by memory. Karen told me that there wasn't any "writing" on the stones anymore and by that she meant that the writing wasn't legible anymore.

The trail that leads down to the present day man made pond was just past the last house at the top of the hill where Shackham Road flattens out. This was just about 1 mile from the Shackham Road turned off from the North Road. That is the approximate location where the Welch farm was located in 1876 that Edmond and Mary McGraw were occupying in June 1880. On the 1876 map there is a sawmill on Shackham Brook right behind the Welch farmhouse. A sawmill would have been built at a location where it was easy to build a dam to trap the water for powering the mill. The saw mill is long gone but it would be a good bet that the same spot on Shackham Brook was chosen again to make the man made lake. This all helps make the case that these gravestones were on the property that was occupied by Edmond and Mary McGraw in 1880.

Karen knew a logger who worked in the area who had also seen the stones so the existence and location of these seemingly mysterious objects has been firmly established. There was another person that Karen thought might know something about the gravestones. This was Patricia O'Connor Dwyer whose family had lived up on Shackham Road. There was a C. O'Connor farm of 200 acres shown on the 1876 map just east of Edmond that is probably one of her relations.



Shackham Brook looking downstream from the approximate position of the Edmond McGraw property in 1880.



This is the view from the edge of Shackham Brook looking west back toward Shackham Road, that was located just beyond the pine trees. The property wasn't very deep and in this particular region there weren't any signs of foundations, stone fences or gravestones.

## Epilogue

There have been many interesting discoveries since Doug Currie published his *Genealogy of the McGraws of Truxton, New York* in 1994. In May of 2000 contact was finally made with Con Ryan of Glown, Upperchurch, Co. Tipperary, Ireland. Shirley McGraw Maloney first tried to contact Con in 1983 after reading about him in an article on Ireland in the National Geographic Magazine (Vol. 159, No. 4, April 1981, pp 462-3). His daughter (my sixth cousin) Eileen and her family are living in the cottage that Mary Ryan occupied before leaving for America with her two sons in 1850. When we visited Ireland in June 2000 we had the opportunity to meet Con and his family plus about a half dozen more cousins and we had a drink with Eileen and her family in the ancestral cottage. As Con put it in his letter, "You're related to everyone in Glown." The large number of Ryans in the central Tipperary area and in the central New York area should have worked against us in the search but it has been turning out the other way. Both here and in Ireland more progress has been made on the Ryan connections than on the McGrath/McGraw connections.

The Edmond McGraw family appears to have originally settled in the southern part of the Town of Fabius in Onondaga County sometime after 1850. The location was on the northern fringe of an area known as the Keeney Settlement. They probably moved once more in the immediate area before moving to the Town of Truxton (later called the town of Cuyler) in March 1855. In 1868 Edmond and his two sons bought a large expensive piece of land on Lots 51 & 52 on Kettlebail Road in the northwestern part of the Town of Truxton.

The story of the Kettlebail Road and Shackham Road homesteads developed out of a search through the land records at the Cortland County Court House and comments made by Mary McGraw Stoddard. The census records and the Truxton map of 1876 made it possible to fix the exact location of these homesteads even though there are no physical remains there today that would indicate they ever existed. During the 1930s both areas became part of a state operated reforestation program and they remain designated as such today.

The convoluted story of the early years of the McGraws of Truxton that was created by the book *The Real McGraw* by John J. McGraw's wife in 1953 and propagated by the subsequent biographers of John J. McGraw had worked its way into our family oral traditions. After some extensive research I have been able to untangle the confusion and have set the record straight. The biggest surprise was that John and Ellen McGraw were living on the North Road at the time of the diphtheria deaths and not on the West Road as was widely believed.

In the aftermath of these deaths in the final days of the summer of 1883 John McGraw's family began to disintegrate. In the next generation only one of John and Ellen's offspring had any children. At the same time Michael and Alice McGraw's family began to grow and became the focal point of the family as Michael's parents Edmond and Mary McGraw were living with them most of the time. Michael and Alice's farmhouse on the North Road near Robbins Road was the home base for the McGraw boys whose reputation caused the Casey's on a neighboring farm to warn their boys not to play with the "rough" McGraw boys. As the children grew up and married and had children of their own they would return often to visit their parents. In about 1915 the farmhouse on the North Road burned down and the family moved into the Village of Truxton. They purchased a house on the corner of Prospect and Main in 1915 and that became the center of activities for all the grandchildren. The first grandchild showed up in 1914 and therefore none of them had any first hand recollection of the farmhouse on the North Road. To them the small house on the corner of Prospect and Main was Grandpa and Grandpa's house and their memories of those times all revolve around that house.

Grandpa Michael McGraw died in 1923, Grandma Alice McGraw died on the eve of World War II and with her death an era came to an end and another began. The Sunday visits to Truxton shortly became a thing of the past. The grandchildren of Michael and Alice McGraw were soon drawn into the events of the Second World War. On the home front and on active duty in both

theaters of operations they served their country well. Upon returning from their wartime activities they picked up their lives once again had children and transformed Michael and Alice's children into grandparents.

From this point on I can realistically only follow one trail and that is the one I know best, the trail of my grandfather, Edward Charles McGraw but that is the subject of another volume. It is the responsibility of the rest of Alice and Michael's great grandchildren to record the story of their grandparents and their families – they're the only ones who can do it.

## Outstanding Questions

As with all investigations the process of answering questions usually creates more questions and this investigation was no different. If anyone who reads this is interested in joining the search for our family roots here are some questions that still remain unanswered.

- Where was Edmond between 1848 and 1850?
  - Traveling on work crews? Not picked up on any census.
- When did Edmond and family come to Onondaga Co.?
  - Check the Onondaga County land records for the Town of Fabius.
  - The earliest record is Edmond's Declaration of Intention in Onondaga Co. in December 1854. Although he was probably already there when Margaret Tobin, Mary Ryan's sister, married John Tobin on March 8, 1854.
- How did Edmond pick Central New York?
  - Traveled through central NY on a work crew 1848-1850?
  - Similarity of Irish and central NY landscapes?
  - Followed a relative or friend?
  - Follow over some of his Upperchurch neighbors?
  - Barney Ryan of Drumbane and Cazenovia?
- Olive Branch –
  - A boat? Whose boat?
  - A place?
  - Finish reviewing the 1850 Federal Census for Ulster Co.
- Did Michael McGraw ever go to college? Where? Did he graduate?
  - Syracuse University – No.
  - Cornell University – No.
  - Cortland College - ?
- When did Michael McGraw teach school and at what school houses?
  - Michael apparently came to teaching school later in life. The latter half of the 1890s.
  - His 1923 obituary was the source of the Truxton, Cuyler and Solon locations.
  - I believe Mary Stoddard said he was teaching on South Hill - that could be Solon.
- What was the Rooney connection to central New York?
  - Was the Miles family of Tully connected to the Miles family in Co. Down?
  - It's probably a coincidence but the townland where the Rooney's were living in Ireland was called Tullyframe.
- Whereabouts of Mary Rooney McGraw between the late 1890s and when she moved in with her sister Alice in Truxton about 1927?
  - According to Doug Currie she was a cook in a Tully hotel in 1903
  - She was living in Apulia Station in 1907.
  - Note – both of the above locations are close to the Miles farm. Perhaps she was staying with the persons that originally sponsored her when she and her sister Alice came to America in 1881.
- Who did John McGraw's children move in with while he was living in the village of Truxton?
  - Did any of them move in with John and his new bride Mary on their farm on the West Road after their marriage in 1890?

- What house did they move into?
- Alice Rooney McGraw, daughter of Michael and Alice McGraw, spent 51 years in the State Hospital in Binghamton.
  - Would it be possible to get a copy of her records from the hospital?
  - Does Mary Stoddard have any insight about what happened here?
  - Did anyone ever talk about Alice? Did anyone ever visit her?
  - My grandfather would mention her once in a while but only in passing. He acknowledged her existence and the fact that she was in the state hospital at Binghamton. Never any details or stories however.
- Is Nellie's James Donnelly of Camillus related to the Donnellys of Cazenovia (Sheahan / Heffernan connection)?
  - Nellie McGraw Donnelly was the gatherer of lost souls. She provided a final resting place for her siblings James (1930) and Margaret (1924) in the Donnelly plot in Maplewood Cemetery, Camillus, NY. By the time her turn came (1978) she had outlived everyone of her generation. This is the curse of being the youngest in the family and living to the ripe old age of 95.
- Anna McGraw and Francis Gray, m.~1895
  - Children: William, b.1897; Bertha, b. 1899
  - No one has successfully tracked down any of his or her descendants.
- Documentary evidence is still lacking to prove Michael and Alice were married at Pompey Immaculate Conception Church in Pompey, NY on April 7, 1882.
- Edward Charles McGraw
  - Cortland Normal School records.
  - Evidence of his teaching at Truxton school house No. 2
  - There is evidence he went to school there. His name is carved in Aunt Evelyn Casey's house on a board that was part of the original schoolhouse.
  - What was the name of the private school where Edward taught near Nyack, NY.
- When did the farmhouse on the North Road burn down (~1915?).
  - What was the address on Upper Prospect where the family moved immediately after the fire?

# Other Connections to the McGrath Family

## Irish Connections in Central New York

From various records it has been determined that Edmond McGraw had been in New York State since he arrived in America in late 1848. I began to pick up signs of a connection between the Albany/Troy area in New York and the Upperchurch area in Co. Tipperary, Ireland. There was a series of articles over many years in the Boston Pilot called "Missing Friends." These were basically classified ads from Irish relatives seeking information on family members with whom they had lost contact. The ads would contain information on where the family members had come from in Ireland, where they went to upon coming to America and their last known location. Although I never found any of my ancestors in these ads they were useful in pointing out immigration pathways and that was where the Upperchurch – Albany/Troy connection first showed up. After that I made a list of all the areas in New York State that had an attraction for the Irish immigrants.

### SETTLEMENT LOCATIONS

A search was made for areas of New York State where the Irish would tend to congregate. These were usually places where there were construction projects underway such as canals, roads and railroads or ongoing industries that required manual labor.

1. Albany/Troy, New York <sup>71</sup>
2. Ulster Co., New York  
Quarries and tanneries.
3. Chenango Canal, Chenango Co., N.Y.
4. Black River Canal, Herkimer Co. & Lewis Co., N.Y.
5. Split Rock, Town of Onondaga, Onondaga Co., N.Y.  
Mining of rock for canal construction.
6. Orleans Co. (near Rochester, N.Y.)  
Early settlement was a working camp for the Irish workers building the Erie Canal.
7. Tipperary Hill, Township of Geddes, Onondaga Co., Syracuse, NY  
First Irish settlers were canal workers who probably camped there during construction of the Erie Canal.
8. Town of Dewitt, Onondaga Co., New York  
Large number of canal workers
9. Tri-county area: Onondaga, Cortland & Madison
10. Midland RR ~ 1872
11. Binghamton to Syracuse RR completed in 1854.

## The Search for Connections

### Known Family Connections

1. Family of Edmond McGrath
2. Descendants of Edmond and Mary McGrath of Truxton
3. Rooneys of Co. Down, Ireland – Sisters Alice and Mary Rooney married brothers Michael and John McGraw respectively.
4. Ryan – Sheahan & Heffernan & Donnelly – Mary Ryan's sister Catherine married Willaim Sheahan in Ireland and relocated to the Onondaga Count area.

5. The Tobins of Pompey, New York
6. Comerfords – John, Patrick & John Jr. – Key families connecting McGraw, O'Brien, Carr, Waters and Ryan families.
7. The O'Brien Families
8. Carrs of Truxton, Cortland Co., N.Y. – Related through the Comerford family.
9. The Gibbon Family of South Hill
10. The O'Donnell Family of South Hill
11. Patrick & William Ryan – Currie connection; John McGraw connection.
12. Flaherty, Herlihy and Conners Families – ancestors of Louise Flaherty who married Edward C. McGraw
13. Caseys of Truxton and Apulia, N.Y. – Neighbors of Michael and John McGraw in Truxton, Currently living in old Truxton School house #2 in Apulia since 1947.
14. The Waters Families

#### **Possible Family Connections**

The following families have not yet been shown to be related to the McGraws of Truxton but each has one or more tantalizing attributes that makes them potential relatives that require the confirmation of additional evidence that still needs to be found.

15. Phillip and Margaret Ryan of Gleninchaveigh, Upperchurch, Co. Tipperary. This is a large family that settled in Fabius in the latter part of 1854 or the early part of 1855.
16. Another Ryan Family from Upperchurch, Co. Tipperary.
17. The Ryan Family of the Township of Pompey, New York.
18. Barney Ryan of Drumbane, Moyliff, Co. Tipperary. Arrived in the Cazenovia area in ~1850.
19. Joe O'Brien connections to Drumbane, Upperchurch and Cortland & Troy, N.Y.
20. Lanty McGraw of Upperchurch, Co. Tipperary, Ireland and Fabius, Onondaga Co., N.Y.
21. The McGraths of Madison County.
22. Redmond McGrath of Kilworth, Co. Cork
23. Miscellaneous McGraths
24. Ryan and Gleeson in Maple Ridge, Lewis County, NY  
(Michael McGraw (Lowville) and Ryans from Moyliff (Lewis County)).

#### **Friends and Acquaintances**

25. Dr. Judson Nelson
26. The O'Connor Family

27. The Hartnett Family

28. Jerome Woodruff and the Keeney Settlement School

**Non-related McGraws**

29. The McGraws of McGraw, Cortland Co., N.Y.

30. The McGraws of Dryden, Tompkins Co., N.Y.

# Known Family Connections

## The Family of Edmond McGrath

**Edmond William McGrath**, b. 1813 in Upperchurch<sup>1</sup>, County Tipperary, Ireland, d. May 14, 1899<sup>2</sup> in Truxton, Cortland Co., NY, USA. Buried Truxton Catholic Cemetery, Truxton, NY.

Father: **Michael**<sup>3</sup>, born in County Tipperary<sup>4</sup>, Ireland.

Mother: **Margaret(?)**<sup>5</sup>, born in County Tipperary<sup>6</sup>, Ireland.

Wife: **Mary Ryan**, b. 1810-1814 in Upperchurch<sup>7</sup>, Co. Tipperary, Ireland, d. Dec. 1, 1899<sup>8</sup> in Truxton, Cortland Co., NY, USA. Buried Truxton Catholic Cemetery, Truxton, NY

Father: **John Ryan**<sup>9</sup>, Upperchurch parish<sup>10</sup>, Co. Tipperary

Mother: **? Ryan**, Upperchurch parish, Co. Tipperary

Married: September 1, 1841<sup>11</sup>, Roman Catholic Church, Upperchurch, County Tipperary, Ireland. Present were Rody Ryan, Daniel Ryan and others<sup>12</sup>.

Children:

- **Margaret**, baptized June 27, 1842 at Upperchurch. The family was living in Drumdiha<sup>13</sup>, County Tipperary, Ireland. Sponsors Michael Ryan and Bridget Ryan<sup>14</sup>. There is no record that Margaret accompanied either of her parents on the trip to the United States. She may have died during the famine or during the cholera epidemic of 1849.
- **Michael William**, baptized November 19, 1843 at Upperchurch. The family was living in Drumdiha<sup>15</sup>, County Tipperary, Ireland. Sponsors John

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<sup>1</sup> From Edmond W. McGrath's registration form for the Cortland County Poor House, Record No. 647.

<sup>2</sup> From Edmond W. McGrath's death certificate

<sup>3</sup> From Edmond W. McGrath's death certificate

<sup>4</sup> From Edmond W. McGrath's registration form for the Cortland County Poor House, Record No. 647.

<sup>5</sup> Based on Irish naming convention.

<sup>6</sup> From Edmond W. McGrath's registration form for the Cortland County Poor House, Record No. 647.

<sup>7</sup> Based on the large number of Ryans in Upperchurch and the fact that Edmond and Mary were living with her brother Jeremiah Ryan in Gleninchaveigh.

<sup>8</sup> A Genealogy of The McGraw's of Truxton, New York, Douglas D. Currie, 10 January, 1994

<sup>9</sup> Based on Irish naming convention.

<sup>10</sup> Mary Ryan's place of birth cannot be proved to be Gleninchaveigh and that her only proven connection to the townland was her and Edmond's residence with her brother Jeremiah who himself was living with Eleanor Ryan in Gleninchaveigh. The late John Ryan who was living in Gleninchaveigh with his wife Eleanor was not Mary Ryan's father. Hence Mary Ryan's parents cannot be assigned to Gleninchaveigh specifically but they were probably from the parish of Upperchurch.

<sup>11</sup> Letter from James O'Meara, Parish Priest, Upperchurch, County Tipperary, 24 February, 1982.

<sup>12</sup> Letter from James O'Meara, Parish Priest, Upperchurch, County Tipperary, 24 February, 1982.

<sup>13</sup> Letter from James O'Meara, Parish Priest, Upperchurch, County Tipperary, 24 February, 1982.

<sup>14</sup> Letter from James O'Meara, Parish Priest, Upperchurch, County Tipperary, 24 February, 1982.

<sup>15</sup> Letter to Dick Currie from Upperchurch, Co. Tipperary parish priest James O'Mara, dated 16 April, 1985.

Magrath<sup>16</sup> and Ally(?) Sweeney<sup>17</sup>. Died April 9, 1923<sup>18</sup> at Truxton, NY. Buried Truxton Catholic Cemetery, Truxton, NY.

- **John William**, born June 6, 1844<sup>19</sup>, baptized June 24, 1844<sup>20</sup> at Upperchurch. The family was living in Glaninchavee (Gleninchaveigh), County Tipperary, Ireland. Sponsors Patrick Ryan and Mary Ryan. Died November 8, 1926 at Truxton, Cortland Co., NY.<sup>21</sup> Buried Truxton Catholic Cemetery, Truxton, NY.

**Mary Ryan** had two sisters who settled in central New York

- **Catherine Ryan Sheahan**<sup>22</sup> Married in Ireland to William Sheahan. She is buried in Immaculate Conception Cemetery in Pompey, New York.
- **Margaret Ryan Tobin**<sup>23</sup> married John Tobin at St. James Church, Cazenovia on March 8, 1854. Witnesses: Michael Reardon and Catherine Fitzgerald.

Edmond McGrath arrived in the United States, at New York City, on board the *New Hampshire*, on November 29, 1848<sup>24</sup>.

Mary, John and Michael arrived in New York City aboard the *British Queen* on November 7, 1850<sup>25</sup>.

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<sup>16</sup> Letter to Dick Currie from Upperchurch, Co. Tipperary parish priest James O'Mara, dated 16 April, 1985.

<sup>17</sup> Letter to Dick Currie from Upperchurch, Co. Tipperary parish priest James O'Mara, dated 16 April, 1985.

<sup>18</sup> From Michael W. McGraw's death certificate

<sup>19</sup> From John W. McGraw's death certificate.

<sup>20</sup> From John W. McGrath's baptismal record, Upperchurch, Co. Tipperary, Ireland.

<sup>21</sup> From John W. McGraw's death certificate.

<sup>22</sup> A Genealogy of The McGraw's of Truxton, New York, Douglas D. Currie, 10 January, 1994

<sup>23</sup> A Genealogy of The McGraw's of Truxton, New York, Douglas D. Currie, 10 January, 1994

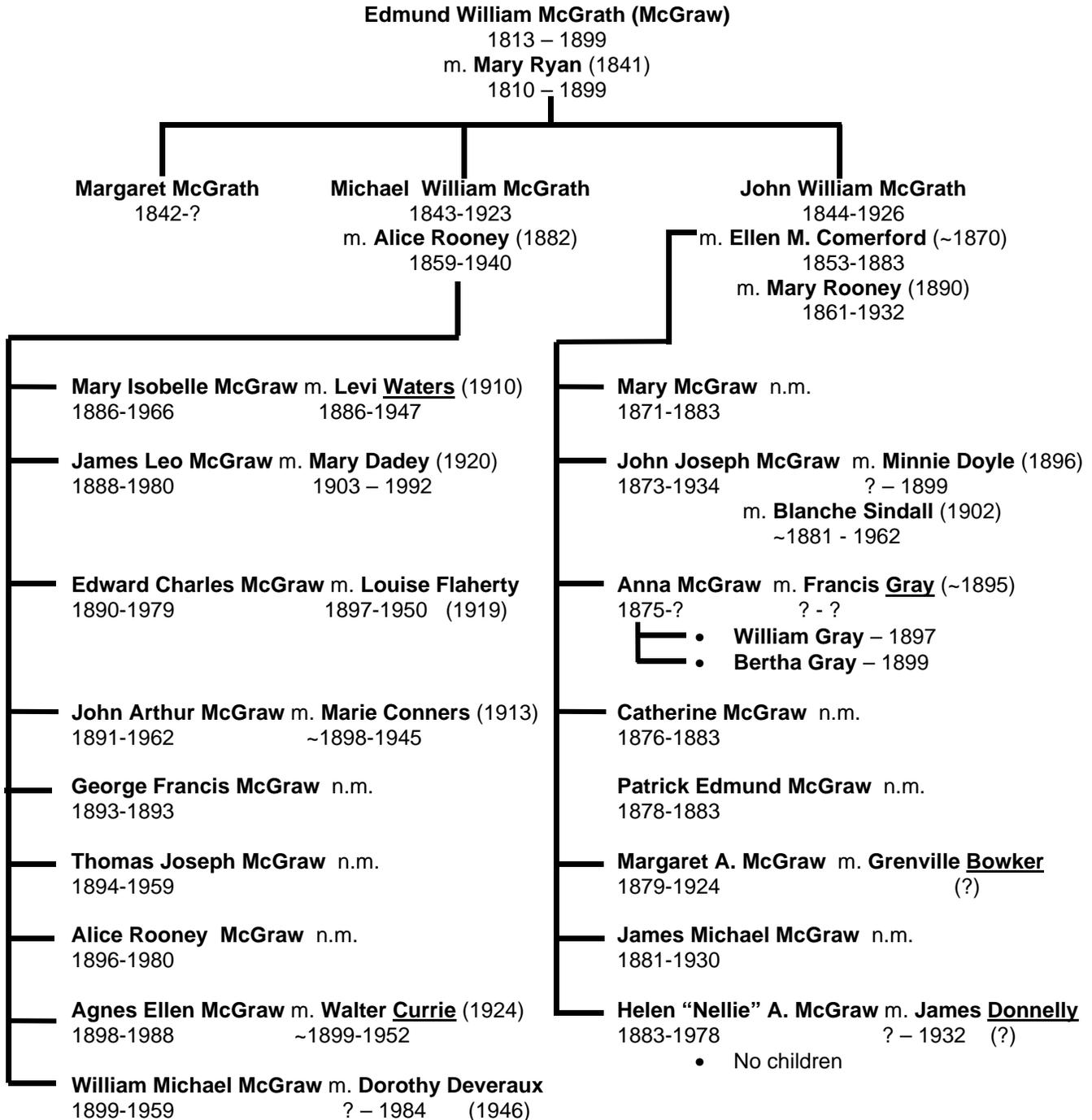
<sup>24</sup> From *Irish Immigrants*, Ira Tepper, Genealogical Publishing, Baltimore, MD .

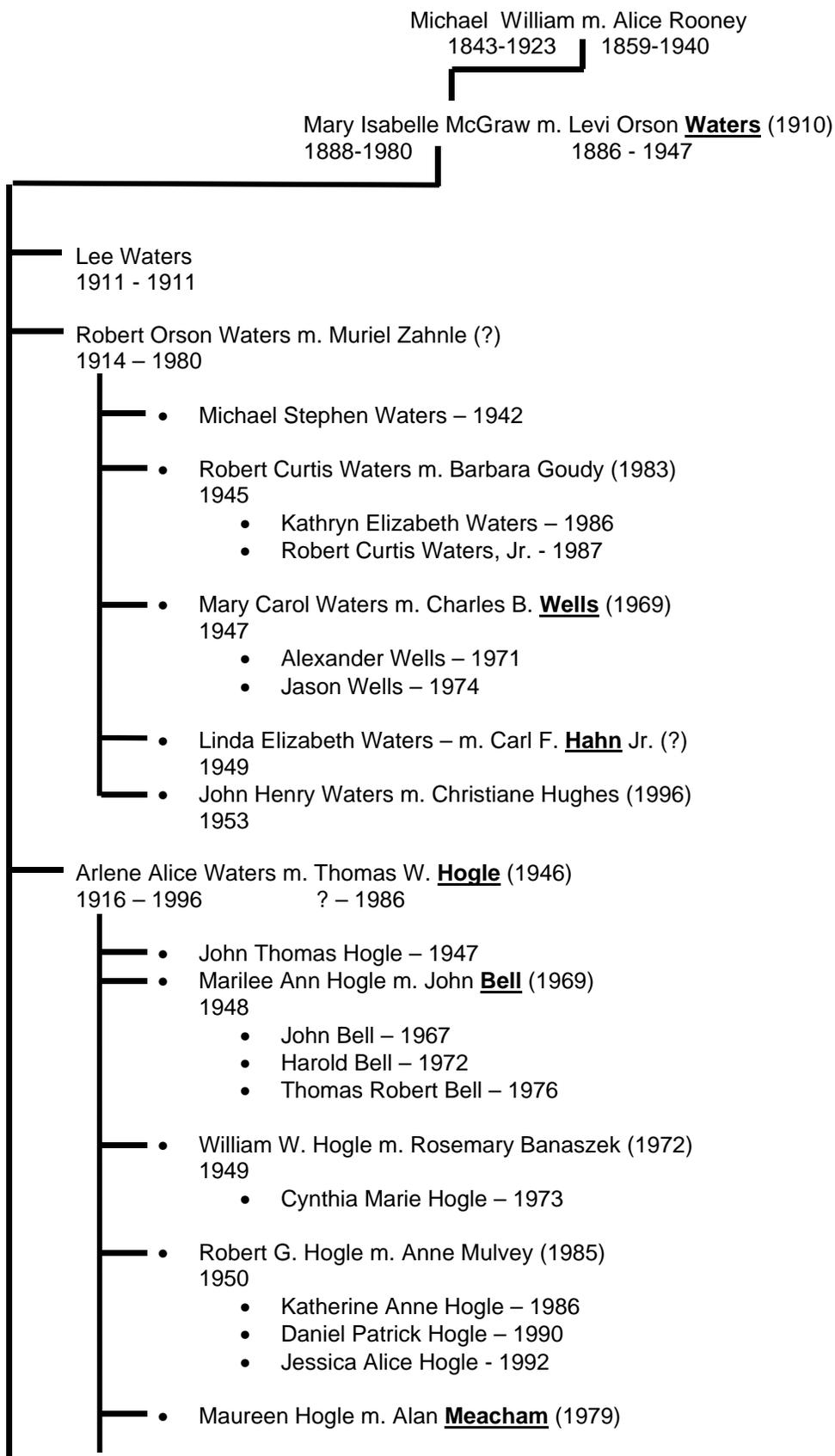
<sup>25</sup> From *Irish Immigrants*, Ira, Tepper, Genealogical Publishing, Baltimore, MD

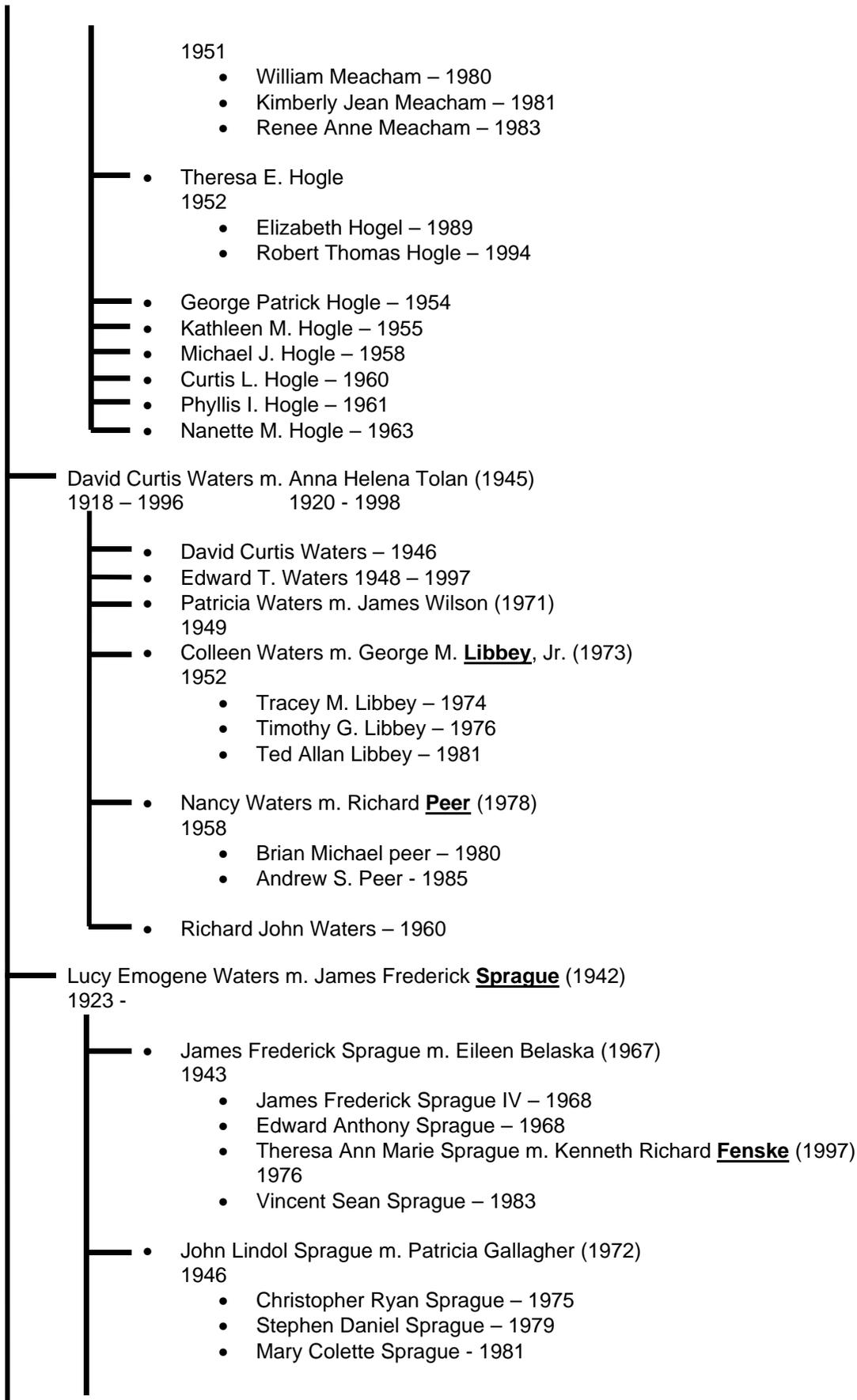
# Descendants of Edmond and Mary Ryan McGrath of Truxton

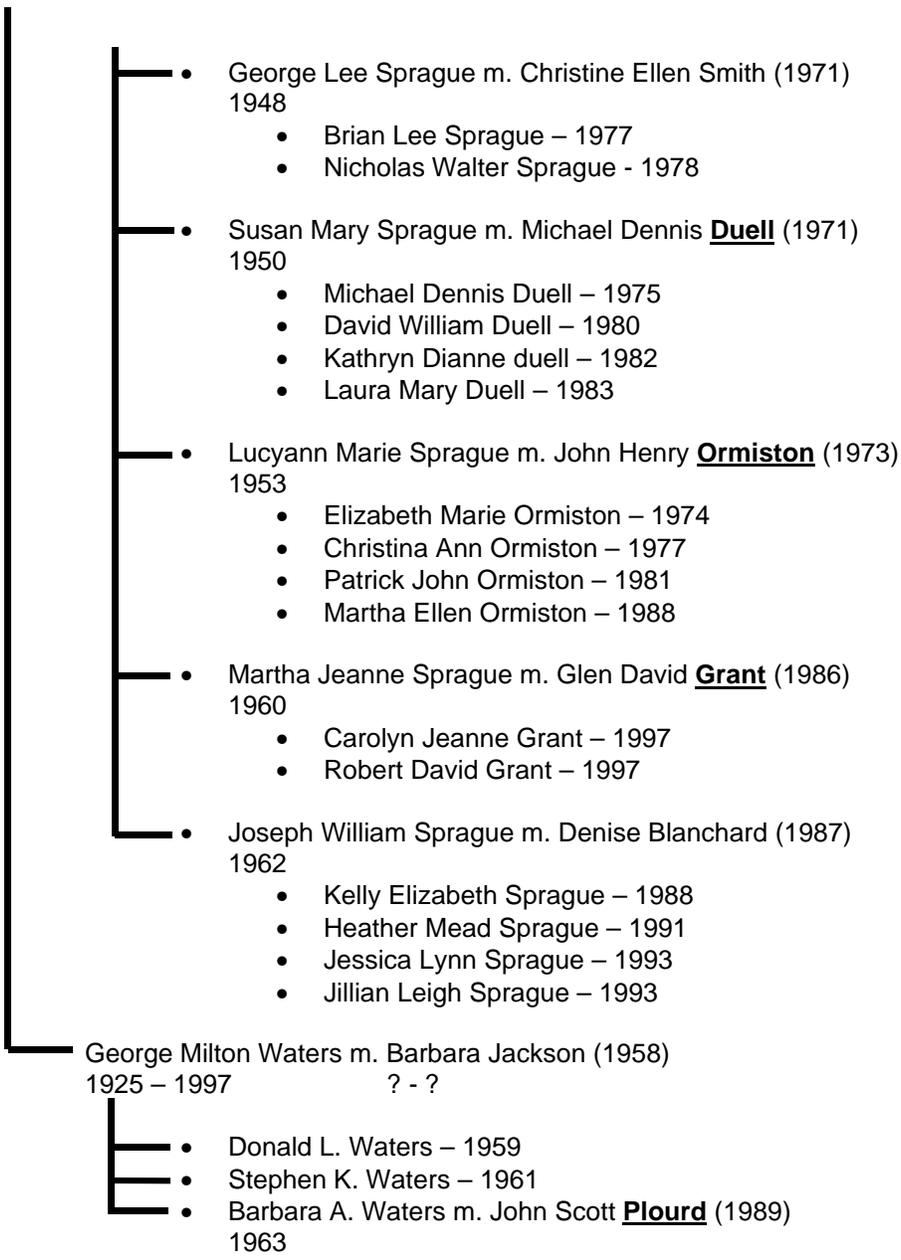
Edited by Michael F. McGraw

After Doug Currie: *A Genealogy of the McGraw's of Truxton, New York*  
and Tom Maloney: *The McGraw Family an American Success Story*









Michael William m. Alice Rooney  
1843-1923 1859-1940

**James Leo** m. Mary Dadey  
1888-1980 1903 - 1992

Mary Agnes McGraw m. Harvey **Carr**  
1921- ? – 1991

- Lawrence Harvey Carr – 1946-1975
- Mary Laura Carr m. (1) Mark **Clark** (1971); (2) James **Nelson** (1994)  
1948
  - With (1) Mark Clark
    - Sabrina Marie Clark – 1972
- David H. Carr m. Denise Fralick (?)  
1951
  - Ryan David Carr – 1975
  - Christal Mary Carr – 1978
  - Naomi Ruth Carr – 1979
  - John David Carr – 1983
  - Debra Rose Carr – 1984
- John Thomas Carr m. Catherine Carlson (1983)  
1954

**William James McGraw** m.  
1922

**Joseph Dennis McGraw** m. Diana E. Bryson (1953)  
1923

- **Michael Joseph McGraw** m. Jeannette E. Pidgeon (1980)  
1954
  - **Paul McGraw** – 1982
  - **Evan McGraw** – 1984
  - Katie McGraw – 1987
  - Elizabeth McGraw – 1992
- Terese Ann McGraw m. Michael D. **Ramsey** (?)  
1955
- Mary Elizabeth McGraw m. Glen D. **Wadley**, Jr.  
1957 1957
  - Diana Rose Wadley – 1978
  - Abigail Mary Wadley – 1980 – 1980
  - Amanda Terese Wadley – 1980 – 1980
  - Erin Elizabeth Wadley – 1982
- **Joseph John McGraw** – 1959
- Denise Ann McGraw m. Gary **Erwin** (?)

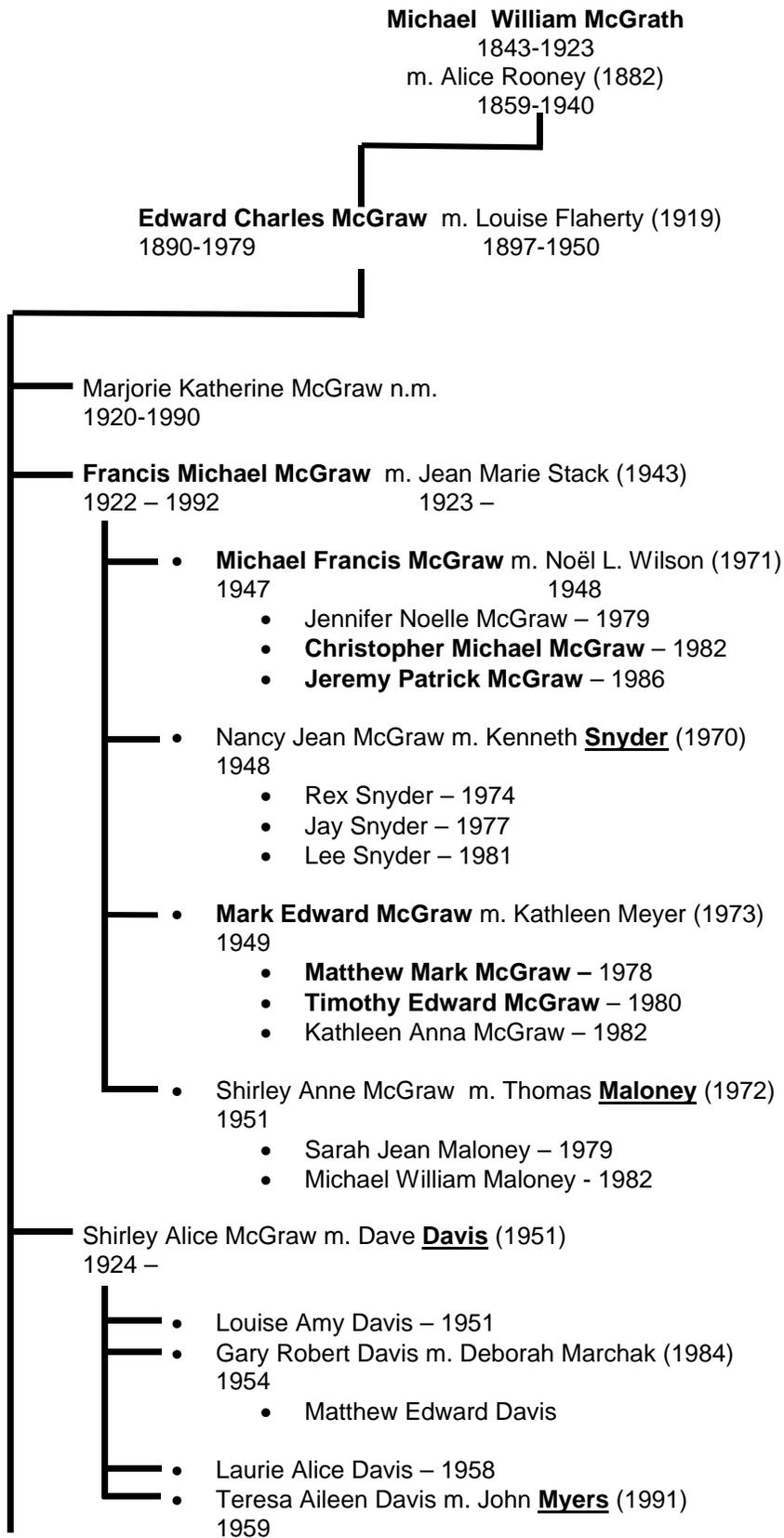


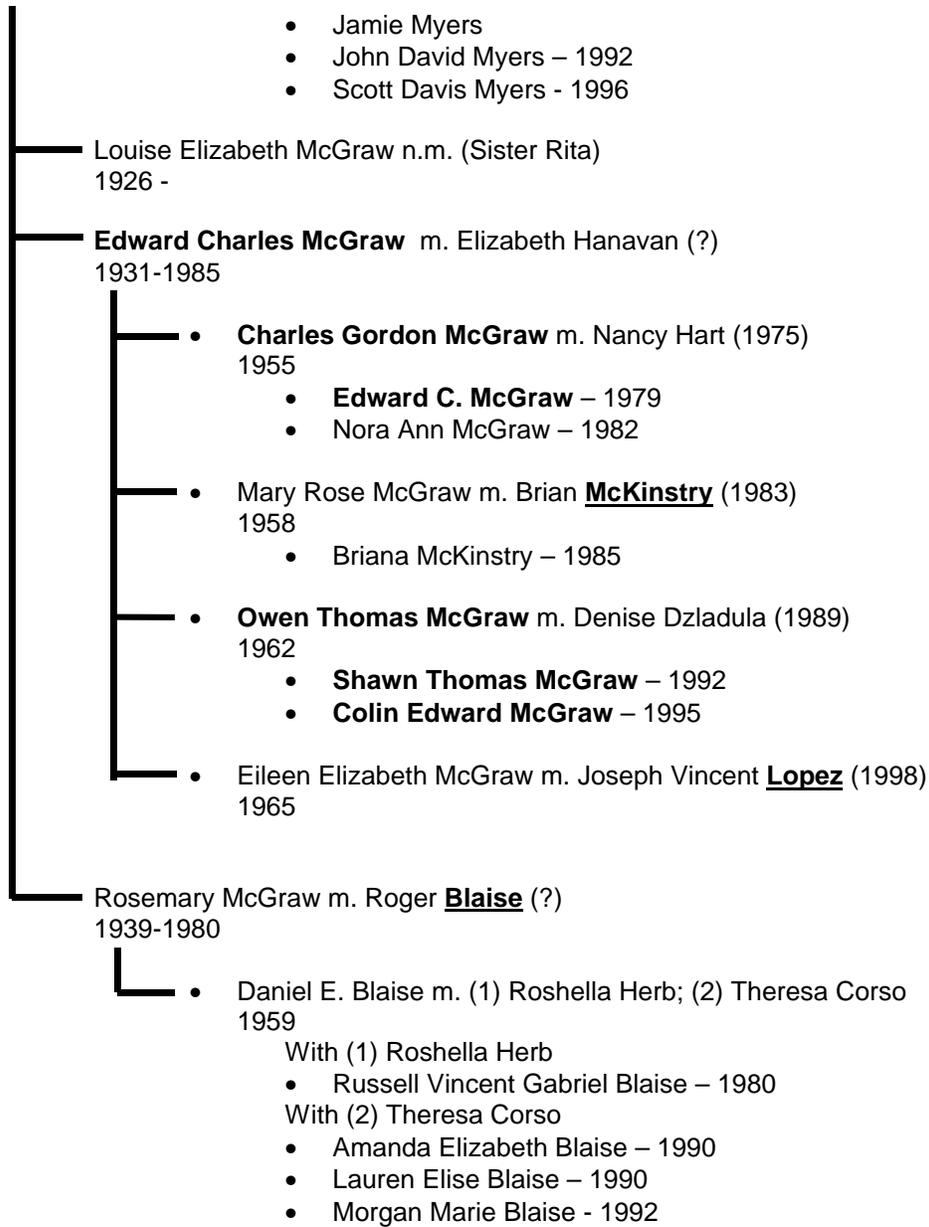
- **John Thomas McGraw** – 1966
- Patricia Ann McGraw – 1969
- **Martin James McGraw** – 1977

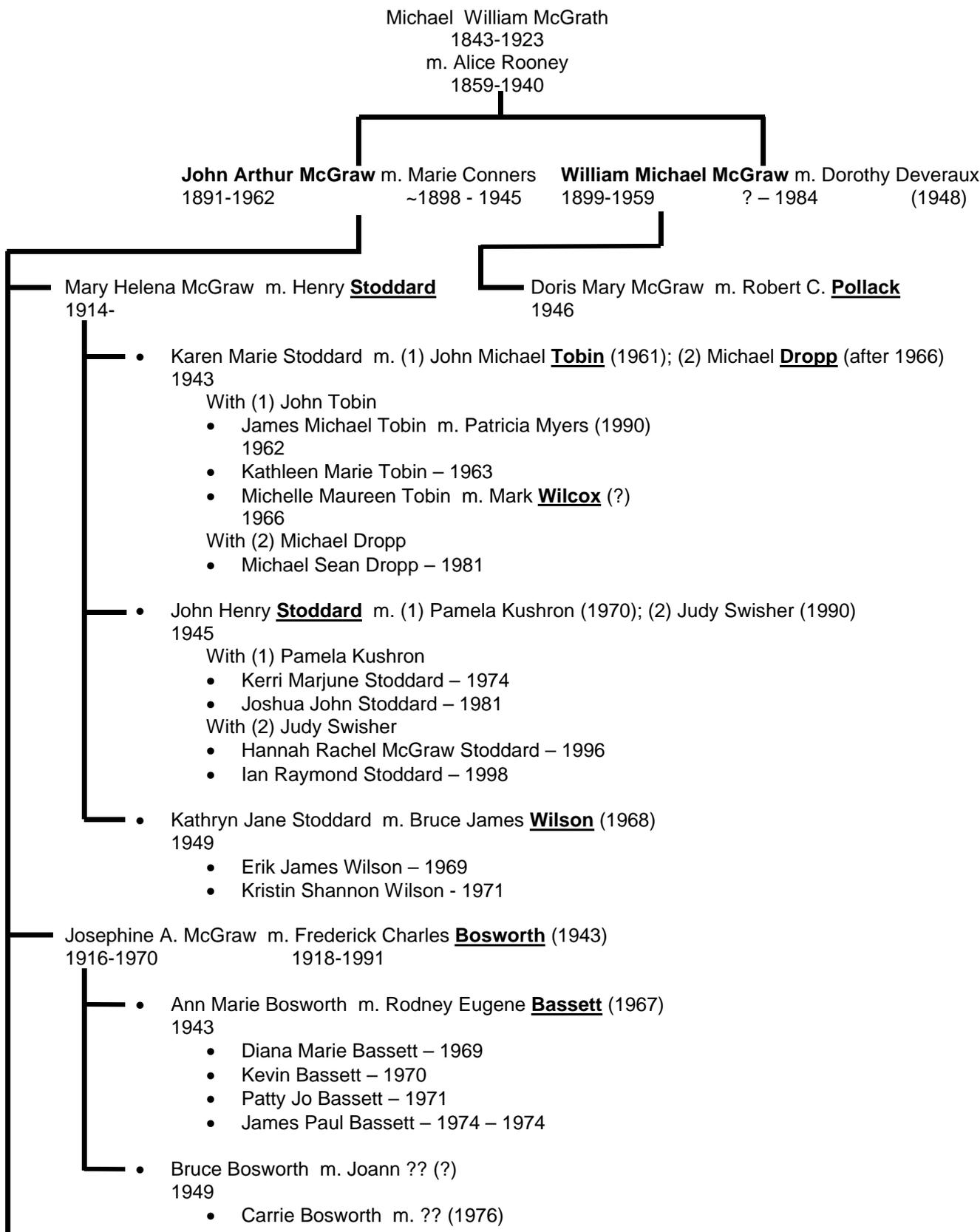
**John Thomas McGraw** (Monsignor)  
 1931

Alice Kathleen McGraw m. James Russell **Detore**  
 1934

- Martha Mary Detore m. Mark **Woods** (1984)  
 1959
  - Ryan Woods – 1985
  - Steven Woods – 1987
- Paul Joseph Detore m. Cathy ?? (1986)  
 1960
  - Child Detore – 1988
  - Mary Angeline Detore – 1991
- James Russell Detore – After 1962
- John Thomas Detore – 1962
- Charles William Detore - 1971







- 1975
- Kristin Bosworth – 1980
- Jeffrey Bosworth - 1985

**John Arthur McGraw** m. Rosemary Farley (1946)  
1920-1972                      ? – 1968

- **John R. McGraw** m. Susan S. (?)  
1948
  - **Michael McGraw** – 1977
  - Margaret S. McGraw – 1982
  - **Sean P. McGraw** - 1983
  - Katherine McGraw – 1985

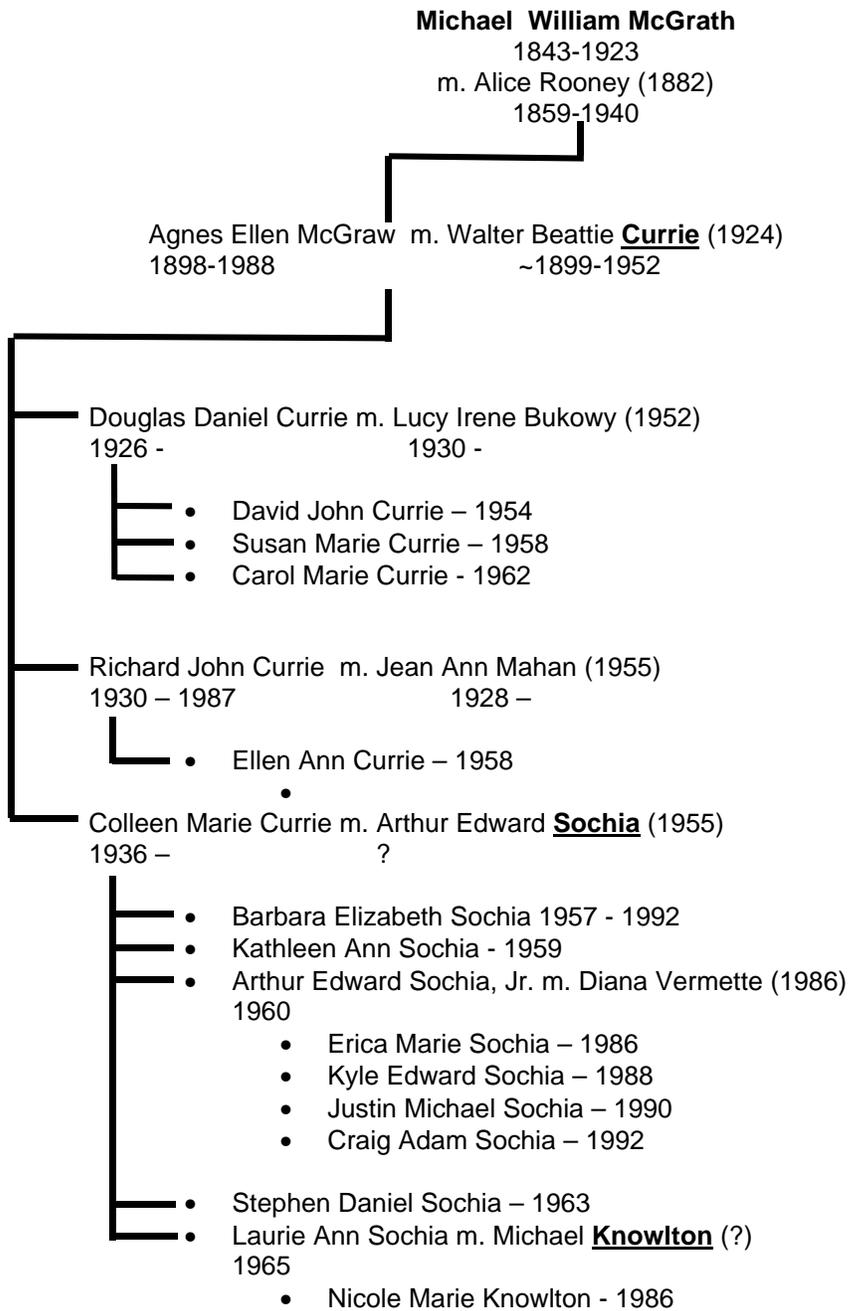
Doris Jane McGraw m. John C. **Dwyer** (1944)  
1924-1998

- Maureen Marie Dwyer m. Phillip C. **Bailey** (1966)  
1946
  - Cathleen Elizabeth Bailey – 1968
  - Laurie Jane Bailey – 1970
- Kathleen Theresa Dwyer m. Gregory Lewis **Bailey** (?)  
1949
  - Todd Dwyer Bailey – 1977
  - Tara Elizabeth Bailey - 1979
- Daniel J. Dwyer m. (1) Elaine Carley (1975); (2) Laurie Penoyer (1992)  
1954
  - With (1) Elaine Carley
    - Shelia Maureen Dwyer – 1976
    - Patrick Daniel Dwyer – 1979
    - Megan Brianna Dwyer – 1983
  - With (2) Laurie Penoyer
    - Kristine Marie Dwyer - 1992

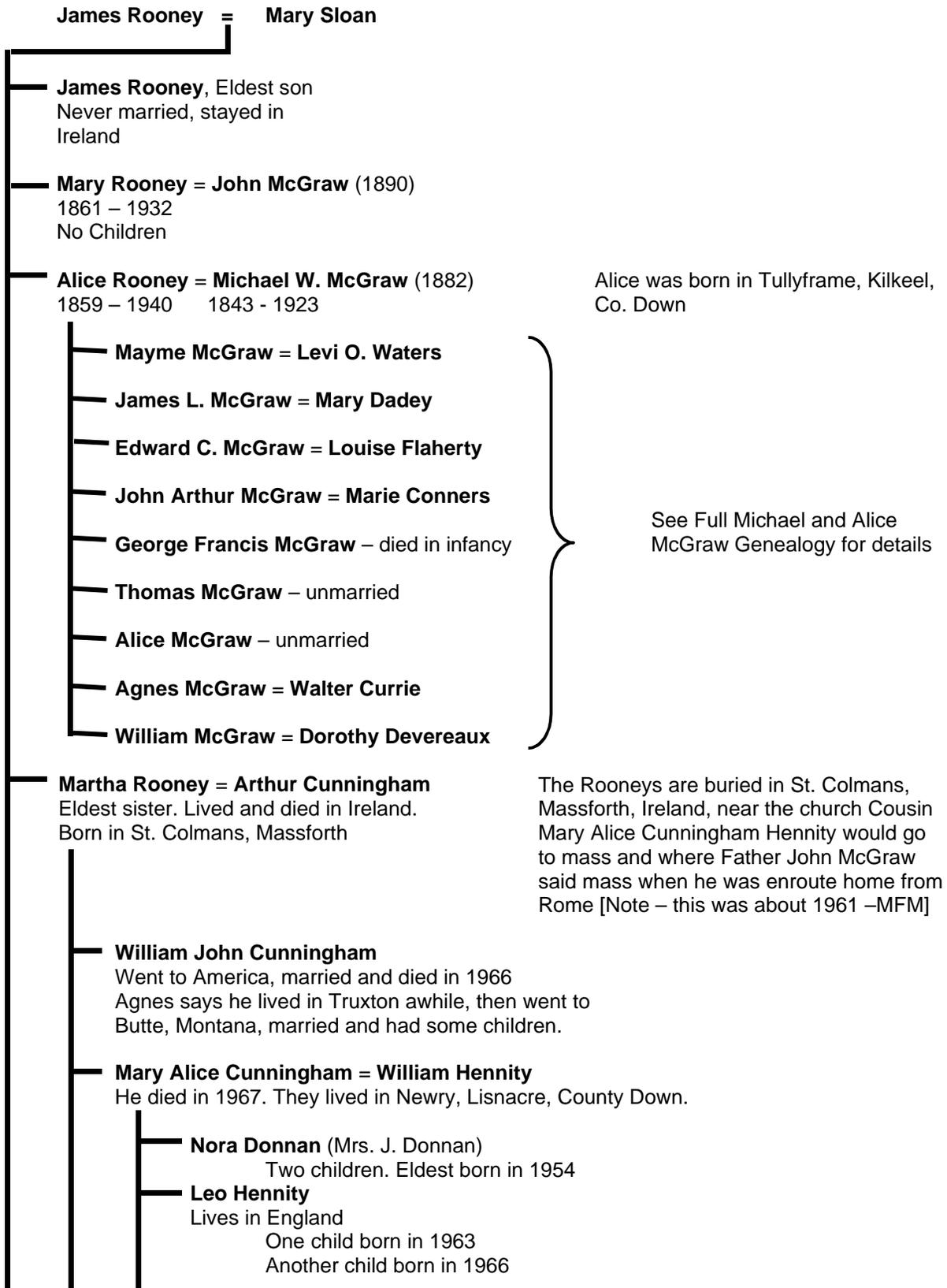
**Donald T. McGraw** m. (1) Evelyn Northrup (1954); (2) Suzanne Tobin (after 1969)  
1929-1994

- With (1) Evelyn Northrup
  - Pamela Ann McGraw m. Ronald W. **Gianni** (1980)  
1960                      1952
    - Nicholas A. Gianni – 1981
    - Melissa A. Gianni – 1983
    - Kristen M. Gianni – 1985
  - **Thomas Michael McGraw** m. Cheryl A. ? (1986)  
1963                      1959
    - Katie A. McGraw – 1991
    - **Matthew T. McGraw** – 1996
  - **Stephen Jay McGraw** – 1964
  - Theresa Marie McGraw m. Alan H. **Taylor** (1982)





## The Rooneys of County Down, Ireland



**William John Hennity**

A son born in 1957

**Arthur Cunningham**

Never married. Still alive in 1970.

**John Rooney**

Went to America. Went back to Ireland for a visit and returned to America  
He died in a railroad accident in East Homer and is buried in the McGraw  
family plot in the Catholic Cemetery in Truxton. Year was 1913.

### **The Rooney Family Story**

Connection: Michael W. McGraw married Alice Rooney in 1882 and his brother, John W.  
McGraw married Alice's sister Mary as his second wife in 1890.

From Agnes McGraw Currie – Sept. 2, 1969

"The only relatives (first cousin, Mary Alice) we know live in or near Newry in North Ireland. That is where Grandma (my Mother) [Alice Rooney McGraw] came from. They lived there on a small farm that her parents, and I think her grandparents, owned. The last letter I had from her and she had been very ill, and had to go live with her daughter in Kilkeel. We were there at her daughter's when we were in Ireland. Nice apartment."

"She, the mother, Mary Alice Hennity is a daughter of my mother's sister. Mother had two sisters and two brothers. Aunt Mary who came to Truxton after mother did and married Uncle John (father's brother [Michael W. McGraw]), the father of John J. McGraw (ballplayer). The other sister was the oldest and she stayed in Ireland and is the mother of Mary Alice, and a son who came to Truxton and then went out west, and no one has heard from him since. Mary Alice married William Hennity and their children are Nora and Leo. Nora had two small children about 3 and 2. Their son Leo and wife came while we were there<sup>72</sup> and they (had) a baby about 9 months."

Follow up letter: From Lucy Waters Sprague – September 24, 1969

"Mary Alice Hennity is our first cousin on Mom's side (Rooney). Mom's sister, Martha married a Cunningham. She had two brothers, Artie, never married, whom we met at Nora's apt., and Willie John who came over and lived at our home on the North Road, Truxton, then went out to Butte, Montana, and got married and had some children. I believe his wife used to write at first but that was a long time ago."

"Mary Alice did not move in with Nora until after her husband died... Nora's husband is a fisherman for some concern. Her brother went to England and works there. The other boy was married and had a son and came to the house when we were there along with his wife and baby..."

"Our cousin Mary Alice, lived in Newry, not in the city, but out in the country. The address we wrote to was 'Newry, Lisnacree, Co. Down, Ireland.' Kilkeel is a village just about a mile cross lots from their house. It is on the ocean and right on the border of North and South Ireland (or Erie)."

"We hired a taxi to take us from Newry, where we went on the train from Dublin, and stayed overnight. It was about a half or three-quarters of an hour ride to Mary Alice's home. We had the taxi wait while we visited them. Then he came back and took us and Mary Alice to Nora's apt. in Kilkeel. Then he waited and took us back to Newry for the night. We left the next morning for Dublin on the train."

From Lucy Waters Sprague

Lucy Waters Sprague corresponded with her mother's (Mayme McGraw Waters) cousin, Mary Alice, in Ireland. "She lived with her daughter Nora. After she died, there was no more correspondence. Nora would not write. My letters did not come back, but neither were they answered."

The last correspondence was in 1970. Lucy sent her letters to Mrs. William Hennity (Mary Alice) c/o her daughter Nora:

Mrs. J. Donnan  
26 McGoldrick Villas  
Derryogue, Kilkeel  
Co. Down, North Ireland

"Msgr. John McGraw was ordained in Rome, Italy. Mother (Mayme), Uncle Jim (James Leo McGraw) and Aunt Mary (Mary Dady McGraw) and Aunt Agnes (Agnes McGraw Currie) went over for the ordination. They returned by way of Ireland and Father John said mass there."

Letter Lucy received from Ireland

26 McGoldrick Villas  
Derryogue, Kilkeel  
23-2-70

My Dear Cousin & Family:

In reply to your very welcome letter and Christmas card received some time ago. Sorry to be so long in answering but you realize how it is at that time. I am not so active as I used to be and sometimes forgetful.

Pleased to hear about your family and that all are quite well. My family are all doing fine. T.G. Nora's two eldest are 16 years and William John's boy is 13 years. Leo's children are small yet. The eldest is seven and the next four.

You asked me about some names of your grandmother's family. Her mother's maiden name was Mary Sloan. Father's, James Rooney. They had five of a family. Eldest son, James Rooney. He never married. Eldest daughter, Mary Rooney. She went to America and married John McGraw. Your grandmother, Alice Rooney, who married Michael McGraw. My mother, Martha Rooney, who married Arthur Cunningham, and last John Rooney who went to America, came back on a visit, returned to America, and died.

I am sorry I can't tell you anything about your Grandfather's family. My mother used to tell us all the news but it is so long ago I don't remember.

My mother had three of us. William John, who went to America, married, died four years ago. (Myself) Mary Alice, who married William Hennity. He died three years ago. And Arthur who never married but is still alive on his own.

How the years go by and we never seem to notice until old age comes. Please write soon again as I miss your mother's letters very much.

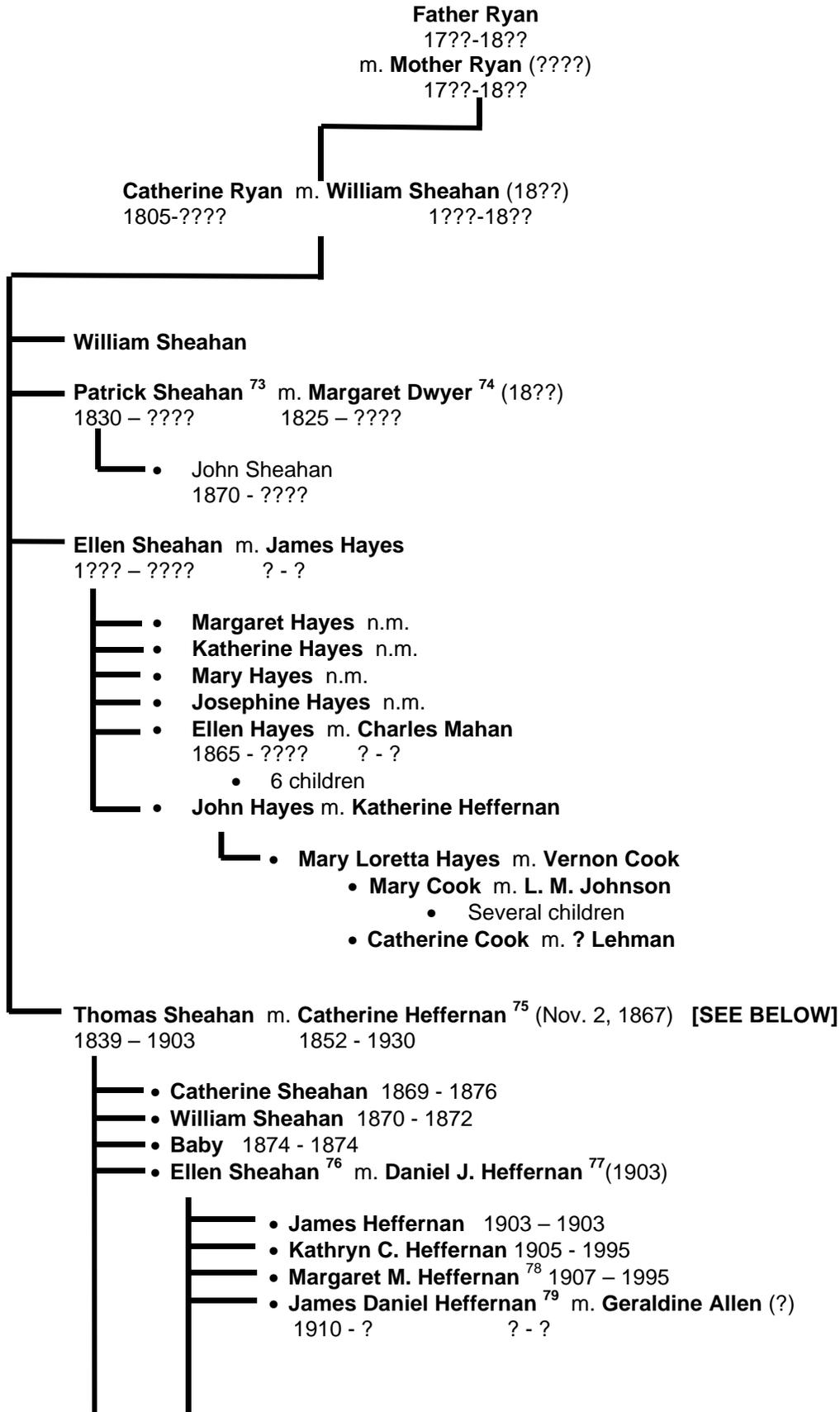
The Rooneys are buried here in St. Colmans, Massforth, the church where we go to mass on Sundays, and where Father John McGraw said mass when he was here on his way home from Rome.

With Love,  
God Bless.

Mary Alice (signed)

How many of a family have you and how many girls?

# The Ryan, Sheahan, Heffernan and Donnelly Families





## Thomas Sheahan – Cousin of Michael and John McGraw

<p><b>Thomas Sheahan</b>          b. 1839 in Ireland,          d. 1903. Buried in the Catholic Cemetery (St. James) in Cazenovia, Madison Co., NY.</p>	=	<p><b>Catherine Heffron (Heffernan)</b>          b. 1852, m. Nov. 2, 1867          Witnesses: <b>John McGrath</b> and <b>Kate Heffron</b>          Priest: Patrick C. Brady          Died 1930. Buried in the Catholic Cemetery (St. James) in Cazenovia, Madison Co., NY.</p>
	—	<p><b>Catherine Sheahan</b>          b. May 30, 1870, bap. June 5, 1870          Sp. <b>Pat Heffron</b> and Catherine Madden          d. 1876. Buried in the Catholic Cemetery (St. James) in Cazenovia, Madison Co., NY.</p>
	—	<p><b>William Sheahan</b>          b. Oct. 15, 1871, bap. at Cuyler, Cortland Co. October 20, 1871          Sp: <b>John Heffron</b> and <b>Bridget Heffron</b>          d. 1873. Buried in the Catholic Cemetery (St. James) in Cazenovia, Madison Co., NY.</p>
	—	<p><b>Thomas J. Sheahan</b>          b. 1879,          d. 1903. Buried in the Catholic Cemetery (St. James) in Cazenovia, Madison Co., NY.</p>
	—	<p><b>Margaret M. Sheahan</b>          b. 1883,          d. 1899. Buried in the Catholic Cemetery (St. James) in Cazenovia, Madison Co., NY.</p>
	—	<p><b>Edward Sheahan</b></p>

Connection: Thomas Sheahan was the son of William and Catherine Ryan Sheahan. He was one of the owners of the Kettlebail Road property who was foreclosed August 1874 along with Edmond, Michael and John McGraw.

The records are from the St. James Catholic Church records, Cazenovia, NY. They were transcribed by Dick Barr of Syracuse, NY. The apparent duplication below has not been explained.

1713. **SHEHAN**, William, son of Thomas SHEHAN and Kate HEFFRON, born 15 October 1871 at Cuyler [Cortland County], baptized 20 October 1871. Sponsors: John Heffron and Bridget Heffron. Priest: P. C. Brady.

1716. **SHEHAN**, William, son of Thomas SHEHAN and Kate HEFFRON, born 12 October 1871, baptized 15 November 1871, at Cazenovia. Sponsors: John and Bridget Heffron. Priest: P. C. Brady.

**Thomas Heffernan**  
b. 1815; d. 1864  
Buried St. James Cemetery,  
Cazenovia, NY

=

**Ellen Duggan**  
b. 1824; d. 1907  
Buried St. James Cemetery, Cazenovia, NY

**Timothy Heffernan** of Syracuse, NY  
b. 1847; d. 1921

**Patrick Heffernan** of Cazenovia, NY  
b. 1848; d. 1920

**John Heffernan** of Syracuse, NY  
b. 1850; d. 1920

**Catherine "Kate" Heffernan** of Fabius, NY  
b. 1852; d. 1930  
m. Thomas Sheahan Nov. 2, 1867  
Buried in the Catholic Cemetery (St. James) in  
Cazenovia, Madison Co., NY.

**Edward Heffernan** of Cazenovia and Fabius, NY  
b. 1859; d. 1938

**Norah Heffernan Donnelly** of Canastota, NY  
b. 1862; d. 1958. Buried in the Catholic Cemetery (St.  
James) in Cazenovia, Madison Co., NY.

Thomas John Donnelly (1850-1928) and Norah Heffernan Donnelly (1862-1958) about 1890 in Madison County, New York. These are two of Bridgette Donnelly's 16 great-great-grandparents. Source: Sharlotte Kathleen Bridgettte Neely Donnelly, Cincinnati, OH (donnelly@one.net).



Six of the children of Ellen Dugan and Thomas Heffernan about 1919 at a family reunion at Daniel Heffernan's home in Fabius, NY. From left to right are: **Catherine ("Kate") Heffernan Sheahan (1852-1930) of Fabius, NY**; Timothy Heffernan (1847-1921) of Syracuse, NY; Patrick Heffernan (1848-1920) of Cazenovia, NY; Edward Heffernan (1859-1938) of Cazenovia & Fabius, NY; John Heffernan (1850-1920) of Syracuse, NY; and Norah Heffernan Donnelly (1862-1958) of Canastota, NY.



**Thomas John Donnelly**  
 b. 1850 Newark, NJ  
 d. Mar 15, 1928 Canastota, NY  
 Buried in family plot in  
 Cazenovia.

=

**Norah Heffernan**  
 b. 1861  
 d. 1958  
 Buried in the Catholic Cemetery (St. James) in  
 Cazenovia, Madison Co., NY.

**Mrs. Sherman Deitz** of Rochester, NY

**Mary Donnelly** of Syracuse, NY  
 b. Dec. 8, 1884; bap. Dec. 14, 1884  
 m. Edward Barrett of Scranton, PA

**Nora Donnelly**  
 b. Feb. 16, 1887; bap. Feb. 18, 1887

**John D. Donnelly** of Syracuse, NY  
 b. June 9, 1890; bap. June 15, 1890  
 m. Catherine M. Costigan May 15, 1918, Cathedral,  
 Syracuse, NY.

**Thomas J. Donnelly, Jr.**, of Indianapolis, Ind.  
 b. 1900

**Mrs. William Heintz** of Canastota

Source: Thomas J. Donnelly obituary March 15, 1928. St. James parish records, Cazenovia, NY.  
 Mrs. Sherman Deitz might be Ellen Donnelly. Mrs. William Heintz might be Catherine Donnelly.

**Thomas DONNELLY and Hanorah HEFFERNAN**

**2130. DONNELLY, Ellen**

born 14 February 1883, baptized 18 February 1883  
Sponsors: Thomas Heffernan and Agnes Heffernan; Priest: J. L. Reilly

**2175. DONNELLY, Mary**

born 8 December 1884, baptized 14 December 1884  
Sponsors: Thomas Heffernan and Ellen Dady; Priest: J. L. Reilly

"Married Edward A. BARRETT of Scranton, Pa., in St. Agatha's Church, Canastota, by Rev. D. M. Hennessy."

**2231. DONNELLY, Nora**

born 16 February 1887, baptized 18 February 1887  
Sponsors: Edward Heffernan and Catherine Heffernan; Priest: James L. Meagher

**2318. DONNELLY, John**

born 9 June 1890, baptized 15 June 1890  
Sponsor: Dennis Heffernan; Priest: James L. Meagher

"Married Catherine M. COSTIGAN 5 May 1918, Cathedral, Syracuse, N.Y."

**2358. DONNELLY, Catherine**

born 15 August 1892, baptized 21 August 1892  
Sponsors: James Heffernan and Ellen Sheahan; Priest: J. L. Meagher

The spelling of Hanorah appeared in several variations in these records over the years: Hanorah, Nora, Hanora. Nonie is also another Irish equivalent of Honora although it wasn't used in the case of this person..

**Patrick H. Donnelly and Mary Hullar**

Patrick H. Donnelly

= **Mary Hullar**

Patrick is the right age to  
Be a brother or cousin of  
Thomas Donnelly.

- **Mary Helena Donnelly**  
born 19 September 1874, baptized 29 September 1874  
Sponsors: William and Mary Donnelly
- **Henry Walter Donnelly**  
born 10 August 1876, baptized 10 September 1876  
Sponsors: John Donnelly and Helena Hullar
- **Ann Catherine Donnelly**  
born 10 January 1880, baptized 25 January 1880  
Sponsors: William Flanagan and Margaret Flanagan
- **Mary Elizabeth Donnelly**  
born 27 April 1882, baptized 11 June 1882  
Sponsors: Jacob Hullar and Mary Hullar

## Nicholas DONNELLY and Catharine RYAN

Nicholas Donnelly = Catharine Ryan

Who is Nicholas Donnelly?  
What is his relationship to  
Thomas Donnelly?

**Henry Donnelly**

born 19 October, baptized 21 October 1855  
Sponsors: Martin Peirce and Mary Dinegan

He is old enough to be  
Thomas' uncle.

**Ellen Donnelly**

born 1 December 1857, baptized 19 December 1857  
Sponsors: John Ryan and Ellen Ryan

**Mary Donnelly**

born 9 March, baptized 1 April 1860, at Cazenovia  
Sponsors: Patrick Ryan and Julia Ryan

**Bernard Donnelly**

born 24 May, baptized 1 June 1862, at Cazenovia  
Sponsors: James Shannahan and Mary Donnelly

**Margaret Donnelly**

born 5 Sept. 1864, baptized 18 Sept. 1864, at Cazenovia  
Sponsors: **Bernard Ryan** and Mary Anne Pierce

**Margaret Donnelly**

born 25 September 1866, baptized 14 October 1866.  
Sponsors: John Finn and Margaret Ryan

**Mary Catherine Donnelly**

born 16 Dec. 1869, baptized (blank) Jan. 1870, at  
Cazenovia  
Sponsors: James Roach and Anna Daly

**Elizabeth Agnes Donnelly**

born 19 June 1873, baptized 1 August 1873  
Sponsors: James Daly and Teresa Lynch

**Henry Donnelly**

born 26 March 1877, baptized 14 April 1877  
Sponsors: Edward Heffernan and Mary Ryan

**Joseph Donnelly**

born 23 March 1879, baptized 13 April 1879  
Sponsors: John E. Flanagan and Elizabeth Daley

### Extra DONNELLYs

0112. **DONNELLY, John**, son of William DONNELLY and Anna FLANAGAN,  
baptized 20 October 1854; Sponsors: Martin Pierce and Maria Dunigan; Priest: J. P. Cahill

1886. **DONNELLY, Mary**, daughter of John DONNELLY and Mary LYNCH,  
born 5 March 1876, baptized 2 April 1876  
Sponsors: William Donnelly and Mary Daley; Priest: C. A. Reilly

## The Tobins of Pompey

**John Tobin**  
 b. 1807 in Ireland,  
 d. 1882  
 bur. in Pompey  
 Cemetery.

= **Margaret Ryan**  
 b. 1812 in Ireland,  
 m. March 8, 1854  
 d. 1895, bur. Pompey  
 Cemetery, Pompey, NY

— **Daniel Tobin**  
 b. ~1830 in Ireland

— **Edward Tobin**  
 b. Aug. 6, 1844

— **John Tobin**  
 b. 1847 in Lincklaen,  
 Chenango Co., NY or  
 Ireland.  
 d. 1902 Auburn, NY Bur.  
 Pompey Cemetery, Pompey,  
 NY

— **Patrick Tobin**  
 b. 1849 in Ireland  
 d. 1872. bur. Pompey  
 Cemetery, Pompey, NY

— **Bridget Tobin**  
 b. 1849 in Ireland

= **Mary Ann Lonergan**  
 b. May 1883; dau. of  
 James Lonergan. D. 1901  
 Bur. Pompey Cemetery,  
 Pompey, NY

— **Joseph H. Tobin**  
 b. ~1870

— **Anna Tobin**  
 b. 1871; d. 1872  
 bur. Pompey Cemetery

— **Patrick Charles Tobin** see next  
 b. Sept. 23, 1873 page

— **John Tobin**  
 b. 1875

— **James Tobin**  
 b. 1877

— **Anna Tobin**  
 b. April 4, 1879

— **Mary L. Tobin**  
 b. March 28, 1880

— **George Leo Tobin** = **Pearl Torrey**  
 b. June 15, 1885 b. ~1884

— **Nellie Tobin**  
 b. July 1887

— **Edmund Tobin** = **Effie Putnum**  
 b. 1889 b. ~1889

— **Daniel Tobin**  
 b. 1890

— **Margaret Tobin**  
 b. Aug. 12, 1890, Lincklaen, NY  
 d. July 21, 1974, Syracuse, NY  
 bur. Hillside Cemetery,  
 Georgetown, NY  
 mar. **Merrill Stewart** b.~1880

— **Florence T. Tobin**  
 b. May 25, 1894

**Patrick Charles Tobin**  
b. Sept. 23, 1873, DeRuyter, NY  
mar. ~1898  
d. July 15, 1938  
bur. Pompey Cemetery, Pompey, NY

= **Mary Ellen Turner**  
b. Feb. 1, 1880, Georgetown, NY  
dau. of William Turner and Anna J. Smith  
d. May 4, 1967, Chittenango, NY  
bur. Pompey Cemetery, Pompey, NY

— **Leon John Tobin**  
b. July 14, 1899

— **Lillian Anne Tobin** = **(1) George Staltzner**  
b. April 4, 1901 B: ~1900; d. Apr. 2, 1976  
d. Aug. 3, 1971  
bur. Pompey, NY

(Lived with) **Paul J. Johnson**  
b.~1906; d. June 1, 1972, Syracuse, NY  
bur. St. Agnes Cemetery, Syracuse, NY

— **Harold William Tobin** - See next page  
b. March 27, 1903

— **Lewis Thomas Tobin**  
b. May 27, 1905

— **Alice Gertrude Tobin**  
b. Nov. 6, 1907

— **Doris Tobin**  
b. March 27, 1910

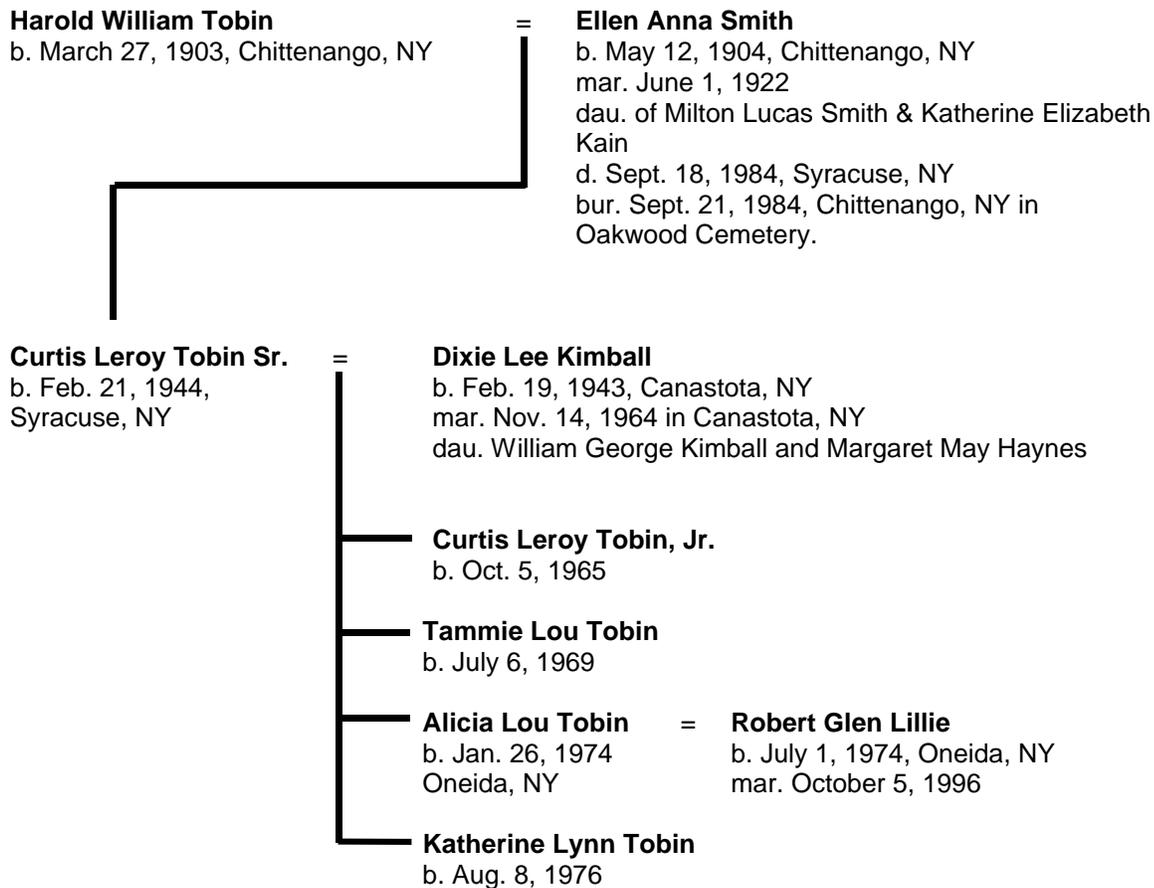
— **Frances Mary Tobin**  
b. May 1, 1912

— **George Edward Tobin** = **Catherine Bernadette White**  
b. July 6, 1914, Chittenango, NY b. ~1914  
d. Dec. 16, 1940, Utica, NY dau. William A. White  
bur. St. Agnes Cemetery,  
Cazenovia, NY.

— **Mary Helen Tobin**  
b. March 31, 1919

— **Agnes Tobin**  
b. May 24, 1920

— **Edmund Francis Tobin**  
b. Sept. 4, 1923



The information above was furnished to me by Curtis L. Tobin, Sr. of Chittenango, NY. His step-gg-grandmother was Margaret Ryan who was the sister of Mary Ryan McGrath. Margaret Ryan was married to John Tobin on March 8, 1854 but all of John were born in Ireland before 1850. There were no recorded children born to Margaret and John Tobin.

There is a Tobin plot in the Catholic Cemetery in Truxton, NY. It is located in the southwest corner of the cemetery and the borders of the plot are marked by small square stones each engraved on the top with the letter "T." There are two grave markers: one is engraved "The Family of Edward – Mary Tobin," while the other is engraved "Katherine M. Tobin, 1890 – 1916." John and Margaret Ryan Tobin had a son Edward (b. Aug. 6, 1844) this might possibly be his family plot but there is no evidence at this time to prove this statement.

Pearl Torrey reference came from 1920 Census Cortland Co., Cuyler T625\1096\Part1\98A 186/192.

These are possible relations of John and Margaret Ryan Tobin.

**John D. Tobin**

b. 1875, d. 1937. Buried in the Catholic Cemetery (St. James) in Cazenovia, Madison Co., NY.

=

**Margaret M. Tobin**

b. 1877, d. 1951. Buried in the Catholic Cemetery (St. James) in Cazenovia, Madison Co., NY.

**Mary E. Tobin**

b. Jan. 1, 1909, d. Nov. 13, 1981. Buried in the Catholic Cemetery (St. James) in Cazenovia, Madison Co., NY.

**Elizabeth J. Tobin**

b. 1913, d. 1972. Buried in the Catholic Cemetery (St. James) in Cazenovia, Madison Co., NY.

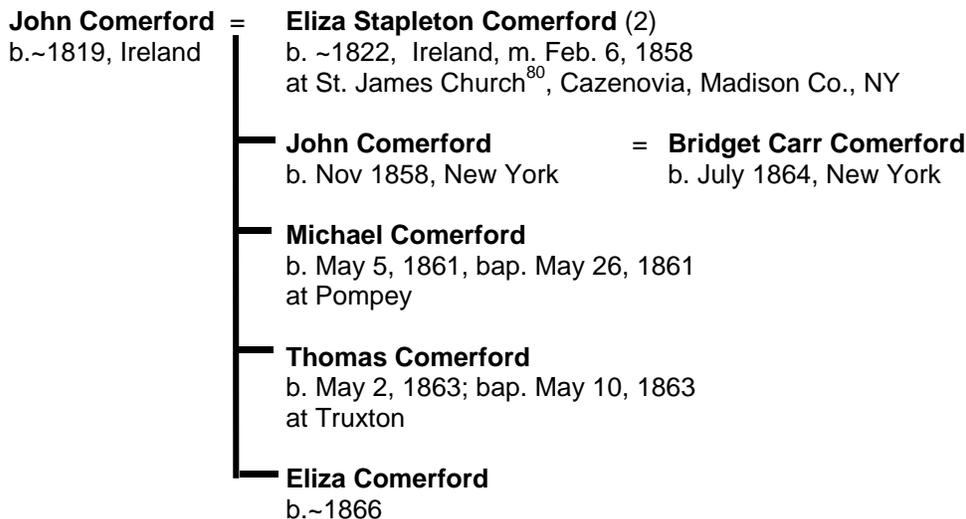
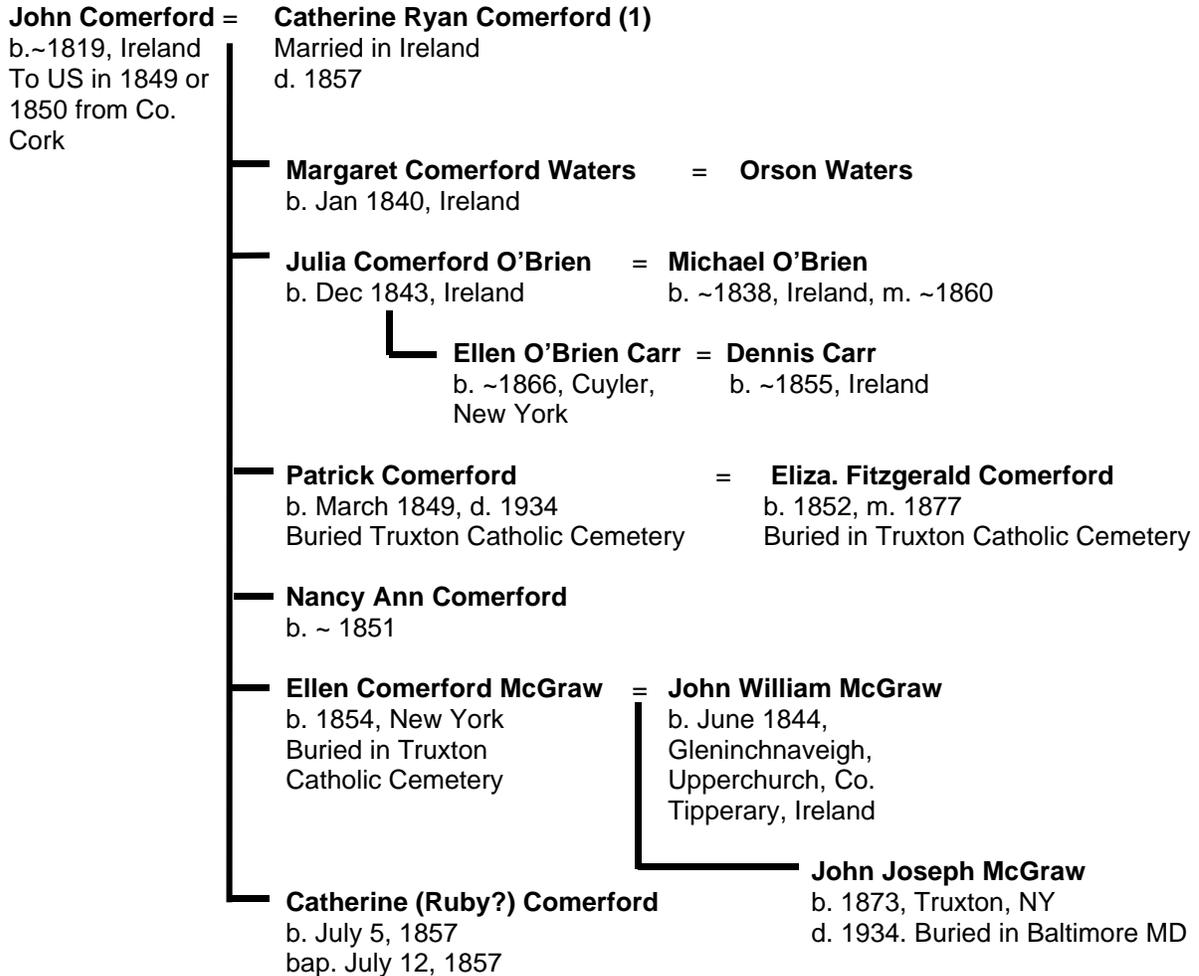
**George E. Tobin**

b. 1914, d. 1940. Buried in the Catholic Cemetery (St. James) in Cazenovia, Madison Co., NY.

**John D. Tobin**

b. 1915, d. 1915. Buried in the Catholic Cemetery (St. James) in Cazenovia, Madison Co., NY.

## John Comerford of Cuyler, Cortland Co.



According to the book on the Comerford family in America the Comerfords of Cortland Co. came to America from Co. Cork, Ireland.

John Comerford was married twice, his first wife was Catherine Ryan and they were married in Ireland prior to ~March 1843 and came to America in 1850. They had children Julia (b. Dec. 1843), and Patrick (b. March 1849) in Ireland and had Ellen (b. 1854) in Fabius, Onondaga Co., NY. Catherine died sometime in 1857, perhaps in childbirth since her last child was born in 1857 and John married Eliza Stapleton the following year. John and Eliza were married on Feb. 6, 1858 at St. James Catholic Church, Cazenovia, Madison Co., NY. Witnesses were Dennis Carr and Bridget Burk and the priest was Michael W. Rooney. The Stapletons of Cazenovia, assuming Eliza was one of them, came from Rossmore, Co. Tipperary.

According to the 1900 census Julia Comerford O'Brien was born in Dec 1843, in Ireland, and claimed to have emigrated from Ireland to the US in 1849. Her younger brother Patrick Comerford, who was also born in Ireland, in March 1849, claimed he emigrated from Ireland to the US in 1850. All these dates are consistent.

John and his second wife Eliza Stapleton Comerford had a son John born in Nov. 1858. In 1870 John and Eliza had only Michael, John and Eliza living with them. According to the 1870 census the Comerfords and the O'Briens were living on adjacent farms on Lot #65, on the western border of the town of Cuyler. Michael O'Brien was living there in 1860 according to the census taken that year. Julia Comerford and Michael O'Brien were probably married in 1860 since their oldest child was born in 1861. At some point prior to 1870 the O'Brien's moved onto the Cuyler farm on Lot #65 next to Julia's family.

The Michael O'Brien family might have been one of the neighbors of the Edmond McGraw family in Cuyler in the 1860s if they arrived prior to January 1868 when Edmond and his family purchased land in the township of Truxton and moved there. It was through the Comerfords that the McGraw, O'Brien, Carr, Ryan and Waters families were connected. In the 1860s they were living close together on top of Morgan Hill on the western edge of the Town of Cuyler.

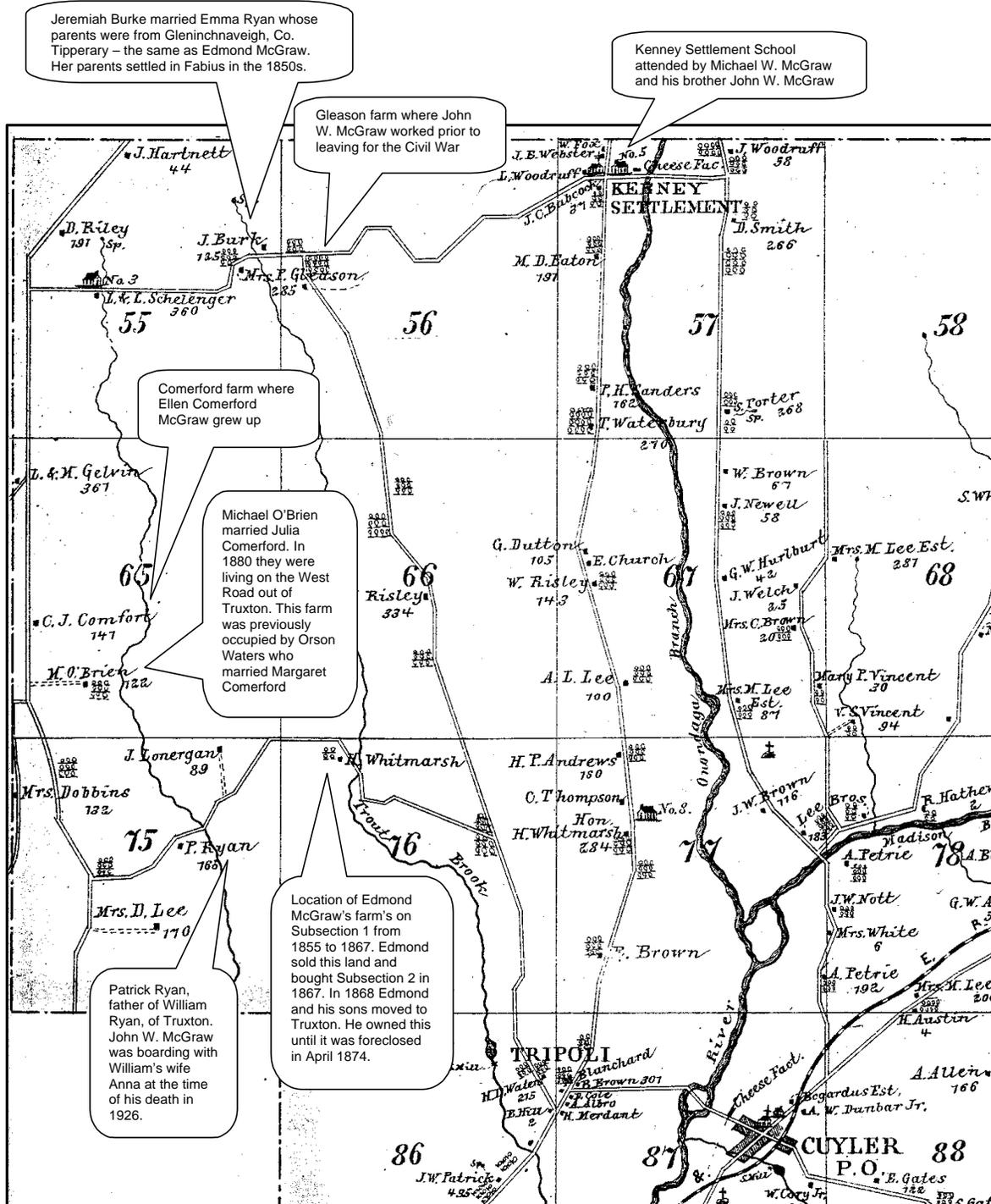
The Town of Cuyler Map, Cortland County, from 1876 is shown below. The M. O'Brien shown above in 1876 was listed as living in the township of Truxton in the 1880 census. The O'Brien family must have moved between 1876 and June 1880. Based on the comparison of the 1880 census and the 1876 map for township of Truxton, the M. O'Brien family was living on the eastern branch of the West Road out of Truxton in 1880.

The Comerford children Michael, John and Eliza were all living with relatives in 1880. Their parents John and Eliza Comerford are not found in the 1880 census, indicating they probably died prior to the taking of the 1880 census and where they were buried is unknown. It isn't known if John and Eliza had any other children after Eliza who was born in ~1866. There had to be other children to support the connections to the Waters family (Margaret Comerford) and to the William Ryan family where his wife Anna Ryan was related to the Comerford family according to Doug Currie.

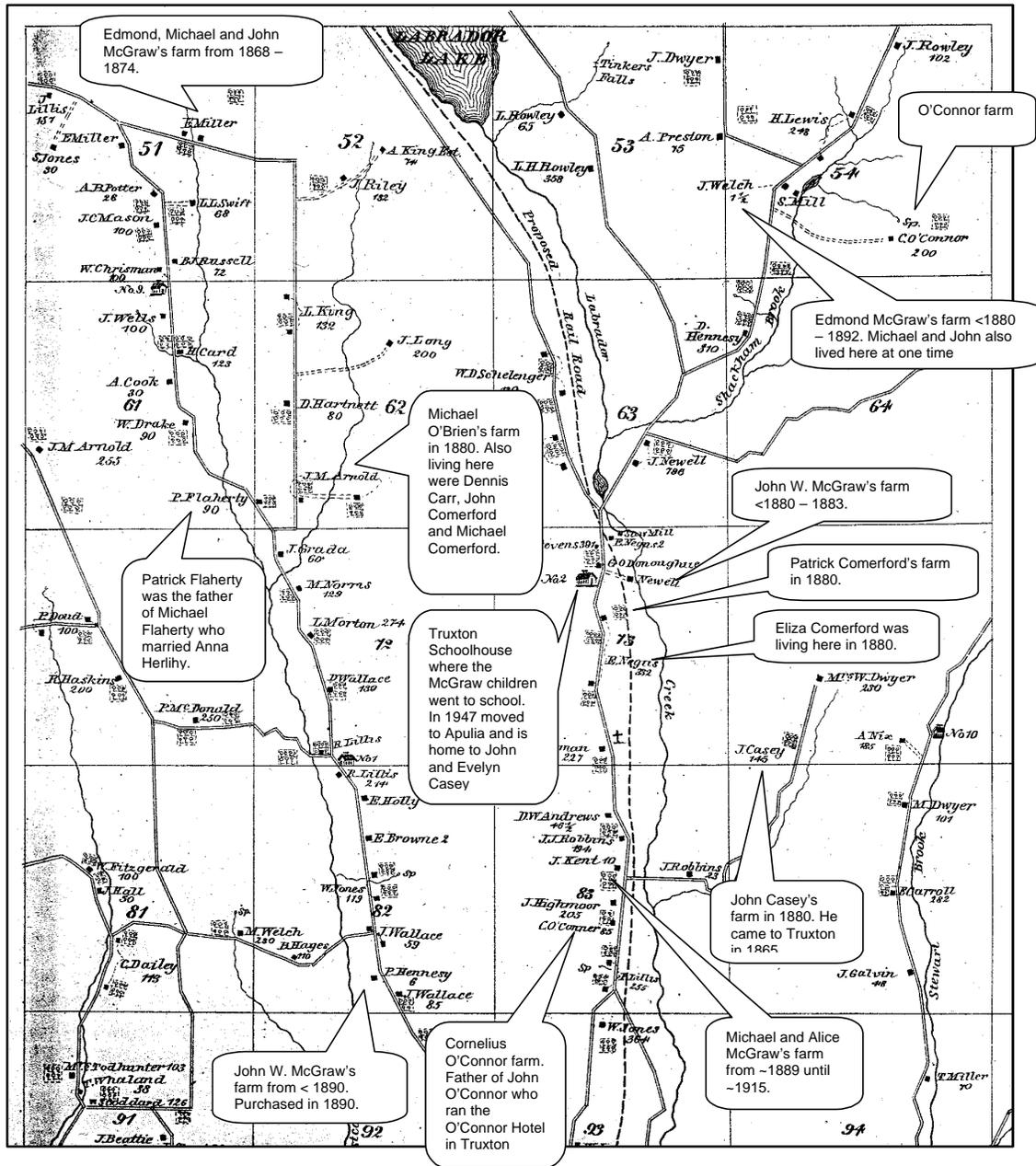
#### OPEN QUESTIONS:

1. When did John Comerford (Sr.) die and where is he buried?
2. Where is Catherine Ryan Comerford buried?
3. When did Eliza Stapleton Comerford die and where is she buried?
4. Could John and Eliza have had more children after Eliza (b. ~1866)

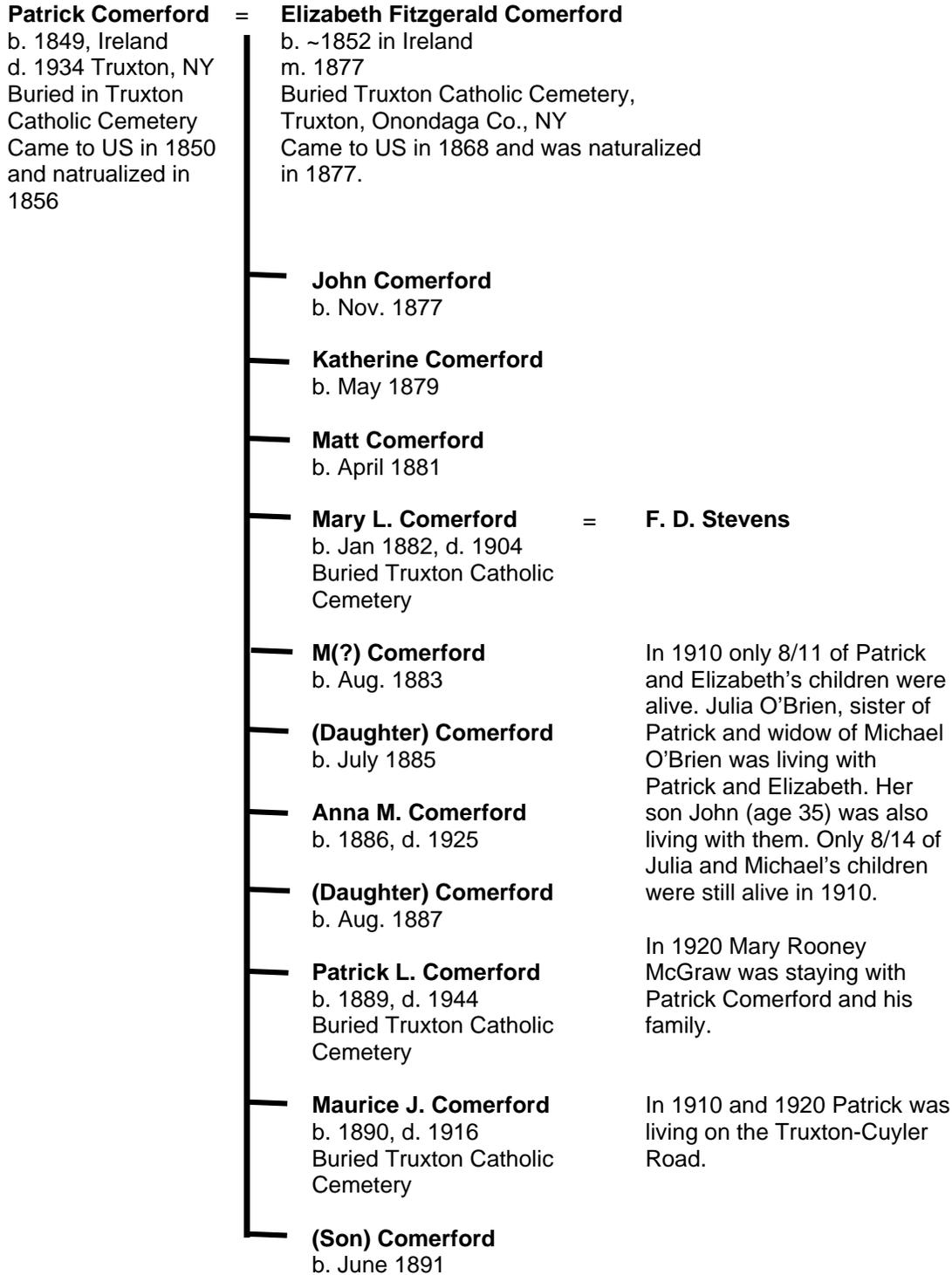
# The Families Living in the Cuyler Area Around 1880



# Families in the area north of the village of Truxton in 1880



## John Comerford's sons Patrick and John



Source: 1910 Census – Cortland Co., Truxton – T624\934\Part2\309B 184/192

**John Comerford** = **Bridget Carr Comerford**  
 b. Nov 1860, d. 1953 Truxton, NY Buried Truxton Catholic Cemetery  
 b. July 1864, m. ~1882 d. 1927  
 Buried Truxton Catholic Cemetery, Truxton, Onondaga Co., NY

— **Mary E. Comerford** In 1920 9/12 children were still living.  
 b. 1882, d. 1883  
 Buried Truxton Catholic Cemetery

— **Nora R. Comerford – never married**  
 b. May 1884, d. 1971  
 Buried Truxton Catholic Cemetery

— **Elizabeth F. Comerford** = **Harry Kenney**  
 b. Dec. 1885

— **Mary Ettills(?) Comerford** = **(?) Chapman**  
 b. April 1887, d. 1943  
 Buried Truxton Catholic Cemetery (Mary C. Chapman)

— **Lisa Comerford**  
 b. July 1889

— **Tereasa Comerford** = **Bill Reilly**  
 b. Aug. 1891

— **Catherine Comerford** = **Tom Walpole**  
 b. ~1890

— **Dennis L. Comerford** = **Mildred Morse**  
 b. Apr. 1893, d. 1961  
 Buried Truxton Catholic Cemetery

— **Anna Josephine Comerford** = **Curtis Lee Secor**  
 b. Jan. 1895, d. 1975 Buried Truxton Catholic Cemetery.  
 Buried Truxton Catholic Cemetery (Josephine C. Secor)

— **Agnes J. Comerford**  
 b. 1897, d. 1897  
 Buried Truxton Catholic Cemetery

— **Helen Comerford** = **Ralph Henry**  
 b. June 1899, d. 1984  
 Buried Truxton Catholic Cemetery (Helen C. Henry)

— **John Earl Comerford** = **Mary Angier**  
 b. ~1903

Source: 1900 Census and 1920 Census – Cortland Co., Truxton T625\1096\Part1\302A 151/159





## The Carrs of Truxton - Dennis and Ellen Carr & Family



This picture of the Dennis Carr and Ellen O'Brien Carr family was from Kathleen Siciliano, granddaughter of Michael Thomas Carr who is sitting in the front row in this picture of the Carr family taken in 1910. This is the younger of the two Dennis Carrs living in the Truxton area.

In the front row left to right is Ellen O'Brien Carr, daughter of Julia Comerford and Michael O'Brien, Michael Thomas Carr, second youngest and Kathleen's grandfather, on the end of the first row is Dennis Carr. Behind Michael is his brother John, the youngest member of the family.

In the second row is Lena Carr, the third oldest, who was a nurse and never married; Josephine (Kelly), second oldest, she was also a nurse, married a lawyer, had two adopted children and lived in New York City; William Carr, the oldest, was thrown out or left home at about age 16 and moved to Indiana where he married but had no children; Mary Carr (Harrington), fourth oldest, spent most of her life in Auburn where she had two children. Mary was the last to survive of Ellen and Dennis Carr's children. She died in December 1978 just one month after her brother Michael.

Ellen O'Brien Carr and John J. McGraw (the ballplayer) were first cousins and if you compare Ellen to a picture of John J. McGraw in his older years you will notice a family resemblance that has been called the "Comerford look." Young Michael, seated in the front row, bears a striking resemblance to a young John J. McGraw. Lena also bears a resemblance to a young John J. McGraw as does Mary. Where as John, Josephine and William bear more of a resemblance to the Carr side of the family.

John Comerford, of Fayetteville, NY, (not related to the Truxton Comerfords as far as we know) wrote me the following in the summer of 2001:

“As a retired physician, I have been interested in the common facial resemblance of all the Comerfords. On one of our trips (to Ireland) we visited an aged cousin of Barney’s at Coolgreany, Castlewarren, Co. Kilkenny. His name was Tom Comerford and he greeted me at the door of his little bungalow up in the hills by peering at my face and announcing ‘I know ye be a Comerford; ye got the big nose and the beady eyes!’ And almost every one I’ve met has had the same features.”

Jack Carr, Kathleen Siciliano’s uncle, reported a similar experience when he visited Truxton a few months ago (spring 2001).

### **Dennis Carr, the elder**

There was an older Dennis Carr also living in the area who was related to the Dennis Carr in the picture on the previous page. In the 1880 Census we find Dennis Carr (63), wife Bridget Carr (52) and children: Daniel (20), Bridget (16) and Thomas (11) living in Truxton township. This Dennis emigrated to America in 1849 and his wife Bridget emigrated in 1847. Their daughter Bridget (b. July 1864) married John Comerford in 1881. In 1900 both Dennis Carr and his wife Bridget were living on the farm of their son-in-law John Comerford in the Truxton township.

Also in 1880 the younger Dennis Carr (25) was a boarder on the farm of Michael O’Brien (43) and his wife Julia Comerford O’Brien (36). Dennis Carr had emigrated from Ireland in 1878. Also living on this same farm in 1880 was Michael O’Brien’s 14 year old daughter Ellen who was to become Dennis’ wife in 1881. Julia’s step brothers John(21) and Michael(~19) Comerford were also boarders on the O’Brien farm in 1880.

This John Comerford was the son of John and Eliza Comerford (arrived in America in 1850) who were living two farms away from Michael O’Brien’s farm in 1870 in the Township of Cuyler. John’s sister was Ellen Comerford who married John W. McGraw (son of Edmond and Mary McGraw) in 1870. John and Ellen McGraw’s second born child was John J. McGraw who was the famous manager of the New York Giants for 30 years. This would make Ellen O’Brien Carr and John J. McGraw first cousins.

Here we have the closeness of the O’Brien and Comerford farms in Cuyler township in 1870 and two of the Comerford boys boarding at the O’Brien farm in Truxton township in 1880.

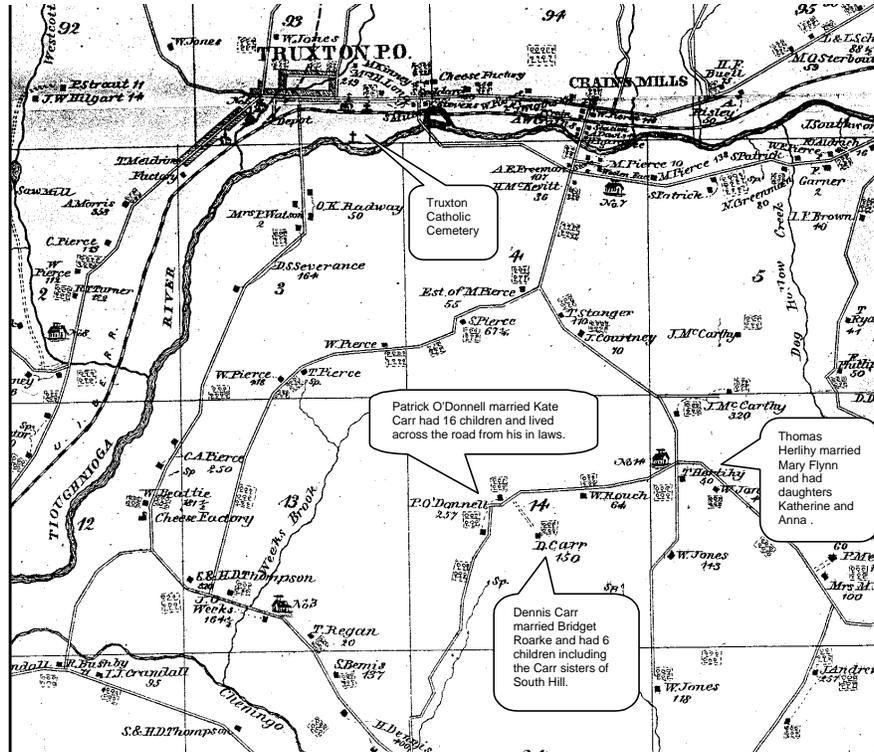
There was a relationship between the two Dennis Carrs with the elder Dennis being an uncle to the younger. As a final connection the Dennis Carr (younger) family and the John Comerford families share a common set of plots in the Truxton Catholic Cemetery. In addition, on the north side of the Carr monument is engraved:

“Daniel J.  
son of Dennis & Bridget Carr  
died  
Feb. 22, 1881  
Aged 21 yrs. 1 mo.  
- [A hard to decipher verse]  
May his soul rest in peace, Amen”

Daniel J. Carr was the son of the older Dennis Carr and his wife Bridget. With this final connection, found in the Truxton Catholic Cemetery, we have the older Dennis Carr, the younger Dennis Carr and the Comerfords tied together.

Note: The name Comerford gets spelled many ways: Comfort, Comefort, Comerfort and Comerford. Originally I had spelled the name as I found it in the various sources but the true spelling would be the one found on the gravestones and in signed documents – Comerford.

I gathered the Carr and Comerford information during a visit to Truxton in July 1999. At the time I noticed the close connection between the Carrs and Comerfords but didn't have the time or the necessary information to straighten out the situation. In fact, until I came across Jack Carr's post in May 2001 on the CARR List dated 05/19/1999 – "NY Carr's" I hadn't gone back to look at the information. But a re-examination was long overdue, especially since I was planning a trip back to the Cortland area in June 2001.



This 1876 map of the Truxton area shows the farm of the senior Dennis Carr who had a double connection to the Comerford family: through his daughter Bridget marrying John Comerford and his nephew Dennis marrying Ellen O'Brien whose mother was Julia Comerford O'Brien (half sister) to John Comerford.

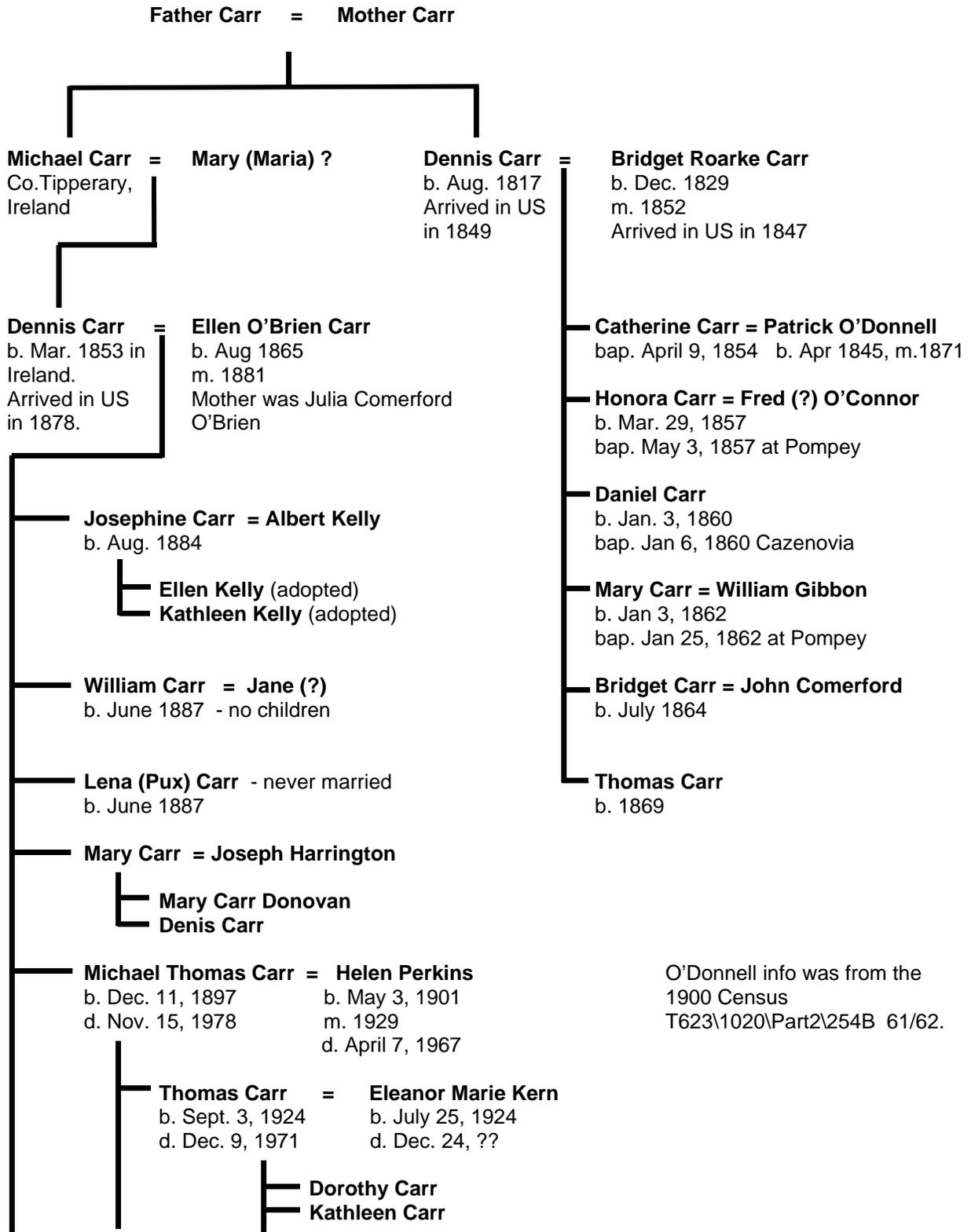
There were several Carr families living in the Truxton and Cuyler townships, in Cortland County, between 1850 and 1900. This family below was a different Carr family, unrelated to the two Dennis Carrs mentioned above. They are buried in the larger Protestant Cemetery in the Truxton township on Route 13 just east of the village of Truxton. This is adjacent to and east of the smaller Truxton (St. Patrick's) Catholic Cemetery.

Delevan W. Carr, d. Jan. 3, 1897, aged 78 yrs.

Lovinia D. Buck wife of Delevan, d. June 5, 1880, aged 58 yrs. 7 mo. 5 days.

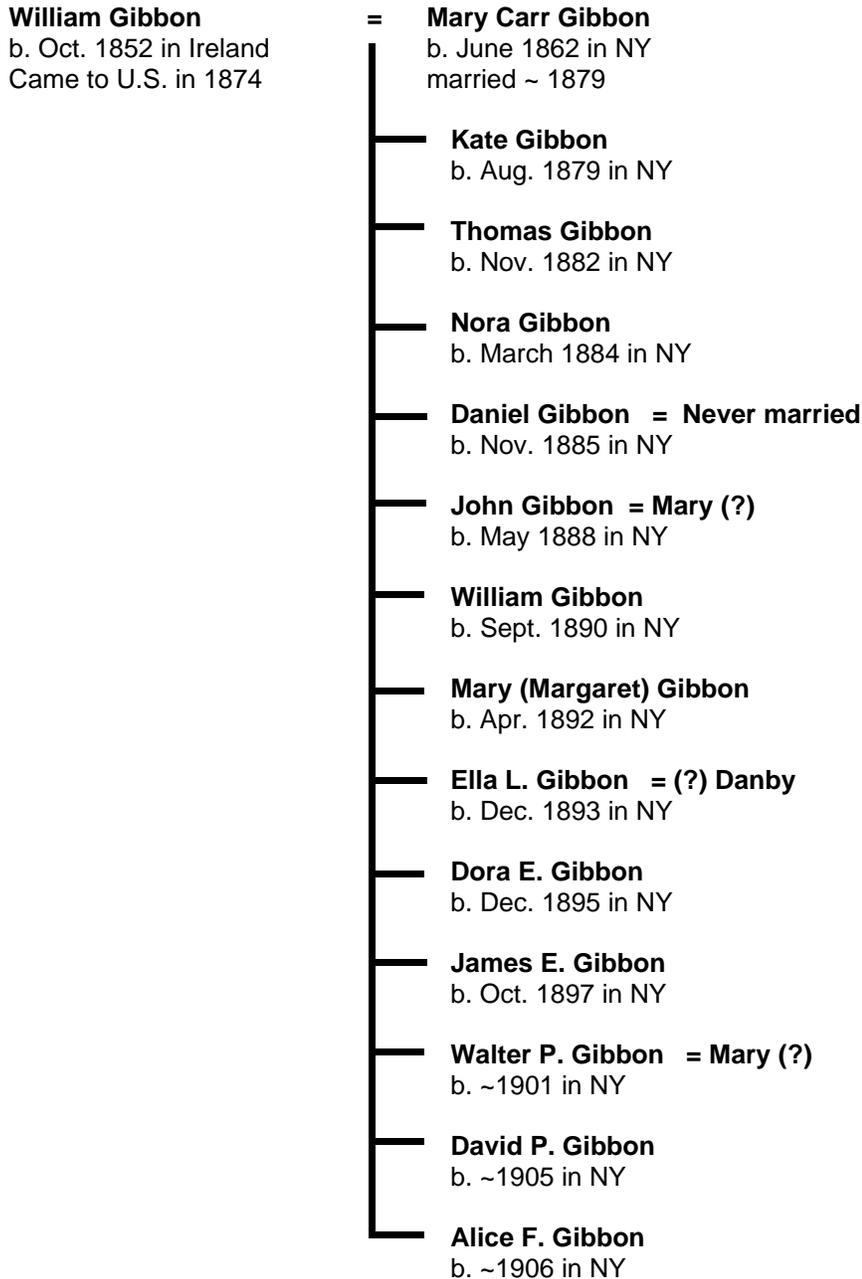
OPEN QUESTION: Mary Agnes McGraw married Harvey Carr – was he from this family?

## The Dennis Carr Families of Cortland County





## The William Gibbon Family



Source: 1880 Census – Cortland Co., Truxton T9\822\PART1\234A 39/48 June 4, 1880  
 1900 Census – Cortland Co., Truxton T623\1020\PART2\254A  
 1910 Census – Cortland Co., Truxton T624\934\Part2\303B 42/44 William T. Gibbins.

William Gibbon arrived in the U.S. in 1874. He married Mary Carr of South Hill in 1879. As of June 4, 1900 Mary Carr Gibbon had given birth to 12 children and 11 of them were still living. An older 11<sup>th</sup> child must have left home by the time of the 1900 census and one of their children must have died. According to Josephine French of Truxton, NY they had a total of 16 children before they were done. In 1910 13 out of 14 children were still living. Mary Carr was one of the four Carr Sisters from South Hill. The name in the 1910 census was Gibbins as opposed to Gibbon.

John Gibbon married a lady whose first name was Mary but Helena did not remember her name. They had three daughters who lived in Tully at one time but they don't live their anymore. Ella L. Gibbon married a man named Danby. Walter P. Gibbon married a lady named Mary (?). Her maiden name might have been Hawkes.

## The Patrick O'Donnell Family of South Hill

<p><b>Patrick O'Donnell</b> b. Apr. 1845 in Ireland Came to U.S. in 1849</p>	<p>=</p>	<p><b>Kate Carr O'Donnell</b> b. Apr. 1854 in N.Y. m. 1871</p>
	<p>—</p>	<p><b>Moriah O'Donnell</b>      = <b>John Reilly</b> b. ~1872 in NY              (related to the Casey family)</p>
	<p>—</p>	<p><b>Thomas O'Donnell</b> b. ~1874 in NY Died young.</p>
	<p>—</p>	<p><b>Kitty (Catherine) O'Donnell</b> = <b>Louis Crandall</b> b. June 1875 in NY</p>
	<p>—</p>	<p><b>Elizabeth O'Donnell</b> b. ~1877 in NY</p>
	<p>—</p>	<p><b>Margaret O'Donnell</b> = (1) (?) <b>Murphy</b> – died young b. 1879 in NY              = (2) (?)</p>
	<p>—</p>	<p><b>D... O'Donnell</b> b. May 1881 in NY</p>
	<p>—</p>	<p><b>Isabell O'Donnell</b>      - <b>Never married</b> b. Apr. 1883 in NY</p>
	<p>—</p>	<p><b>Frank O'Donnell</b>      = <b>May (?)</b> b. Oct 1885 in NY</p>
	<p>—</p>	<p><b>Hugh O'Donnell</b>      - <b>Never married</b> b. Dec. 1887 in NY</p>
	<p>—</p>	<p><b>Alice O'Donnell</b>      = <b>Hugh Johnston</b> b. Dec. 1889 in NY</p>
	<p>—</p>	<p><b>Anna O'Donnell</b>      = <b>William Farrell</b> b. Dec. 1891 in NY (see note below for the 1900 census)</p>
	<p>—</p>	<p><b>Emmit P. O'Donnell</b> = <b>Patricia H. O'Connor</b> b. Apr. 1894 in NY (see note below for the 1900 census)</p>
	<p>—</p>	<p><b>Albert A. O'Donnell</b> - <b>Never married</b> b. July 1895 in NY</p>
	<p>—</p>	<p><b>Gertrude L. O'Donnell</b> = <b>Daniel P. Hartnett</b> b. Oct. 1898 in NY              b. July 1896 in NY</p>

1880 Census – Cortland Co. T9\822\PART1\  
Truxton

235A – 55/65 (or 62) Patrick O'Donnell

**1900 Census - Cortland Co. T623\1020\Part2\**

Truxton

254B, 61/62. Note: Anna, or at least it appears to be Anna, is described as a "son" but is listed as a female in the census. Emma is really Emmitt and he is listed as a daughter. This was one confused census enumerator.

**1910 Census – Cortland Co. T624\934\Part2**

Truxton

303B – 43/45 Patrick O'Donnell; 42/44 William T. Gibbins

**1920 Census – Cortland Co. T625\1096\Part1**

Truxton

302B – 164/172 Patrick O'Donnell

Patrick O'Donnell was born in Ireland as were both his parents. One or both parents probably came to the U.S. in 1849 when Patrick was four years old. Kate Carr O'Donnell was born in the tri-county area and both her parents were born in Ireland. The 1900 and 1920 census records give Patrick's year of immigration as 1849 while the 1910 census gave 1850.

In 1876 Patrick O'Donnell and his family were living on South Hill across the road from his mother and father-in-law, Bridget and Dennis Carr. Their family tree shown above was constructed by combining the 1880 and 1900 census information. They had 14 children as of June 1900 and 13 were still living at that time. The composite family tree shows 14 children so one of them must have died prior to 1900. Three of the older children must have moved out of their parents' house by 1900 because they weren't recorded at this location in the census of 1900.

In 1900 Patrick and Kate were living across the road from John and Bridget Comerford. Patrick and John were brothers-in-law having married sisters Kate and Bridget Carr respectively. John Comerford had taken over the old Carr farm and his father and mother-in-law, Dennis and Bridget Carr, were living with his family at the time of the 1900 census. On an adjacent farm, a little further down the road was fellow brother-in-law William Gibbon who married Mary Carr.

In 1910 the census indicated that Patrick and Kate had 14 children and 12 of them were still living.

Moriah O'Donnell married John Reilly who was related to the Caseys. Thomas O'Donnell was killed by a horse in his early teens. Kitty (Catherine) O'Donnell married Louis Crandal but they had no children. Kitty died shortly after her marriage and Louis remarried and had a large family by his second wife. Margaret O'Donnell married a man named Murphy who died young, she married a second time. Isabell O'Donnell never married. Frank O'Donnell married a lady whose first name was May. Hugh O'Donnell never married. Alice O'Donnell married Hugh Johnston. Anna O'Donnell married William Farrell. Emmitt O'Donnell married Patricia H. O'Connor. Albert A. O'Donnell never married. Gertrude L. O'Donnell married Daniel P. Hartnett.

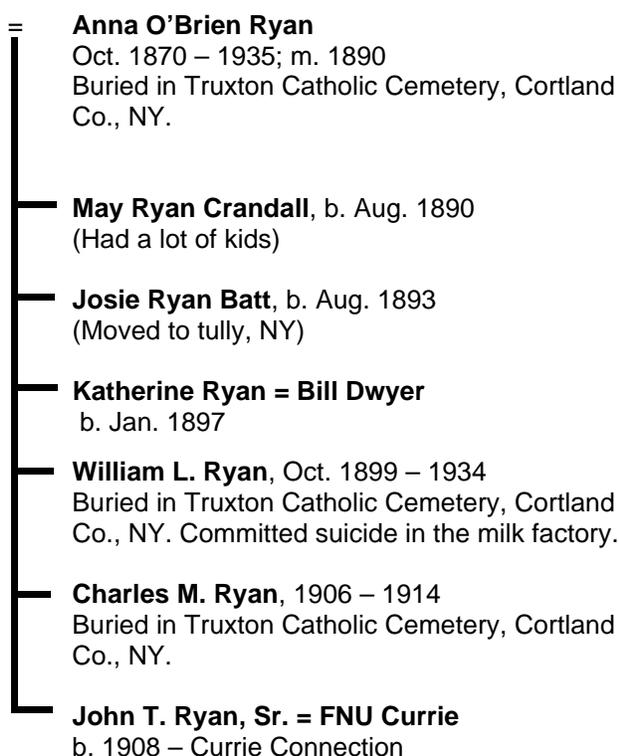
In 1920 Patrick was 74 years old and his occupation was listed as a dairy farmer. The census date was Jan 21-23, 1920.

## William Ryan of Truxton, New York

The information on John W. McGraw's death certificate, when he died on November 8, 1926, was provided by a Mrs. A. Ryan. According to Doug Currie this Mrs. A. Ryan was the wife of William Ryan of Truxton to whom he is related. John W. McGraw was living with Mrs. Anna Ryan at the time of his death. Doug also stated that she was a relation on the Comerford side of the family. At the time of the 1900 census the William Ryan family of Truxton was living on the same farm as Michael O'Brien and his wife Julia Comerford O'Brien. The O'Brien farm is designated on the 1876 map of Truxton on the next page. Anna O'Brien Ryan was the daughter of Michael and Julia Comerford O'Brien and her sister was Ellen O'Brien Carr.

### William Ryan

b. Dec. 1863 (from 1900 census)  
 Son of Patrick Ryan and Mary Dwyer.  
 d. 1926.  
 Buried in Truxton Catholic Cemetery,  
 Cortland Co., NY.

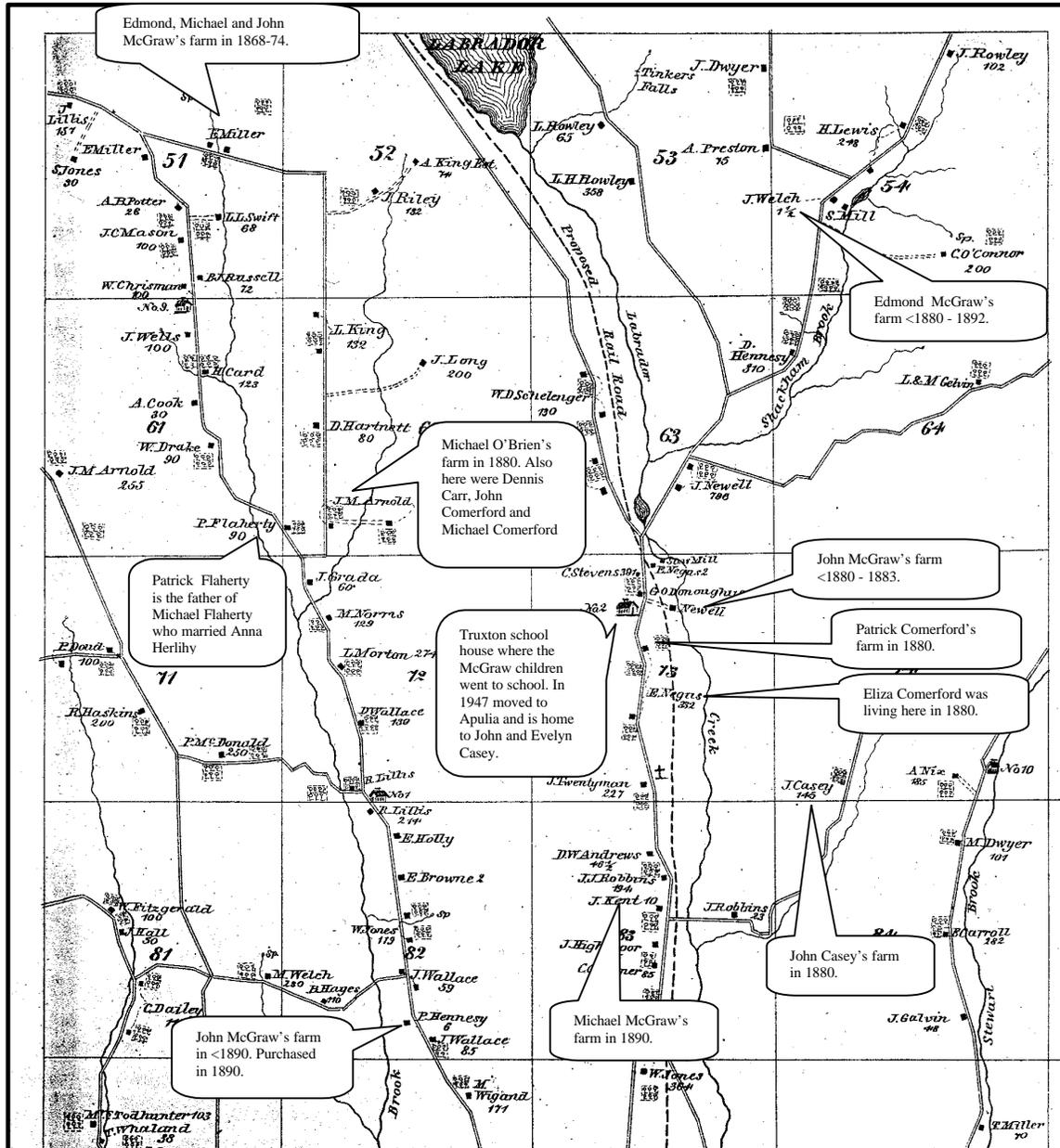


William and Anna Ryan had 6 children – 3 sons and 3 daughters. The youngest son, John T. Ryan, Jr., was born in 1908 and was the uncle of Doug Currie through his marriage to the sister of Doug's father (Walter Beattie Currie, ~1899 – 1952). Therefore Doug has Ryans as both first cousins on his father's side and a great grandmother on his mother's side.

From the 1900 Census it was found that three of William and Anna's children were May (b. Aug. 1890), Josie (b. Aug. 1893) and Katherine (b. Jan. 1897). William Ryan (the father) was a Democrat and was also the Highway Supervisor for the town of Truxton.

Katherine Ryan married Bill Dwyer who was at one time the Highway Supervisor of Cortland County. Dwyer Memorial Park, in Little York Lake, was named for him. Bill had originally bought the land for the county.

John T. Ryan, Sr. was a lawyer and the Public Service Commissioner for New York State under the Rockefeller administration. He was a delegate to the Constitutional Convention. He founded the radio station WKRT and started a newspaper called the "Cortland Tribune" but it only lasted a couple years.

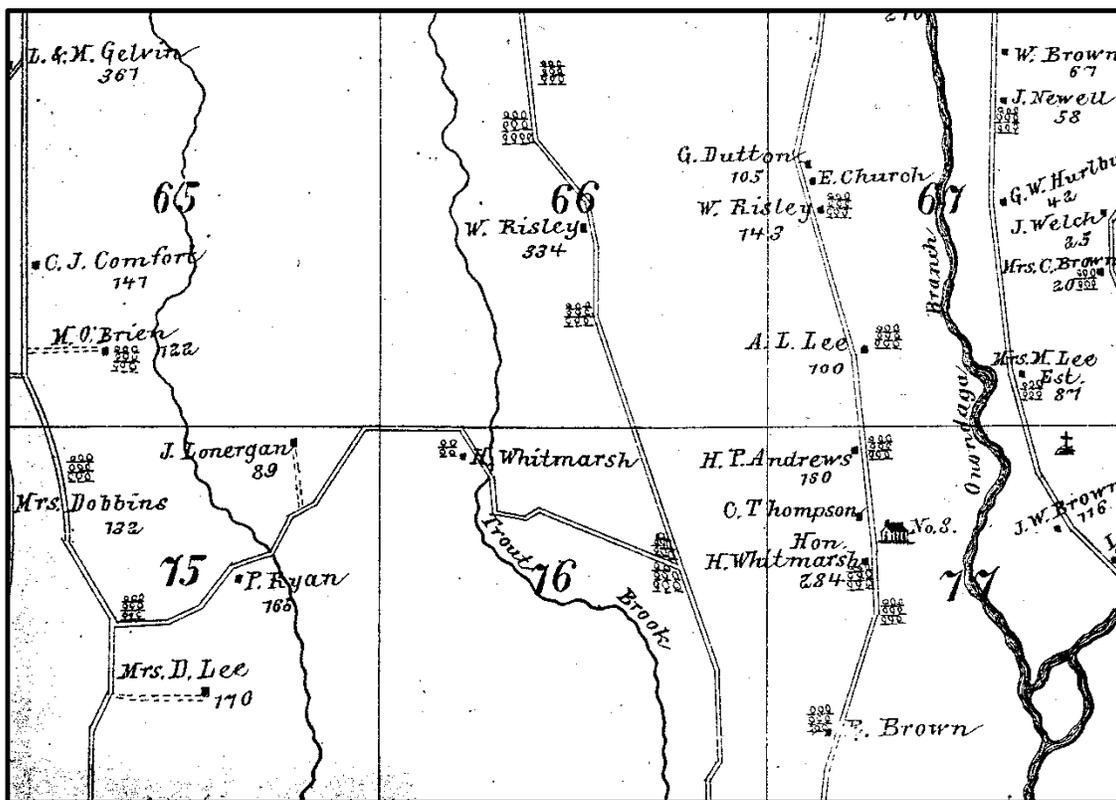


The son of John T. Ryan, Sr. is also a lawyer in the Village of Homer, Cortland, Co., NY. John T. Ryan, Jr. married Marilyn Bickel (3/8/39). She was one of 13 children and came from "South America" which was a small town south of Truxton. They have three children:

1. Shelia Ryan Torti – b. 1/28/66
2. Paul Ryan – b. 6/16/69
3. Luke Ryan – b. 12/17/80

## Patrick Ryan and Mary Dwyer of Cuyler, NY

William Ryan of Truxton was related to another Ryan family located in the Town of Cuyler. Despite the lack of hard evidence at this time the case can still be made that Patrick Ryan and Mary Dwyer of Cuyler were the parents of William Ryan of Truxton. They had a son named William who was born in March 1863 and William Ryan of Truxton was born in Dec. 1863<sup>81</sup>. In the 1860's Patrick and Mary Ryan were living on a farm on Cuyler Lot 75 and were neighbors to my gg-grandparents Edmond and Mary Ryan McGraw on Lot 76. Patrick and Mary appeared to be occupying the same farm at the time of the 1870, 1880 and 1900 census according to the sequence of the family names in the census records. Even in 1860 they appear to be located on Morgan Hill but not on the farm shown in the 1876 map shown below. In Feb. 1876 Patrick purchased some land in Cuyler Lot 75<sup>82</sup> and again in Sept. 1877 Patrick purchased some land in Cuyler Lot 75 and Truxton Lot 85<sup>83</sup>.



By 1870 Michael O'Brien and his wife Julia Comerford were living on a farm in Cuyler Lot 65 next to his father-in-law John Comerford. This was just up the road from the farm of Patrick and Mary Ryan. In ~1870 Michael and Julia had a daughter that they named Anna who would grow up to marry William Ryan of Truxton in 1890. Patrick and Mary's son William and Anna O'Brien grew up as neighbors and it would be logical to conclude that their son was William Ryan of Truxton.

Patrick Ryan and Mary Dwyer Ryan were married in Ireland in about 1855. They arrived in America in 1857 with their two children Sarah (age 2) and John (age 1). Sometime before 1860 Patrick and his family were living close to Edmond McGraw and his family who were on Cuyler Lot 76.

There appears to be some connection between Edmond McGraw, his wife Mary Ryan and Patrick Ryan. Patrick's first child born in America, Margaret (Maggie) Ryan, was baptized on August 1,

1858 at St. James Catholic Church, Cazenovia, NY and the sponsors were John Toban and Mrs. Sheehen. The first sponsor was probably the husband of Margaret Ryan, Mary Ryan's sister. The second sponsor, Mrs Sheehen (Sheahan) was probably Catherine Ryan, the wife of William Sheahan, and the sister of Mary Ryan.

Patrick and Mary Ryan's fifth child, Michael Ryan, was baptized on June 9, 1861 at Truxton, NY. The sponsors were Edmund McGrath and Mary Ryan. Here we see that Edmond was using the McGrath version of his surname, or at least that spelling of his surname was recorded in the church records of St. James Catholic Church. The second sponsor might be Edmond's wife Mary Ryan but it would be odd to use the maiden name of a woman who had been married for almost 20 years, although it was done that way in the parish records in Ireland.

According to the 1900 census Patrick and Mary Ryan had 15 children and 9 were living at the time of the census. In the 1880 census their children Patrick, Michael and Mary Anne Ryan do not show up. Patrick and Michael would have been 21 and 19 respectively in the summer of 1880 when the census was taken and might have been working on a nearby farm. Mary Ann would have been only 16 and her older sisters were still living at home so it isn't clear why her name wasn't listed with her family in the 1880 census.

Possible family connections:

Patrick and Mary Dwyer Ryan arrived in America in 1857 and were in the St. James parish jurisdiction by June 1858. At that time Edmond McGraw and his wife Mary Ryan had been living on Subdivision 1 of Cuyler Lot 76 for almost 2-1/2 years. The Ryans showed up in the 1860 census in the Town of Cuyler and were on Morgan Hill close to Edmond and Mary McGraw. There are signs of a connection between the two families because of Edmond McGrath's sponsorship and possibly that of his wife Mary Ryan at the baptism of Patrick and Mary's son Michael. In addition there is the sponsorship of Patrick and Mary's daughter Margaret Ryan by Edmond's in laws John Toban and Mrs. Sheehen (Sheahan). This is all in addition to being Edmond and Mary Ryan McGraw's neighbor in the 1860's on Morgan Hill in the Town of Cuyler.

Patrick Ryan was born in Ireland in 1830 and that would make him a little too young to be a brother of the three Ryan sisters – Mary, Margaret and Catherine. The area around Upperchurch, Co. Tipperary, where Edmond and Mary were born, married and started their family is filled with many Ryan and Dwyer families. Patrick Ryan and his wife Mary Dwyer could both be cousins to the Ryan girls or perhaps just neighbors from back in Ireland that followed Edmond and Mary's trail to America.

The Story

I first picked up information on William Ryan and family when I was collecting data from the Truxton Catholic Cemetery back in 1999 and saw his family plot just in front of the McGraw family plot. When Doug Currie saw the information he commented that he was related to William and that William's wife Anna had provided the information on John W. McGraw's death certificate. John had been boarding at the Ryan house at the time of his death in 1926. Doug also said that Anna was related to the Comerfords. In July 2000 I discovered Dick Barr of Syracuse who had transcribed all the church records from the St. James Catholic Church, in Cazenovia, NY. This gave me information on all the Ryan families in Cuyler and Truxton and helped me to reconstruct the family of Patrick and Mary Dwyer Ryan of Morgan Hill in Cuyler. Around December 2000 I picked up the Onondaga and Cortland County Federal Census records on CD and was able to discover more information on both these families. There was still no hard evidence of a connection between the two families despite the fact that there was a William in Cuyler born in March 1863 and a William of Truxton born in Dec. 1893. In June 2001 I traveled to Truxton again and visited Mary McGraw Stoddard and spoke with her daughter Karen on the phone. While I was finishing the last corrections on this book I went back to the notes from that 2001 trip to Truxton to check a date and saw a note from a conversation with Karen. Mary Stoddard had a

cousin named John T. Ryan who was a lawyer in Cortland. I tracked down his son John T. Ryan, Jr. in Jan 2002 and he told me that his grandmother Anna was an O'Brien. That allowed me to make the Comerford connection through Anna's mother Julia Comerford O'Brien, daughter of John and Catherine Ryan Comerford of Morgan Hill, Cuyler, NY. This was further evidence of the common identity of the two Williams since William of Truxton's future wife Anna O'Brien was born on Morgan Hill just a couple miles north of the Ryan farm. William of Cuyler and Anna O'Brien were neighbors and therefore the two Williams are probably one and the same person.

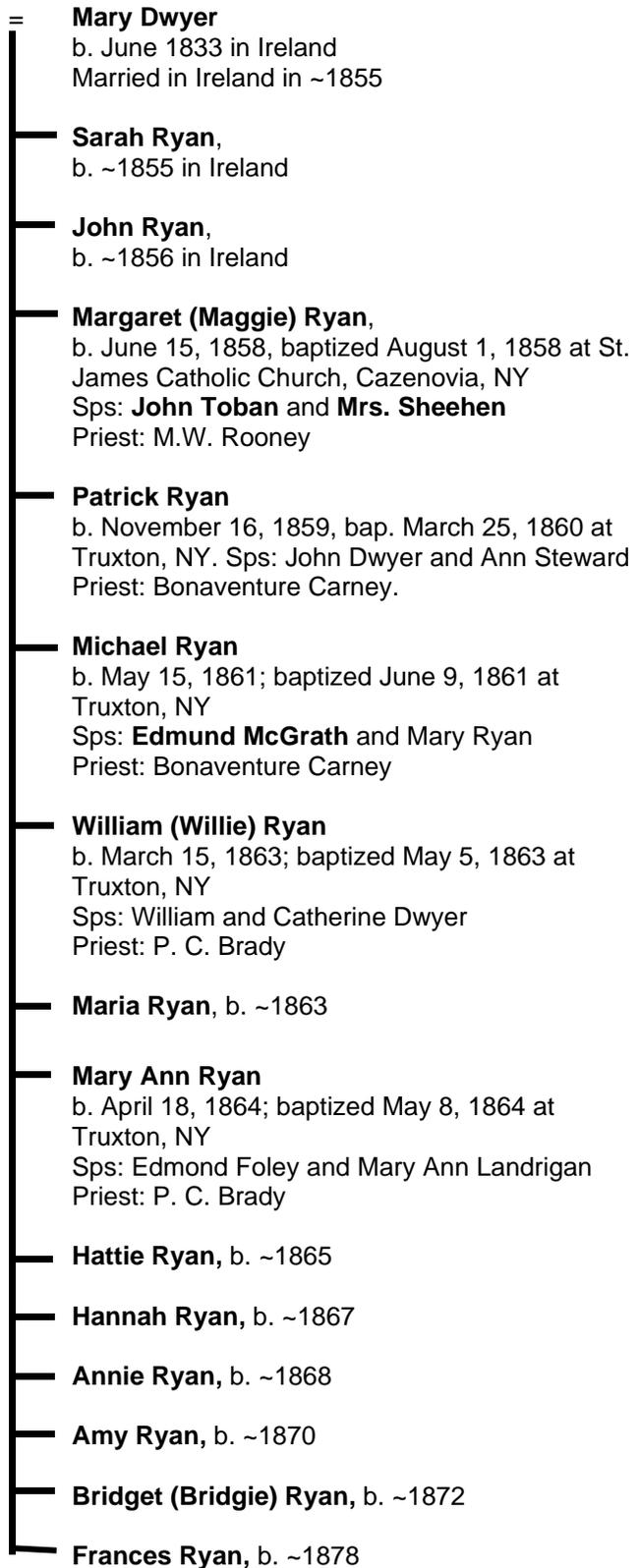
John T. Ryan, Jr. had not been aware of the connection to Patrick and Mary Dwyer Ryan of Morgan Hill in Cuyler who would be his g-grandparents. He went back to check with some of the more genealogically enabled members of his family and we will continue to exchange information to further clear up the connections between these Ryan families and the McGraw's of Truxton.

NOTE: The 1880 Census of Cuyler, Cortland Co., listed Willie Ryan in the family of Patrick and Mary Ryan and gave his age as 18. This information was gathered on June 13, 1880 and is not consistent with the Dec. 1863 birth date (16) of William Ryan of Truxton but is not consistent with the birth date of March 15, 1863 (17) for William Ryan of Cuyler. The final authority would be the death certificate of William Ryan that would contain the names of William's parents.

## Patrick Ryan and Mary Dwyer of Cuyler, NY

### Patrick Ryan

b. March 1830 in Ireland  
Arrived from Ireland in 1857



# The Story of the Flahertys

Compiled by Shirley McGraw Maloney

Michael and Catherine Flaherty were probably born in the 1790's – early 1800's in Ireland and probably never left Ireland. They had a son, Patrick Flaherty, born in Ireland around 1827, who came to Truxton, NY sometime before 1860. [Tradition says the Flahertys came from Co.Cork.]

In 1860 Patrick was living with the Lawrence Morton family, and was a farm laborer. By 1870 Patrick owned a farm of his own valued at \$2800, even though he was unable to read or write. Sometime between 1862 and 1866 he had married Catherine Phelan. Catherine was the daughter of Martin and Catherine Phelan, who were born in the early 1800's in Ireland, and probably never left Ireland. Catherine was born sometime between 1826 and 1835, and came to the U.S.A. in 1862. (According to one document I have, Catherine Phelan Flaherty's maiden name is listed as Ryan instead of Phelan. I believe Ryan to be an error.)

Patrick Flaherty and Catherine Phelan had five children. Their names and approximate dates of birth were: John, August 1867; Michael, August 1869; Mary Ann, 1871; Sarah, 1875; and another child either born before Sarah or after 1880.

Patrick Flaherty died of hematuria on 11 November 1894. Sometime between 1880 and 1900 the three youngest Flaherty children died (perhaps in the diphtheria epidemic), leaving Catherine with only two sons, John and Michael. Catherine died of myocarditis on 8 February 1912 in Truxton.

John Flaherty married a woman named Theresa who was born in Ireland in September 1868. Theresa came to the U.S.A. in 1891 and married John in 1895. By 1900 they had already had four children, and probably had more subsequently. John and Theresa's children and their dates of birth were: Cornelius, March 1896; Mary, March 1897; Martha, September, 1898; John, February 1900. In 1900 John Flaherty's widowed mother, Catherine, was living with him on farm #72, which they rented in Truxton, NY.

According to hearsay, sometime between 1900 and 1908, John and Theresa both died, making their children orphans. Cornelius (Neil) was living at the House of Providence in Syracuse, NY and at the age of twelve supposedly ran away to live with his Uncle Michael Flaherty and family. Other possible offspring of John and Theresa are: Francis, a missionary priest who went to China; Anna, who was possibly a teacher and lived on the corner of Garfield and Colvin briefly; Mrs. Joe Murphy who lived in Corning, NY. Mary Flaherty never married and may still be living in Binghamton, NY as of this date (11 March 1981). She may have been godmother to Francis McGraw.

Michael Flaherty was born in July or August, 1869, in Truxton, NY. (Remember, he's the son of Patrick and Catherine Phelan Flaherty.) In 1896 he married Anna Herlihy. Anna was born in Truxton in August 1876 or 1878. She was the daughter of Thomas Herlihy, born 1841 – 1845 in Ireland and died 3 July 1911 of autotoxemia in Truxton, and Mary Flynn, who was born in 1846 in Ireland and died 10 September 1892 of dyspepsia in Truxton, NY.

Thomas Herlihy was the son of Timothy Herlihy and Margaret Hickey, who probably never left Ireland. Mary Flynn was the daughter of James Flynn and Hanora Grady, who probably never left Ireland. Thomas Herlihy came to the U.S.A. in 1862 and was a farmer. As of 1900 he owned farm #47, with a mortgage, in Truxton. Mary Flynn came to the U.S.A. in approximately 1868. They were probably married shortly thereafter.

Michael Flaherty and Anna Herlihy had at least three children. Their names and dates of birth were: Louise, 1897; Leo, 1900; and Edwin, around 1905. However, in the 1900 census Louise

was listed as Margaret, born October 1897, and Leo was listed as Thomas, born February 1900. In 1900 they were renting Farm #102 in Truxton.

The Rural Directory of Cortland, 1917-1922 had the following listing: Flaherty, M.W. (Anna) 3 children, farmer and dairy, tenant, 5 horses, 75 cattle, Route 3, Tully, Truxton Rd 45, bell telephone.

Michael Flaherty died 1 March 1923, of a brain tumor, at Good Shepard Hospital, in Syracuse, NY. [Note: Good Shepard Hospital was located on Marshall Street in the University section. It has long since ceased operation as a hospital and was used by Syracuse University in the 1970's to house the College of Education.]

After she was widowed, Anna moved to Cortland with her widowed sister, Kit (Catherine) Connors (born approximately 1873). The both took jobs at the Cortland Corset Company. Anna worked there into her 70's. When her daughter, Louise Flaherty McGraw, died in 1950, Anna quit her job and moved to Syracuse to take care of Louise's family.

Anna is remembered as a staunch Democrat who loved John F. Kennedy. The only Republican she backed was Nelson Rockefeller, when he aspired to President. She hoped that he would win, because she felt that no one state should have so much misery.

Anna was an excellent cook. When she was living with her son-in-law at 512 Garfield Avenue, Syracuse, NY, she would arise very early every Sunday morning to do her baking. No one will forget her Chocolate cake with chocolate frosting. Her apple pie was always served with a wedge of cheese. She had a special art of lacing her pie with cinnamon. Of course, she would have nothing to do with mixes or prepared foods.

[As she got on in years she was no longer able to attend the Sunday services at St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church as was her custom. When someone once suggested that she watch the services for shut-ins on the television Anna replied, "That's OK for old folks but I've got to be where the action is!"]

Anna Herlihy Flaherty died 27 May 1971 in Syracuse, NY

Louise Flaherty married Edward C. McGraw 3 September 1919. They had six children: Marjorie, Francis, Shirley (Mrs. Dave Davis), Edward Charles, Jr., Louise (Sr. Rita Michael) and Rosemary (Mrs. Roger Blaise).

The foregoing was compiled as of 11 March 1981 by Shirley McGraw Maloney, 2148 LaSalle Avenue, Gretna, LA 70053. I would appreciate hearing from anyone who can add to or correct any of this information. No date or name is too insignificant to mention. Please send a copy of this to anyone who might be interested or related to any of the persons mentioned. Most of my information has been extracted from the Federal Census (1860-1900, excluding 1890 which was destroyed), death certificates, cemeteries and hearsay.

The following information came from Dick Barr of Syracuse, NY and his extensive records from the St. James Catholic Church in Cazenovia, Madison County, NY.

246. Thomas Herlahy married Mary Flynn, Nov. 1, 1867. The Priest was Father Patrick C. Brady. Witnesses: Thomas Burke and Mary Grady.

These were the parents of Anna Herlihy who later married Michael Flaherty and had a daughter named Louise Flaherty. Louise married Edward McGraw (son of Edmond and Mary McGrath) and had a son Francis Michael McGraw who was my father.

These records came from the work of Daniel Weiskotten for the persons interred in the St. James Cemetery, Cazenovia, NY. It is uncertain whether or not these Flahertys are related to the Flahertys of Truxton.

**Flaherty, Barbara**, wife of **Michael Flaherty**, died April 6, 1866, age 45 years .

- **Flaherty, Anna**, daughter of Michael and Barbara Flaherty, died July 10, 1864, age 10 years 9 months.
- **Flaherty, Hannah**, daughter of Michael and Barbara Flaherty, died November 7, 1863, age 12 years 11 months.
- **Flaherty, John**, son of Michael and Barbara Flaherty (died 1862 on older list), died December 7, 1863, age 4 years 7 months.



**1870 Census Cortland Co. – M593\922\**

Truxton –  
893B - 120/121 – Patrick Flaherty

**1880 Census Cortland Co. – T9\822\Part1\**

Truxton –  
241A – 175/188

**1880 Census Onondaga Co. – T9\906\906**

Tully –  
340B – 249/258 – John Savage

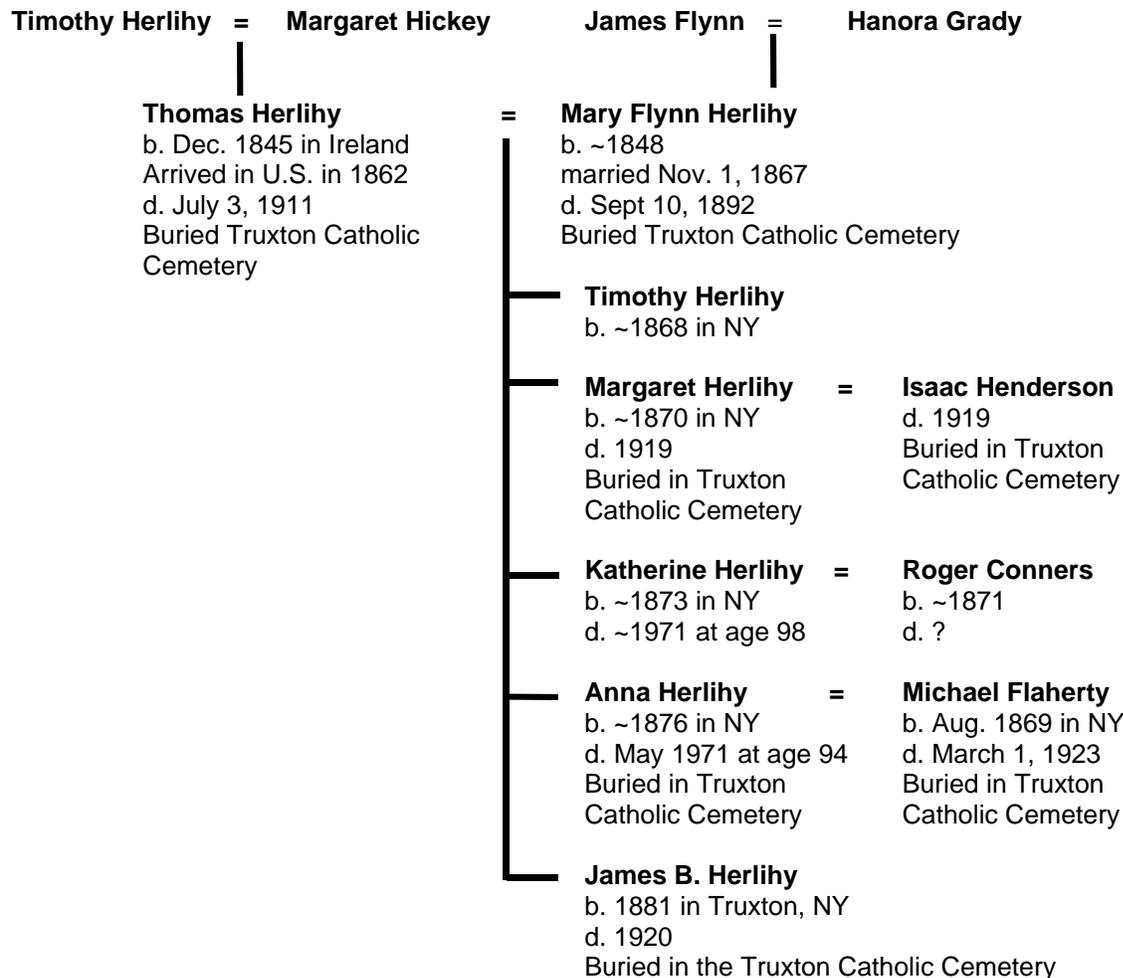
12/24/1980 – “Margaret Flaherty never married. She may have been Francis M. McGraw’s god mother. Lives in Binghamton, NY.”<sup>84</sup> In the write up by Shirley McGraw Maloney, *The Story of the Flahertys*, she is referred to as Mary.

Sarah, Mary Ann and the unknown Flaherty were all supposed to have died prior to 1900.

Edward C. and Louise M. McGraw were the author’s grandparents. Edwin and Grace Flaherty had two sons named Leo and Michael. They were married later in life and Leo and Michael were the author’s uncles even though he was older than both of them.

The Flaherty information came from the research of Shirley McGraw Maloney supplemented with some research on the census records and some early notes received by family members.

## The Thomas Herlihy Family of Truxton



Thomas Herlihy's gravestone inscription fixed his birth year as 1841 although the 1900 census gave his birth date as Dec. 1845. He was also living alone on farm #47 on South Hill next to the William Gibbon farm. Thomas Herlihy and Mary Flynn were married on November 1, 1867. The witnesses were Thomas Burke and Mary Grady.

Tully Times, June 20, 1907  
 Pompey.

"Thomas Herlihy was taken to Syracuse last week for treatment, caused by the bursting of an artery. He is able to be out again."

Notes from 1980 taken by Shirley McGraw Maloney had Timothy as a dispatcher and Margaret Herlihy located in New York City. Katherine Herlihy Connors lived to be 98 and was known as Aunt Kit to our family. Anna and Michael Flaherty were the author's great grandparents on his grandmother's side of the family.

**1880 Census – Onondaga Co. T9\905**

Fabius –

196A – 39/39 –

**Dennis Herlihy**, 31, Farmer, born in Ireland. Parents both born in Ireland.

**Bridget D. Herlihy**, 33, wife, born in Ireland. Parents both born in Ireland.

**Thomas Herlihy**, 7, son, born in NY.

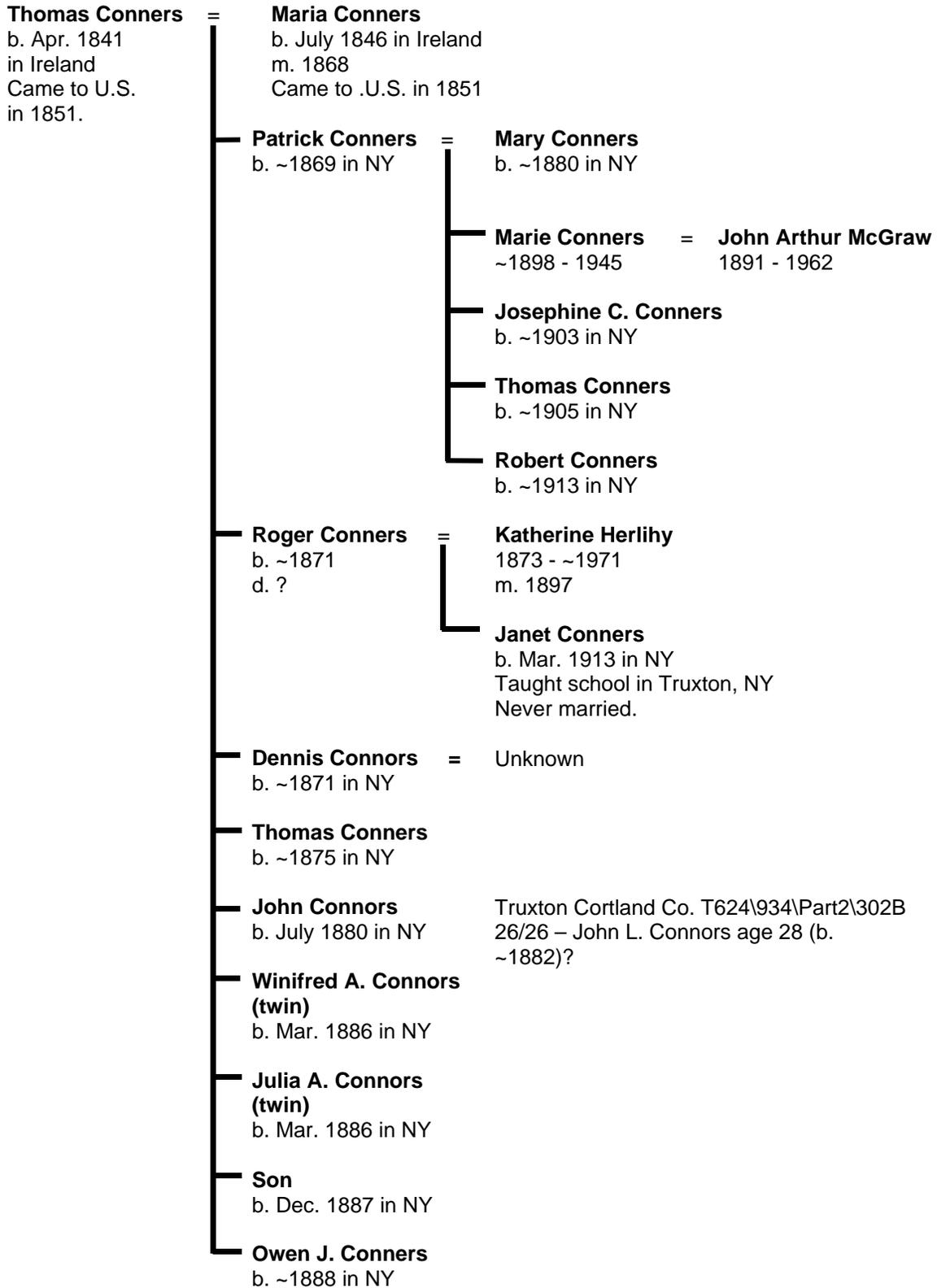
**William Keefe**, 20 works on farm, born in Ireland. Parents both born in Ireland.

**John P. Hartnett**, 16, works on farm, born in Ireland. Parents both born in Ireland.

**Michael Herlihy**, 40, boarder, deals in cattle. He was born in Ireland as were both of his parents.

**Maggie Dwyer**, 17, Servant, born in NY. Parents both born in Ireland.

## The Conners Family of Truxton



Source: 1900 Census – T623\1020\PART2\259A – 154/158 (Thomas Connors)

The spelling “Connors” came from the 1900 census so it could equally as well have been spelled “Conners.” Thomas and Maria Connors had 12 children as of June 1900 and all were still living at that time. In the 1910 census only 11 out of twelve children were still living. Only six of the children have been found in the census records so far. The names of one of the twin daughters and son were illegible in the 1900 census. In a later census the daughter’s name was determined to be Julia A. Thomas and Maria were born in Ireland as were both sets of parents. They both came to the U.S. in 1851 probably with their respective families given their young ages at that time. The Thomas Connors family were neighbors to the John and Catherine Casey family at the time of the 1900 census.

Thomas Connors and his future wife Maria both arrived in the U.S. in 1851 and just missed being counted with their respective families in the census of 1850. In the 1860 census the parents of Thomas and Maria would be expected to show up but so far they haven’t been found in the listings for the most probable towns of Truxton and Cuyler. In 1869 Thomas Connors (whose Post Office was given as Truxton) was farming Cuyler Lot 17 where he had 276 acres and 65 cattle<sup>85</sup>. The 1876 map of Cuyler Township doesn’t show any Thomas Connors on Cuyler Lot 17. A careful search of the entire Cuyler and Truxton township maps from 1876 failed to turn up any persons named Connors. This “disappearance” of the Thomas Connors family between 1870 and 1876 may be related to the Panic of 1873 when a nationwide financial upheaval caused many persons to lose their family farms.

**1860 Census – M654\739**

Truxton – No Connors

Cuyler – No Connors

**1870 Census – M593\922**

Truxton – No Connors

Cuyler –

712B – 79/79 – Thomas Connors

**1880 Census – T9\822\Part1\**

Truxton – No Connors

Cuyler – No Connors

**1900 Census – T623\1020\Part2\**

Truxton –

259A – 154/158 -Thomas Connors – on the North Road

Patrick Connors, Roger Connors

Homer -

202B – 301/326 - Patrick(2) Connors

**1910 Census –T624\934\Part2\**

Truxton -

302A – 1/1 – Dennis Connors on the backroad Truxton to Cuyler

302A – 8/8 – Owen J. Connors

302A – 12/12 – Thomas Connors

302B - 26/26 – John L.Connors

303B – 48/50 – Roger Connors – living on Dog Hollow Road

308B – 165/173 – Patrick Connors

**1920 Census –T625\1096\Part1\**

Truxton –

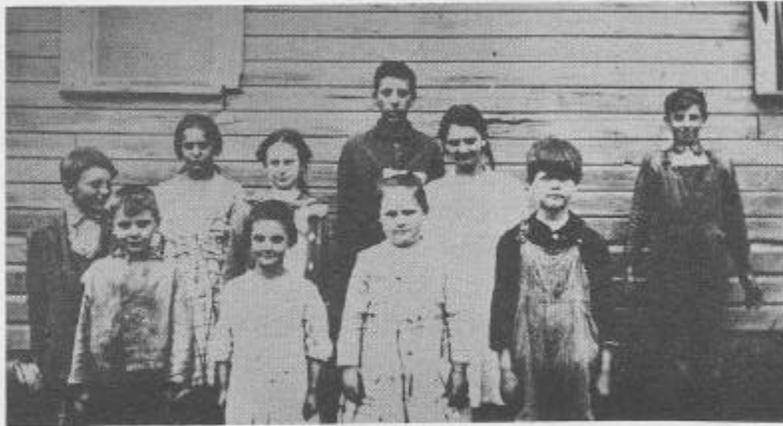
298A – 53/53 – Patrick Connors – on the North Road

Roger Connors – on Dog Hollow Road.

## Dog Hollow School

"The Dog Hollow School was No. 26 on the 1855 map. In 1864 it was No. 13 and in 1866 it was changed to No. 4 which number it retained until it closed."<sup>86</sup> This school was on the western border of the Cuyler Township and was shared between Truxton and Cuyler. In the winter of 1948-9 the Chester Bush family lost their home by fire. This schoolhouse was moved to become their home. It is no longer standing.

Ruby Pudney taught in Dog Hollow before she became Mrs. Potter.



Courtesy of Ruby Potter

### Pupils at Dog Hollow School in 1920

**Front Row (left to right):** Floyd Crandall, Camilla Sutton, Janet Conners, William Powell

**Middle row:** Frank Oliver, Rena Bailey, Helen Sutton

**Back Row:** Edith Sutton, Arthur Crandall, John Elmer

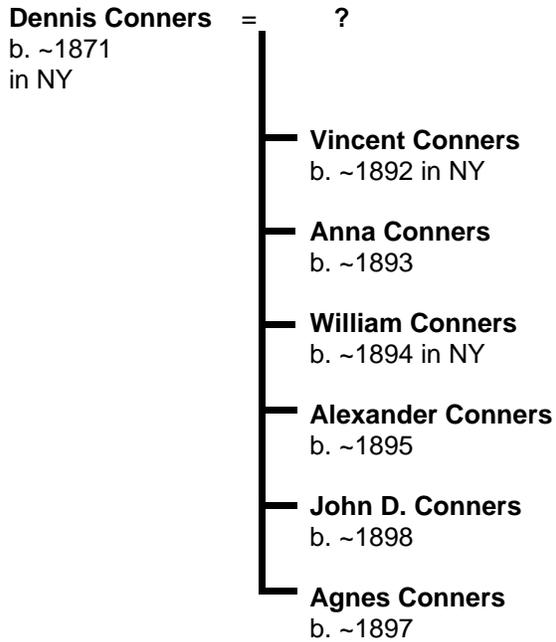
The teacher at Dog Hollow in 1920 was Ruby Pudney before she became Mrs. Potter. A member of her class that year was Janet Conners. She was the daughter of Katherine (Kitt) Herlihy and Roger(?) Conners. In the picture below Janet is the second from the right in the front row. Katherine was known as Aunt Kitt to us as she was the sister of my great-grandmother Anna Herlihy Flaherty. Both Anna's and Kitt's husbands died in the 1920's and the sisters moved in together in the Village of Cortland where they worked at the Cortland Corset factory.

Janet went on to become a teacher in the Cortland School District but she never married. Anna, Kitt and Janet lived together in Cortland until Anna's daughter Louise died unexpectedly and Anna moved to Syracuse in 1950 to take care of her daughter's family. Kitt died in the 1960's at the age of 97 while Anna died in 1971 at the age of 93. Sometime after her mother's death, in the 1970's, Janet moved in with Grace and Edwin Flaherty of Syracuse. Edwin Flaherty was the brother of Michael Flaherty who was Anna's late husband.

#### Note:

Marie Conners (Art McGraw's wife) and Janet Conners' father Roger Conners were related. Marie's father was Patrick Conners and he was the brother of Roger Conners.

## Dennis Conners of Truxton

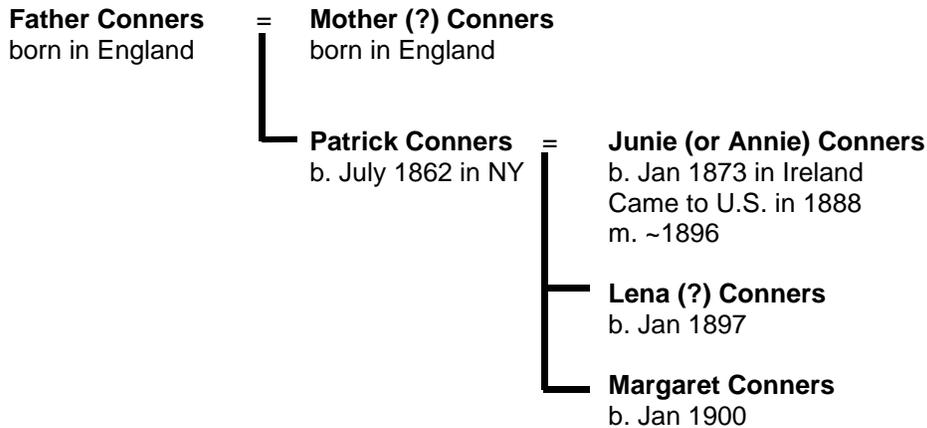


Source: 1910 Census – Cortland Co., Truxton – T624\934\Part2\302A – 1/1. Dennis Conners was the son of Thomas and Maria Conners and was widowed at the time of the 1910 census.

In 1910 Thomas and Maria's son Owen J. (age 22) and Thomas (age 35) were both single and working on the farm of Thomas Ryan. Source: Cortland Co., Truxton T624\934\Part2\302A 8/8. The Thomas Ryan farm was a neighbor to John and Bridget Comerford on the back road from Truxton to Cuyler. Thomas and Maria Conners were living just a few farms away on the same road.

## The Patrick Conners Family of Homer, NY

This family was in the Village of Homer, Cortland Co., NY in 1900



Source: 1900 Census – T623\1020\PART2\202B 301\326. Patrick's parents were both born in England and Junie's parents were both born in Ireland. By 1900 they had had two children and both were living at the time of the census.

These are three different Connor Families. Their name might not be the same as the Connors or Conners. The baptismal records below came from St. James Church, Cazenovia, NY and were transcribed by Dick Barr of Syracuse, NY.

0975. CONNOR, Charles, son of Thomas CONNOR and Ellen FITZGERALD,  
born 25 November 1862, baptized 27 December 1862, at Chittenango  
Sponsors: Patrick Hopkins and Catherine Hopkins  
Priest: P. C. Brady

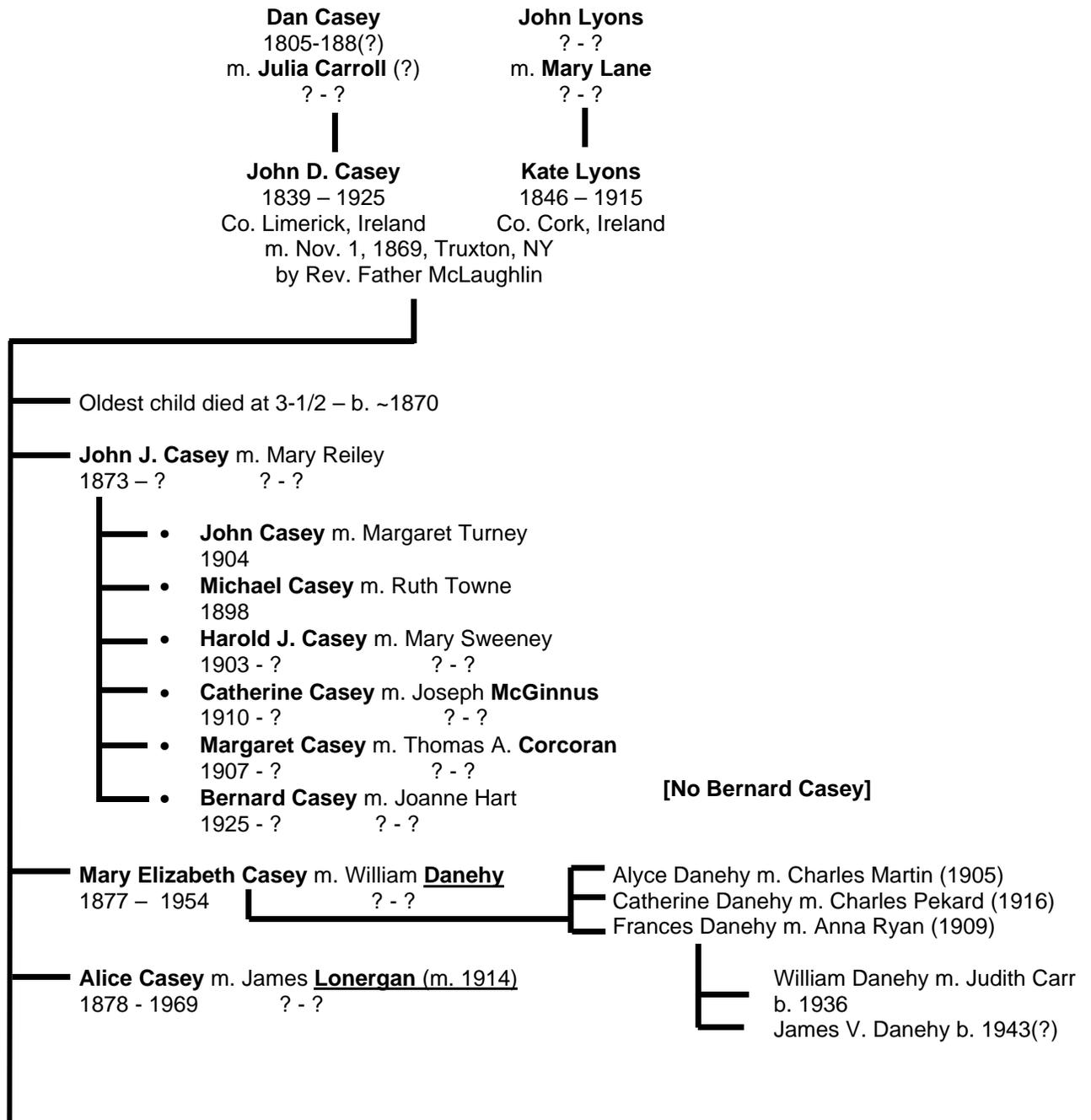
0077. CONNOR, Dennis, son of Cornelius CONNOR and Bridget HALLINAN,  
baptized 22 June 1854, at Truxton  
Sponsors: John Dobbins and Joanna Hallinan  
Priest: J. P. Cahill

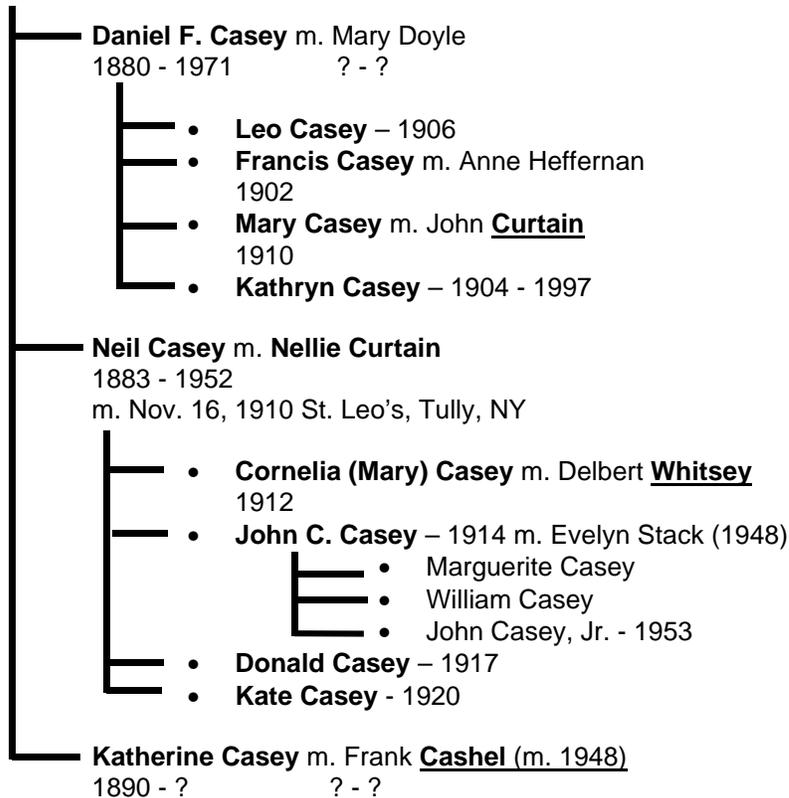
0829. CONNOR, Michael, son of Patrick CONNOR and Hannah BUCKLEY,  
born 13 September, baptized 22 September 1861, at Truxton  
Sponsors: James Griffin and Johanna Carney  
Priest: Bonaventure Carney

## The Casey's of Truxton and Apulia, New York

The Caseys arrived in the Apulia area around 1915 but John Casey had arrived in the Truxton area around 1865. John Casey married Kate Lyons and the following story comes from Evelyn Stack Casey (June 18, 2001): "John D. Casey walking to church one Sunday when a farmer was going by in his surrey. In the seat was Kate Lyons who was visiting from New York City. They offered him a ride and introduced them. Later John just could not get Kate out of his mind. He later looked her up and they made a date to get married (so the story goes). That is how they met. They later were able to buy a farm and that is the farm on the Truxton Road."

The three sons of this J. (John D.) Casey were: John J., Daniel and Neil. These were the Casey brothers who came to Apulia after the turn of the century. Their descendents are still in the Apulia area today.





Most of the information in this family tree came from Evelyn Stack Taylor Casey.

Edward C. McGraw & Katherine Casey Cashel are both supposed to have taught at Truxton School House No. 2

Mary McGraw Stoddard's father Art McGraw, told her about Katherine Casey Cashel teaching at the school house (No. 2) on the North Road. According to Mary "All McGraw children (Michael and Alice's) went to school there." But she had never heard about Edward C. McGraw teaching there.

John Casey and his wife Evelyn Stack Casey moved this school house up to Berry Road in Apulia Station in 1947 and converted it into a house where they raised their family and where they continue to live at this time (October 2001). My mother, Jean Marie Stack McGraw, was Evelyn's sister and so I am connected to the Casey's once by marriage and once by the McGraws and Caseys being neighbors in Truxton.

Note: Evelyn Stack Casey was married to Don Taylor in the early 1940's prior to her marriage to John Casey. They had a daughter, Donna Jean Taylor. Don was stationed in San Antonio, Texas for pilot training in the U.S. Army Air Corps. Around 1943 Don was killed in a training accident and Evelyn and Donna left San Antonio and returned to Syracuse, New York.

1920 Census – Cortland Co., Truxton T625\1096\Part1\301A 133/146(?).

John Casey and dau. Catherine (age 29) are the only ones at the Casey residence. Catherine was teaching school. This residence was on Maiden Lane (Prospect Street) and wasn't the old Casey farm since John was 80, widowed and there were no sons or hired hands to work the farm. Catherine was a teacher and probably taught all of Art McGraw's children. In 1948 she married Frank Cashel.

## The Waters Family

From "A Genealogy of The McGraws of Truxton, New York" by Doug Currie

"The eldest child, Mary Isabelle (Mayme) was born on December 30, 1886. While working on the farm of George Waters on the North Road in Truxton, she met Levi Waters, who was also working there. On August 3, 1910 she married Levi Orson Waters in St. Patrick's Church in Truxton. James McGraw and Almeda Waters were attendants. The Waters' operated a farm in DeWitt, New York and Levi was also active in the Waters' Brothers Construction Company. Mayme and Levi had five children: Robert Orson, Arlene Alice, David Curtis, Lucy Emogene and George Milton. Levi died on January 29, 1947 at the age of sixty and Mayme continued to live in DeWitt until her death at her daughter's house in Watertown on May 4, 1966 at the age of 79. Levi and Mayme are both buried in St. Mary's Cemetery in DeWitt." p. 2.

From Lucy Sprague (December 12, 1997)

"Doug (Currie) mentioned you finding Waters in the Keeney Settlement Cemetery. Dad (Levi Waters) had uncles, Jamie Waters, Alvah Waters, Henry Waters, a cousin Charlie Waters."

From Lucy Sprague (April 3, 1998)

"Dad (Levi Waters) knew them all (the ways to get to Truxton) but a lot of his relatives lived on the Keeney Settlement Road. Waters – Uncle Henry, Cousin Charlie, Jamie, etc."

From Lucy Sprague (November 16, 1999):

"When Grandpa McGraw died in April 1923, I was 2 months old, and mother took me by train to Truxton. I think Dad went too. The night we got back the double house on the Waters' farm in DeWitt burned, not ours – but we got a new house after they built a new double house.

From Lucy Sprague (August 5, 1999):

"Orson Waters and John McGraw were brothers-in-law. Margaret Comerford Waters died July, 1872, leaving three children, George, Annie and Emily. The Waters Road below Highland Park leads over to my Uncle George Waters' farm."

From Doug Currie (August 17, 1999):

"She (Lucy Waters Sprague) is related to the Henry Waters who lived in Tripoli according to the 1876 map."

1860 Census – Cuyler, Cortland Co.

Orson Waters, age 25, and his wife Margaret, age 20, are living on the farm just south of the John Comerford farm on Morgan Hill. Margaret was the daughter of John Comerford and his first wife Catherine Ryan Comerford. This was the same farm where Michael O'Brien was living according to the 1876 map of the Township of Cuyler. Michael had married Julia Comerford who was the sister of Margaret. This was the second son-in-law to occupy the farm next to the John Comerford farm.

1870 Census – Cortlandville, Cortland Co.

George L. Waters, age 25, Lawyer, Real Estate \$2000, Personal Property \$300

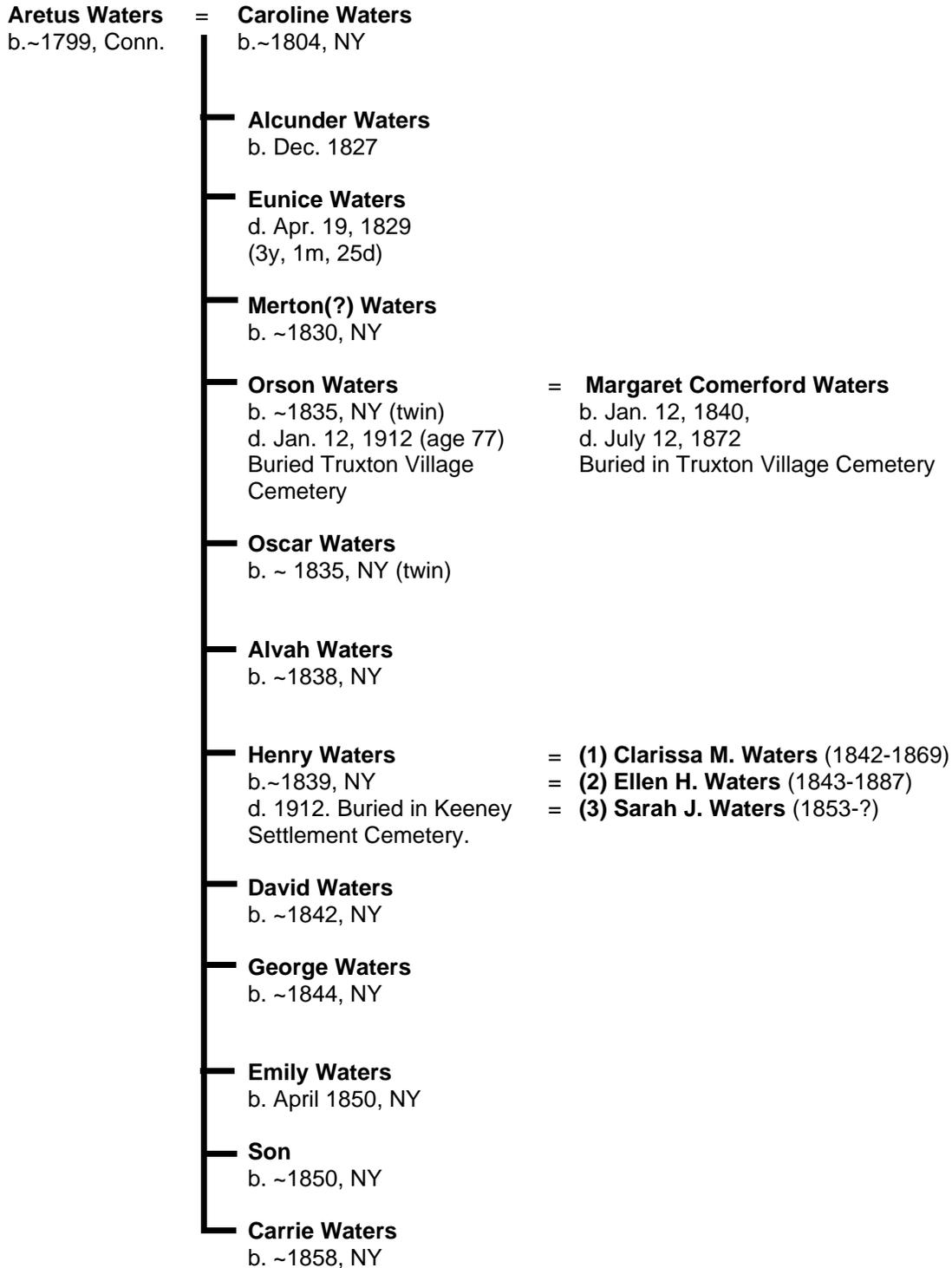
Caroline Waters, age 69, Keeping House

Emily Waters, age 20, Teacher

Carrie Waters, age 12, At School.

All were born in New York.

## The Aretus Waters Family



## The Orson Waters Family

**Aretus Waters**  
b.~1799, Conn.

= **Caroline Waters**  
b.~1804, NY

**Orson Waters**  
b. ~1835, NY (twin)  
d. Jan. 12, 1912 (age 77)  
Buried Truxton Village  
Cemetery

= **Margaret Comerford Waters (1<sup>st</sup> Wife)**  
b. Jan. 12, 1840,  
d. July 12, 1872  
Buried in Truxton Village Cemetery

**Infant**  
d. Dec. 7, 1866  
Buried Truxton Village Cemetery

**Emily Waters**  
b. ~1861 in NY  
d. July 2, 1877 (age 16 yrs.)  
Buried Truxton Village Cemetery

**Anna Waters**  
b. ~1864 in NY

**George Henry Waters = Bessie**  
b. 1865 in NY  
d. Sept. 17, 1939  
(74y, 1m, 29d)  
Buried Truxton Village Cemetery

**Alvah D. Waters = Nettie**  
b. Aug. 1869 in NY      b. ~1876 in NY  
d. Oct. 16, 1931 (62 yrs.)      m. ~1895  
Buried Truxton Village Cemetery

### Second Wife

**Orson Waters**  
b. ~1835, NY (twin)  
d. Jan. 12, 1912 (age 77)  
Buried Truxton Village Cemetery

= **Lucy Andrews Waters (2<sup>nd</sup> Wife)**  
b. ~1850

**Lena Waters**  
b. Feb. 1880

**Levi Waters = Mary Isobelle McGraw**  
b. 1886, d. 1947      b. 1886, d. 1966

**Frank Andrews (Step son)**  
b. ~1875

**Oscar Andrews (Step Son)**  
b. ~1877

**Emma J. Andrews (Step daughter)**  
b. ~1879

Orson's second wife was Lucy Andrews Waters – she had three children from a previous marriage. There were eight boys in Orson's family according to Lucy Waters Sprague (December 12, 1997). So one son is missing from the list above.

Source: 1880 Census – Cortland Co., Cuyler T9\905\Part2\182A 82/93 – Orson Waters.

The following three stories are taken from Virginia Whitmarsh's series of books on Cuyler<sup>87</sup>

### **“The Uneasy Tombstone”**

“Tombstones are not only found in cemeteries. The tombstone of this story was never in a cemetery as far as is known.

No one knows where it may have first stood, but in 1945 Walter and Lina Keeney of Cuyler, New York found it in their cellar. They had sold their farm and bought a nearby residence for retirement. When they visited the cellar, they found that they had also bought the tombstone of a three-year old girl.

Within a few years they died and the house and its tombstone came into the possession of their daughter, Vera. Since she was a teacher on Long Island, she didn't wish to live in the house at that time and rented it to a series of families over a period of years.

In 1967 Vera retired and came back to live in the house in Cuyler where she discovered the tombstone had disappeared. She had had the foundation reinforced during this time and the workers had left a pile of dirt in the corner of the cellar. She assumed that the stone was under that dirt.

Some of the remodeling which had taken place while she was renting, and not always present when it was being done, included the changing of a door which left a block of concrete – a step going nowhere. Vera asked her nephew, Dick Keeney, to remove the block sometime when it was convenient and he had the bucket on his tractor.

The convenient time came one day when she was away. Dick came down with the tractor and bucket and picked up the concrete block. There underneath was the tombstone.

Vera's mother had theorized that, since in the early days when a small child died it was often buried on the farm or property of the family rather than in a cemetery, a farmer may have moved the stone while plowing and eventually someone put it in the cellar for safekeeping.

The history of the house leads to perhaps a more credible possibility. The child's name was Waters. This residence was once a tavern owned by Aretus Waters. If the child died of a serious disease such as diphtheria and it became known, their business would have been ruined. Therefore, the death might have been hushed up and the child buried secretly, perhaps even in the cellar.

At this writing (1982) the stone is still in Vera Keeney's possession. She hasn't decided on its next move.

In  
Memory  
Of Eunice Dau of  
Aretus & Caroli  
ne Waters who  
Died, April 19<sup>th</sup>  
1829 E/.3y  
1M & 25  
d.  
Suffer Little Children  
to come unto me and  
forbid them not  
for of such is the  
kingdom of heaven

**Centennial Pageant of the Cuyler Methodist Church held August 26, 1939**

**THROUGH THE YEARS**  
By Mabyn Keeney Whitmarsh

Act 2: Episode 2  
Second Story Wedding (Perhaps about 1845)

Aretus Waters, keeper of Tripoli Tavern, a famous stagecoach station	Charles Waters
Caroline Waters, wife of Aretus, mother of nine sons and three daughters.	Gladys Waters
Hank, one of the children	Eugene Corbin
Voices of the bride and groom	Shirley and Albert Waters

“There were several well known taverns in the town where the stage coaches made regular stops. One was on a small hill toward DeRuyter where the ancient pine tree was a landmark. There was one kept by Mr. Mix, and probably others. In the hamlet of Tripoli were a blacksmith shop, a little store or two, many more houses than now and a tavern kept by Aretus Waters and his wife Caroline. It is there that the scene of the next episode is laid.

Act II  
Episode II  
Time 1845

**Scene:** Bedroom of the 1840's...cradle, trundle bed, candles, rag carpet, etc. Squire Waters, keeper of the Tripoli Tavern, Mrs. Waters in bed, baby in cradle, son Henry in trundle bed. Call is heard outside.

**Young Man's Voice:** Squire! Squire! Squire! Waters! (The Squire groans, and mumbles, "Hello." Squire wake up!

**Squire:** (Dressed in night cap and red flannels, jumps out of bed and lights a candle and goes to the window. He raises it and sticks his head out, grumbling.

**Girl's Voice:** James, do you think he will come down? It's so late...I'm most sorry we started out.

**Young Man's Voice:** Sally, we didn't know how bad the roads would be, and of course Dobbin's gittin' old and not so spry

**Squire Waters:** (Opens window and yells down to the couple.) What's it? Want to come in for the night? Glad its stopped raining.

**Young Man's Voice:** No, Judge, thank you sir. Sally and me, here, want to be married. We started early enough, but some of the roads on Morgan Hill is gullied out and the bridges gone. We hate to bother you so late, but we want to get hitched. Will you do it right now? (Waters children begin to whimper)

**Squire:** Well, well, what's your hurry? Ain't there enough hours in the day? Let me git me specks and the book...(hunts for the book)

**Mrs. Waters:** Let me get up and see to them, Aretus.

**Squire:** No, wife, they won't come in and I'll just marry them where they are. You don't need to get up. Where's me book? (still searching)

**Mrs. Waters:** Children keep still. Pa's going to marry somebody. Hush!

**Squire:** (finds book in bureau drawer, finds place, puts on specs and goes to the window and calls out) Already down there?

**Young Man's Voice:** Whoa, whoa, Already Squire.

**Girl's Voice:** O, James how romantic!

**Young Man's Voice:** Yes, Sally, and now your Pa can't interfere.

(Mrs. Waters holds candle for the Squire.)

**Squire:** Already? Do you James, take Sally to be your wedded wife in sickness and in health, in rain or drouth, for better, for worse?

**Man's Voice:** Oh yes, Squire. I sure do.

**Squire:** (yelling down at them) Do you Sally, take James to be your lawful husband, to love, honor, and obey 'til death do you part?

**Girl's Voice:** Oh yes, Squire, always.

**Squire:** Then I pronounce you man and wife. God bless ye. Good thing its stopped raining. Have a pleasant ride home.

**Young Man's Voice:** But Squire, how much do I owe you?

**Squire:** Well, how you fixed? Got your pocket full of Sheckles? Ha, ha!

**Young Man's Voice:** well, sir, not much, but I got two bits here...

**Squire:** Well, if that's all you got, go on. You need it worse than I do! Good night and Good luck. (shuts window) Those youngsters don't know what they are doing!

**Mrs. Waters:** Oh, Aretus, I hope they will be happy. Now children be quiet and go back to sleep.

**Henry:** Ma, Why do folks get married?

**Mrs. Waters:** Because they love each other more than anyone else in the whole world. Always remember that, Hank.

**CURTAIN**

## A Letter from Civil War Times

"Since the letter was copied from a copy, it was impossible to ascertain whether all the errors were in the original or a result of typographical error. Therefore, a partial editing was undertaken.

Letter dated about February 1864 from Caroline Waters to her brother (George) and sister (Harriet). Source: Stories of Cuyler Vol. I, by Virginia Whitmarsh, self published, 1982, p. 50-2.

Highlights:

- Caroline had 5 (6?) sons in the Civil War.
- Oscar was practicing law in Centerville, St. Joseph Co., Michigan.
- Alcunder was wounded at Gettysburg, lost a leg but recovered.
- Henry was also wounded at Gettysburg. He recovered and was put in charge of Invalid Corps in Alexandria, VA.
- Curtis was in the Army for three months when he was taken down with a fever.
- Aretus belonged to 100<sup>th</sup> Land Volunteers Regiment. This appears to have been a son since Caroline's husband Aretus was ~65 at the time this letter was written.
- Alvah was commissioned a colonel by Governor Seymour and was assigned to recruiting.
- Caroline's youngest was born in April 1850. At the young age of 14 he took of for Elmira NY. He enlisted in the heavy artillery that was stationed at Washington in Fort Simmons.
- Daughter Emily and husband Aretus are well.

Cortland, about Feb. 1, 1864

My dear Brother and Sister,

I have long neglected to write to you. It is not because I have forgotten you or any lack of affection towards you that I have not written but because I have so many children in the service of their country that claim a mother's letters to comfort and console them. Alcunder was wounded at Gettysburg. He lay on the battlefield for three days, he was a prisoner, had his leg broken to pieces, not a mouthful to eat for the whole time until he was retaken. Henry was wounded at the same time, had his hand shot through. After he got so he could go he told the rebels that he must look for his brother. He found him where he fell in the hot sun. they had nothing to eat for three days. Poor fellow how he suffered, he gave up to die, and was reconciled to his fate. He trusted in the Savior and felt as though he had done his duty and what was required of him to do in the defense of the glorious flag of his country. I thank the Lord that their lives were spared and they are in comfortable health in the hospital where he has every attention and care that he needs. His leg was so badly mortified that he had to have it taken off. He was very weak after it was taken off...he was taken to Jarvice General Hospital. His nurse got him up on crutches. He was so weak that he fell and hurt his back and struck the stump of his leg on the floor and hurt him so bad that pieces of the bone worked out. The surgeon thinks it will get well. He is gaining strength so he can walk the length of the ward which is about 60 feet. He thinks he will be able to come home in a month or two. Henry has the command of the one hundredth company Invalid corps stationed at Alexandria. I will tell you about my boys that were in the One Hundred Fifty Seventh. Henry was in the battle of Chancellorsville and never got a scratch. They fell all around him, but thank the Lord, he did preserve him to serve his country still further. When Curtis had been in the army three months he was taken with the fever and carried to Mount Pleasant Hospital. He was there until he was able to take care of the sick and wounded soldiers for which he has the greatest faculty. It appears to be his study to have patience with the poor fellows that are weak and nervous. He says they must be humored. He has been home once since he went into the army. That was last November. He stayed but a few days. The hospital was filled with wounded soldiers. The General in charge wanted him to come back and take care of them. he is wardmaster of the fourth ward. The surgeon says he cannot spare him. He is my seventh son. He is a boy. He will encourage the poor fellows as long as there is hope. When there is no chance for their recovery, he will direct them to the Savior.

Now I will tell you about Aretus. He belongs to the 100 Land Volunteers Reg. He went from Memphis in June to reinforce Grant at Vicksburg. He stayed there till they surrendered then he went to Blackwater after Johnson drove him to Jackson Mississippi burnt that place the capitol of Mississippi. They fought six days. He was not hurt. Then he went back to Memphis and from there Mishon Ridge and Lookout mountain. It was there he had to fight again. He said his division had to open the ball coming down into Lookout Valley where the rebels concentrated their force and threw themselves upon his division yelling like demons. He saw their men fall like grass before the mower's sythe. He said they stood like Veterans. The men fell on every side of them. They drove. Long Street followed him until some of the men's shoes gave out. They had to wrap pieces of blankets around their feet to keep them off the frozen ground. This was in Nov. They had their coldest weather about that time that they ever had in that country. He went to Atlanty Gap. He got the ball of his thumb shot off. He had it done up and went about his duty. He was guarding the Railroad. His headquarters were at Belfort in Alabamma the last letter he wrote, but I suppose he is not there now, but is with Sherman or Smith near Mobile. The Western troops have a great deal to do. They are noble fellows.

I suppose you got Alvah's history from him when he was at your house. He has been recruiting for the war. Governor Seymour wrote a letter to him, He got it Monday, that he would give him a colonel's commission. He has gone to Albany now. His health is very good now. I think he will go into the Army again.

M.M. was drafted last July; paid his three hundred that is the same as if he went. You will get tired of reading what I write.

And now, My Brother, I come to the description of my youngest boy which is 14 years old next April. He started last Tuesday with his knapsack strapt on his back to take the cars for Almira to obey his country's call. He went off with his heart beating with patriotism. He has enlisted in the heavy artillery which is stationed at Washington in Fort Simmons.

Oscar is practicing law in Michigan, St. Jo County, Centerville. I think the sign of the times in encouraging. Our soldiers are going back as veterans which will make our armies flourish. The Lord has given wisdom to our secretary so he plans and makes our finances meet the demand of our Government. It is the Lord does this while the Rebbels cup of iniquity is full and they must be, put down, let all go that can. Our President presides over the nation with wisdom given him from God. How he has been prospered since he began. We had but a few ships of war. His money was all stolen form the treasury. Now we have a full treasury between 5 and 600 vessels of war. They have but 4 or 5 states that we have not got a foothold upon. We are all well. Aretus health is very good now, never was better. Emily is well. Thinks we shall come and see Uncle George and Aunt Harriet next July.

My boys, before they went to war, bought a home for their Mother and Father and secured it to us our lifetime. They have provided provision and ...money for our present use so we are provided for and they say to us when you want let us know and you shall have what you need. And now, my Brother, I thank the great giver of all blessings for his kind care of me and my family and hope with the lively hope of faith that my children may come home and be a comfort to their parents in their old age.

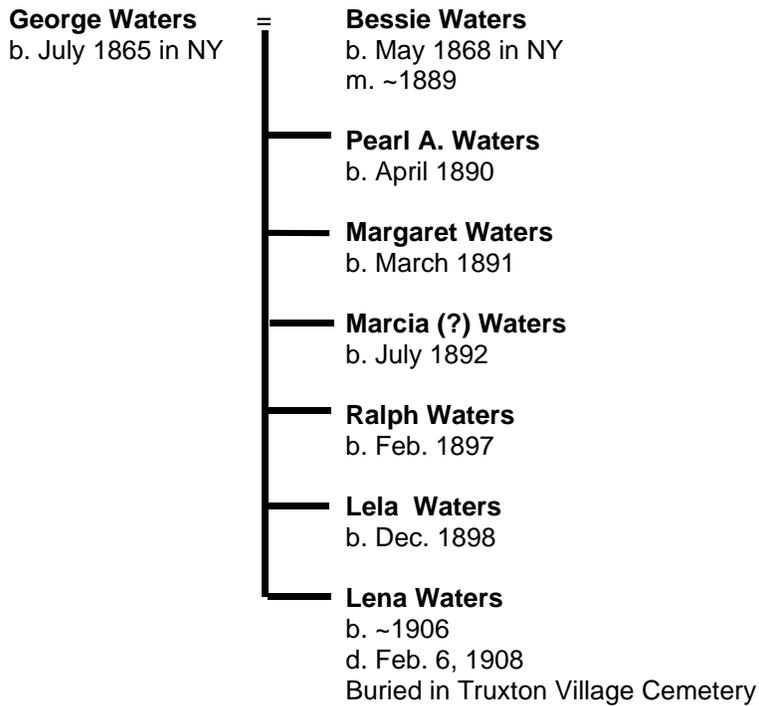
You will want to know where Alcander's children are. They are in Cortland Village under the care of Merton. The boys all help him. If the government does not furnish him what he wants they all send him that he may have all the little comforts he needs.

Give my love to all enquiring friends and accept the thanks of a loving sister for the present you sent me by A.D.. Let the lord be praised for the strength he gives me to sustain me under all these with cheerful heart I submit and hope for the best. Write soon.

From your sister,  
Caroline Waters

The Waters family owns a Photostat of this letter. Caroline and Aretus Waters were Charles Waters' great-grandparents.

## The George Waters Family

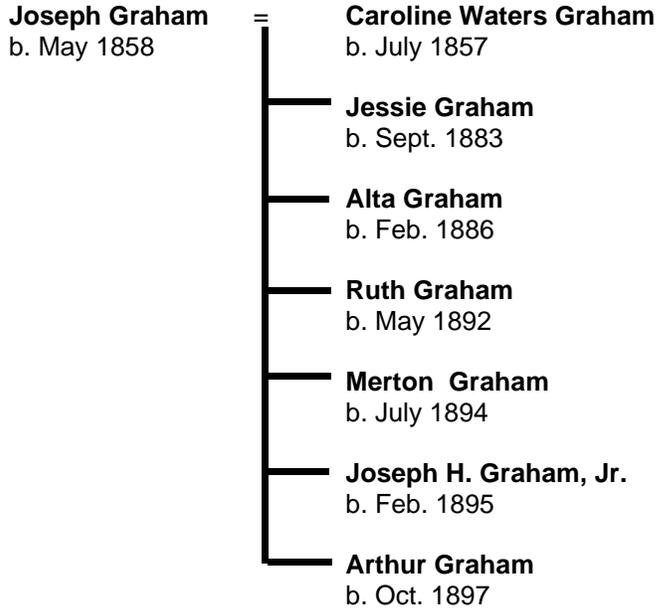


Source: 1900 Cortland Co., Truxton T623\1020\Part2\258A 141/142

George was the son of Orson Waters and Margaret Comerford Waters. In 1900 his farm was located about 7 farms south of the farm of Michael and Alice McGraw on the North Road out of Truxton. Levi Waters, younger brother of George, was working on this farm along with Mayme McGraw, daughter of Michael and Alice McGraw. They met while working on the farm and they were married in 1910. George and Bessie had 5 children and all were still living at the time of this census. George's father was born in NY and his mother was born in Ireland. Bessie's parents were both born in NY.

## Alcunder Waters

Alcunder Waters was the eldest son of Aretus and Caroline Waters and was born in December 1827. In 1900 he was living with his daughter Caroline (named after Alcunder's mother) and her husband Joseph Graham



## Waters in the Keeney Settlement Cemetery

The Keeney Cemetery is located in Onondaga County, New York. It is south of Fabius, on West Keeney Road just north of the Cortland and Onondaga County line. This information was extracted from a list that was put together by Mrs. Melva Kingsley Hitti (Nee Haskins) and Manly King Haskins in October 1968.

“Between North and South Gates” Reading Front to Back

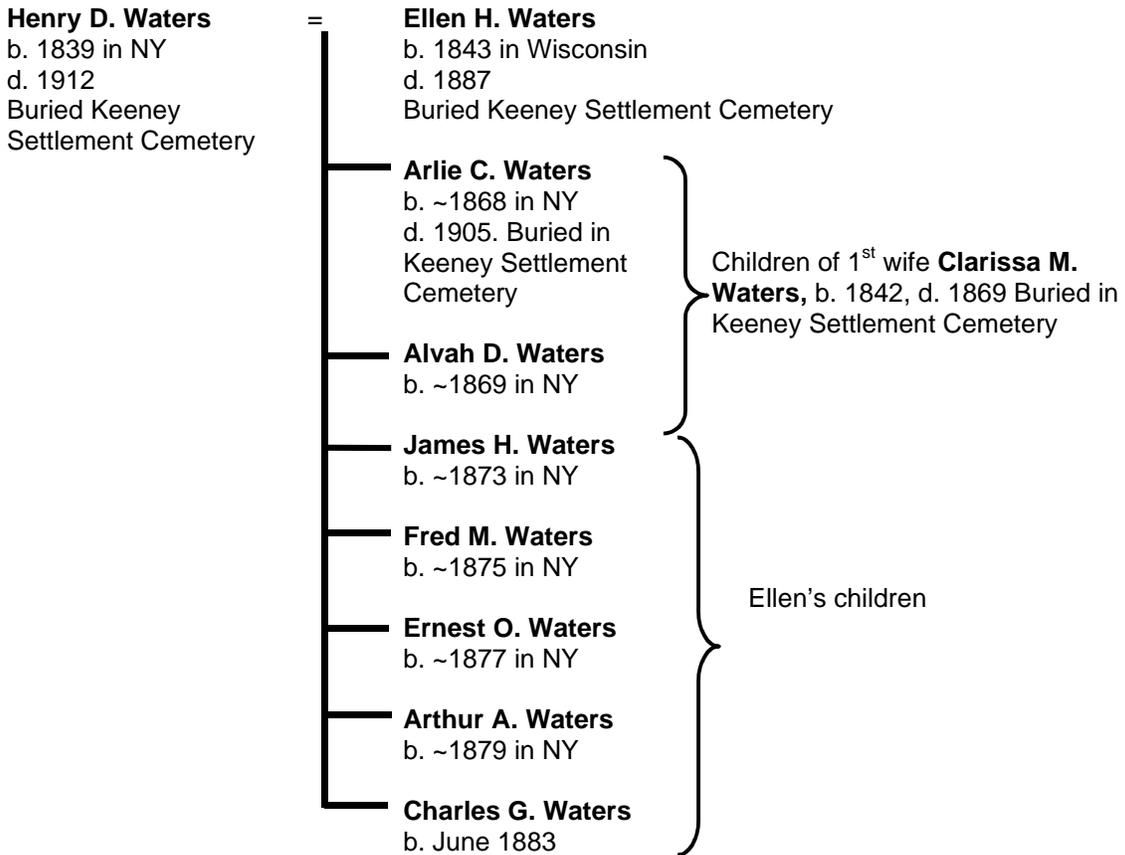
Lot	Surname	Given	Death Date	Age	Note
21	<b>Waters</b>	Arthur A.(twin)	1867 - 1875		
		Freddie	29 Apr 1865		died in infancy
		Fred M.	1874 - 1900		
		Ellen H.	1843 - 1887		wife of H.D. Waters
		Clarissa M.	1842 - 1869		wife of H.D. Waters
		<b>Henry D.</b>	<b>1839 - 1912</b>		<b>CW</b>
24	<b>Waters</b>	<b>J.H.</b>	<b>1872 - 1936</b>		
	wife	Jessie D.	1871 - 1960		
		Ernest O.	1887 - 1907		
		Arlone C.	1867 - 1905		

Back Part of Cemetery

"The back part of the cemetery is laid out in rows. I have started at the East side and worked to the back of the cemetery. I have indicated the direction in which the row is read under the row number."

Lot	Surname	Given	Death Date	Age	Note
2nd Row N to S	Waters	Mrs. Stephen	11 Dec 1822	45	

**The Henry D. Waters Family**

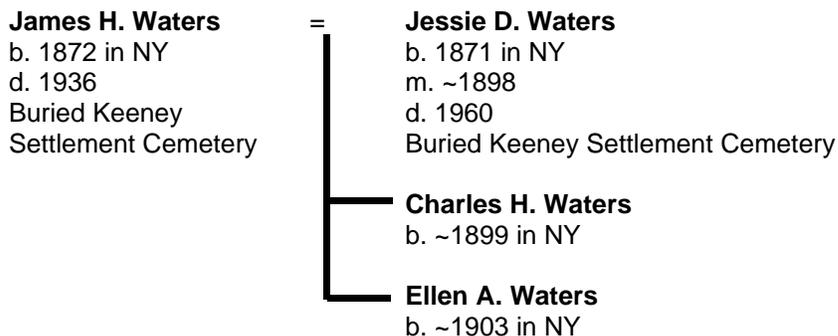


Source:

- 1870 Census, Cortland Co., Cuyler M593\922\717B 157/157
- 1880 Census, Cortland Co., Cuyler T9\822\Part1\93A 84/91 – June 10, 1880
- 1900 Census, Cortland Co., Cuyler T623\1020\part2\142B 142/147

Henry's father was born in Connecticut and his mother was born in NY. Ellen was born in Wisconsin but her parents were born in NY. Ellen died in 1887 and Henry married Sarah J. (3<sup>rd</sup> wife, b. Sept. 1853) in ~1889. In 1900 only Charles was living at home with his parents. They had four children and in 1910 all four were living but were not living at home with their parents.

## The James H. Waters Family



### Source:

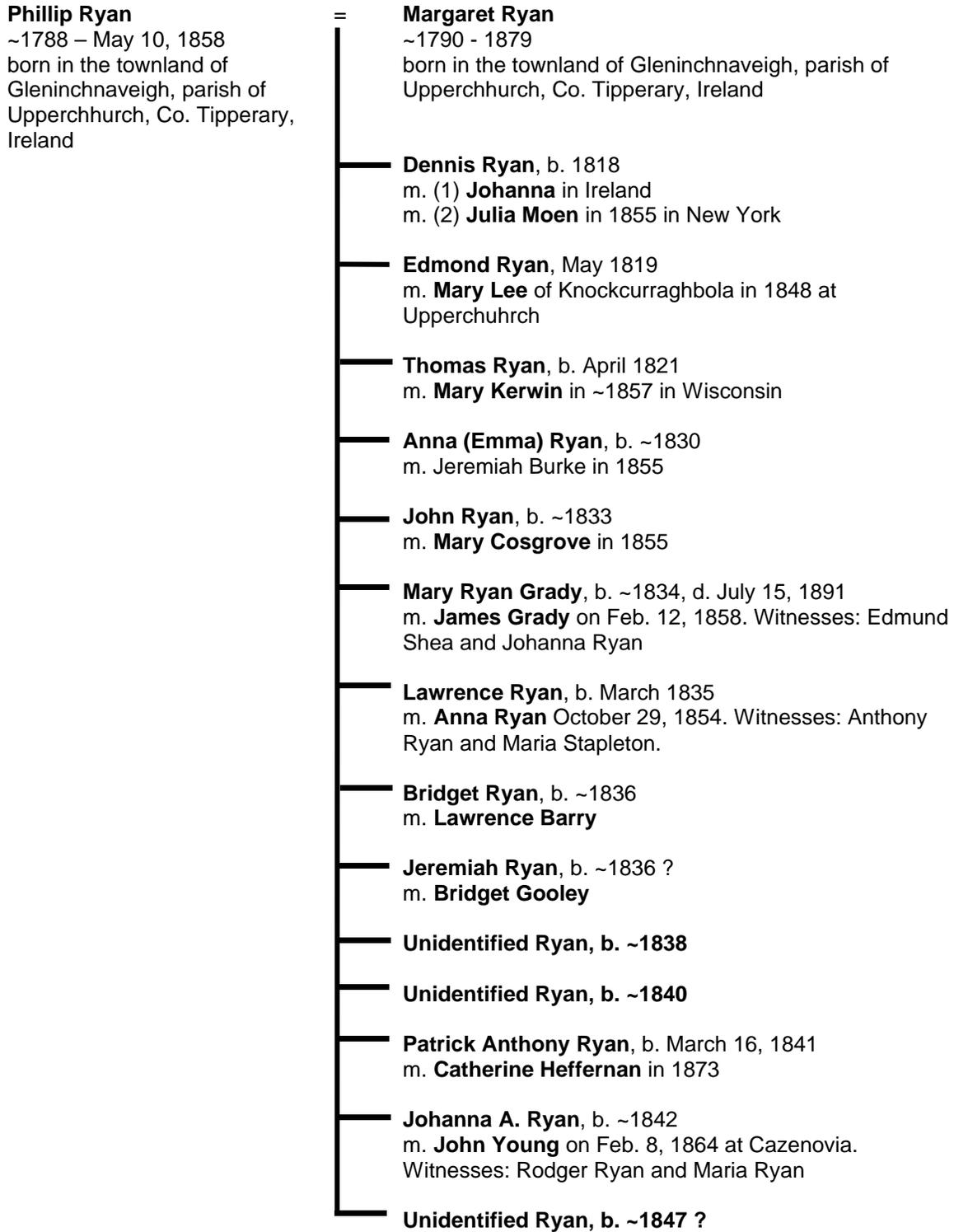
1910 Census Cortland Co., Cuyler T624\934\Part2\179B 126/129.

1920 Census Cortland Co., Cuyler T625\1096\Part1\191A 48/49

In 1910 James and Jessie had 2 children and both were still living. They were living on Keeney Settlement Road. James is the son of Henry D. and Ellen H. Waters. James was the son of Henry D. and Ellen H. Waters.

# Possible Family Connections

## Ryans in the Township of Fabius, Onondaga County



This was a large family that settled in Fabius in the latter part of 1854 or the early part of 1855 and all children were born in Ireland. According to John and Margaret's gravestone in the Pompey Catholic Cemetery states that both of them were born in the townland of Gleninchaveigh, Upperchurch parish, Co. Tipperary. This is the same townland, and it is a small townland, where Con Ryan's ancestors were living. Edmond and Mary McGrath were living in Gleninchaveigh when their son John was baptized in 1844. There appears to be more people in this small townland than the records can accommodate. The details indicate that Mary Ryan and her sisters were not children of this Phillip and Mary Ryan. Mary's family and Con's family were living in Gleninchaveigh during the late 1840's at which time Phillip and Margaret Ryan and their family of 14 children were still in Ireland. It is possible that Phillip and Margaret were born in Gleninchaveigh in ~1788 and ~1790 respectively but then moved to some other townland. I am convinced that they are probably related to both Mary Ryan and Con Ryan but the evidence is still lacking.

The following is from Dick Barr of Syracuse, NY

Phillip Ryan was born in the townland of Gleninchaveigh, parish of Upperchurch, Co. Tipperary, Ireland in about 1788. Phillip died intestate May 10, 1858, Fabius, Onondaga County, New York and was first buried in St. Mary's Cemetery on Renwick Avenue, Syracuse, New York. His remains were transferred to Immaculate Conception Cemetery in the village of Pompey, Onondaga County, New York on December 17, 1879.

Phillip married MARGARET RYAN. She was born about 1790, also in Gleninchaveigh. Margaret died 8 November 1879, in Fabius, New York. They are buried in the Cemetery of the Immaculate Conception on Cemetery Road, Town of Pompey. A large obelisk style monument marks the family plot. The date of their marriage has yet to be discovered. Phillip and Margaret emigrated to the United States the latter part of 1854 or early 1855. They appear first on the 1855 New York State Census taken 6th of June 1855 in the Town of Fabius, Onondaga County, where they are recorded as being resident of Fabius 1/6 year.

Phillip and his son Edmond were farmers. On 1 November 1855, Dennis Cain and his wife, Catharine, sold property being part of Lot Number Fifteen (15) in the Town of Fabius, to Phillip Ryan for \$300.00. They had fourteen (14) children born in Ireland, but only ten (10) have been identified through land records in the United States. The missing four may have died in infancy, or just not immigrated with their parents. Perhaps we will never know. In a deed dated 28 April 1866 Margaret Ryan sold this property to Daniel Heffernan of Fabius for \$500.00..

Onondaga County Deeds Book 163, pp. 231-232. Dated 28 April 1866. Recorded 17 January 1867, 1 P.M., Carroll E. Smith, Justice of the Peace. County Clerk's Office, County Court House, Syracuse, New York. Because a wife/widow was entitled to only one third of her husband's real property, the remaining two thirds being reserved to the children, Margaret had to have her living children sign off on their share of the property. Each child was named in the deed, together with their place of residence. This is how the ten (10) children are identified. Listed in the deed: "Margaret Ryan, Edmond Ryan, Jeremiah Ryan, Patrick Ryan, Emma Burk, Mary Gready (sic), of Fabius, Onondaga County, N.Y., Dennis Ryan, Thomas Ryan of Roxberry (sic), Dane county, Wisconsin, Lawrence Ryan, Johanna Young of Truxton, Cortland county, N.Y., Bridget Barry of Cazenovia, Madison County, N.Y."

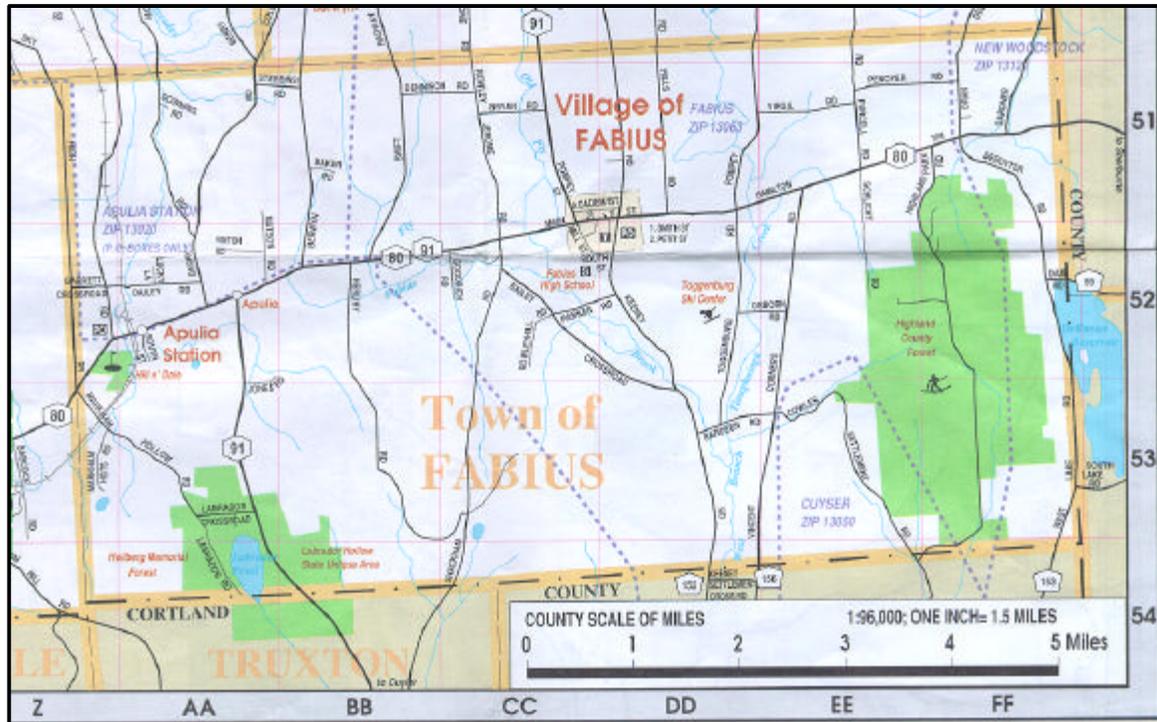
Note: Daniel Heffernan was not found on the Fabius map from 1874.

If Mary, Catherine and Margaret Ryan were daughters of Phillip and Margaret Ryan then they would have signed off on the land sale (Lot 15 Town of Fabius) on April 28, 1866. Especially since sons Dennis and Thomas Ryan living in Dane Co., WI managed to sign the document.

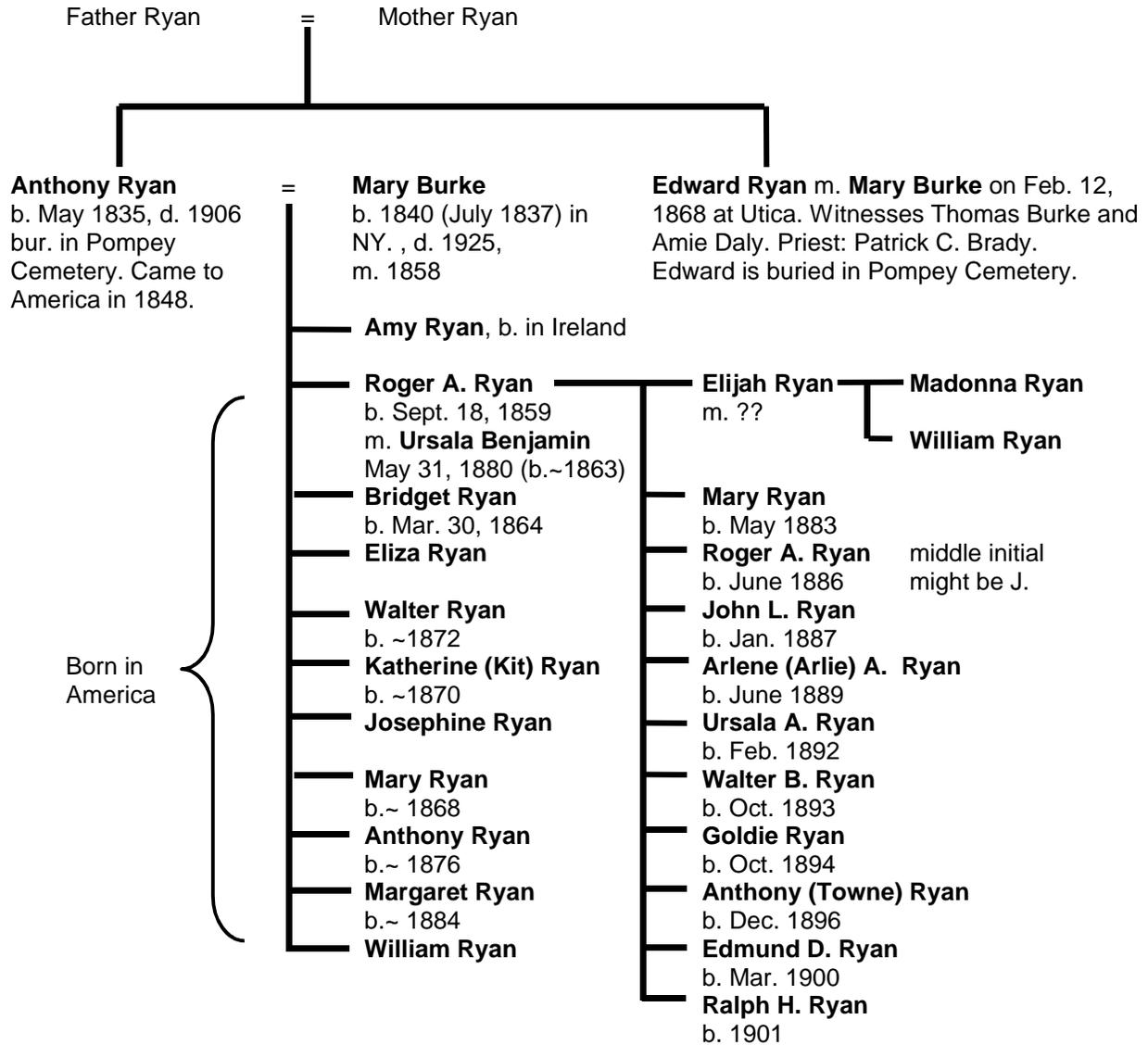
Jeremiah and Anna (Emma) Ryan Burke were living next to Patrick Gleason in 1876 on Blanchard Hill in the northwest section of the town of Cuyler.



connection with the Pompey Ryans. These names above were supplied by the parish priest whereas the children's names for the other Phillip and Margaret Ryan were found in a legal document in Onondaga County relating to a land transaction. Therefore we can be certain that these are two different families. Since they were both associated with the same small townland of Gleninchaveigh how did the parish priest sort out the children? Phillip and Margaret (No. 1) were born in Gleninchaveigh but perhaps they weren't living there when their children were born so that both families' children wouldn't both show up in the Upperchurch parish record book. In addition I don't believe that Margaret (No. 1) was a Ryan. Since the parish records used the mother's maiden name this would eliminate a possible source of confusion in separating the records of the two families.



## The Ryan family of Pompey, NY.



The birth month info came from the 1900 Federal Census.

“Elijah was divorced ~1920 and married a woman 30 years his junior. She raised 5 or 6 of Edmund’s 18 children in my (Richard Bean) grandfather’s house.” Madonna Ryan was Richard Bean’s biological mother.

In 1988 the Ryans held a reunion near Cuyler, NY and all 18 of Edmund’s children attended. “Roger Ryan was a devout Catholic and Ursala Benjamin an English Baptist. I (Richard Bean) was raised Baptist, because of the conflict as I understand it my grandfather was raised by his grandfather Elijah Benjamin.” Richard got the information from Edna Kingsley, one of Edmund Ryan’s children.

Source: Richard Bean, 2 Redfern Drive, Churchville, NY 14428-8901, Phone 716-293-2131.

The point of origin in Ireland for Anthony and Edward Ryan is unknown at this time. In addition they don't appear to be descended from Phillip and Margaret Ryan of Gleninchaveigh, Upperchurch, Co. Tipperary or the second Philip and Margaret Ryan also of Upperchurch.

Additional Information from the St. James Catholic Church records, Cazenovia, New York on the children of **Anthony and Mary Burke Ryan**.

Roger Ryan, b. Sept. 18, 1859, bap. Oct. 23, 1859 at Pompey Hill, New York. Sponsors John Ryan and Maria Ryan; priest Bonaventure Carney. Roger A. Ryan was married in DeRuyter on May 31, 1880 by Rev. D.Q. Mitchell, Esq., at his residence, to Ursula A. Benjamin both of Lincklean. Marriage announcement was from the DeRuyter Gleaner, Jan 1880.

Bridget Ryan, b. Mar. 30, 1864, bap. May 8, 1864 at Truxton. Sponsors John Hogan and Bridget Henessy; priest: P.C. Brady.

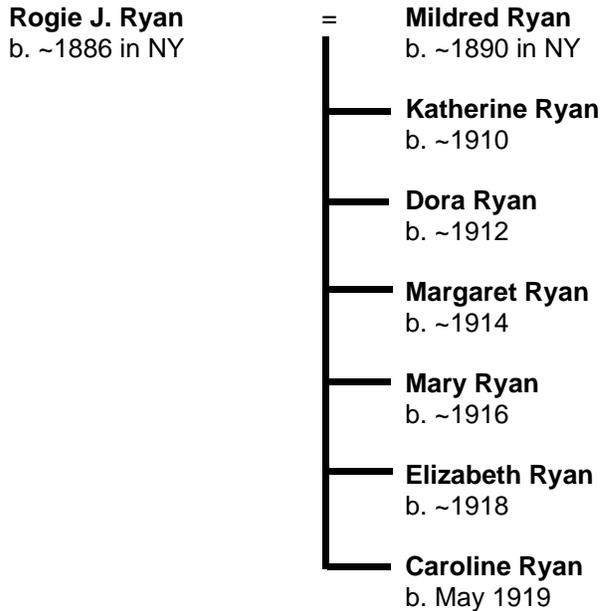
The baptismal records records for the remaining children (Eliza, Walter, Katherine, Josephine, Mary, Anthony, Margaret and William) will probably be found in the Truxton Catholic Church records.

Cuyler Hill School Pupils of the early 1900's. First row: Edmund Ryan, Elmer Randall, Lydia Isabell, Margaruite Nodine, Harry Cardner, Ralph Ryan. Second row: Glenn Walker, Geneva Randall, Rollo Cardner, Arlie Cardner, LeRoy Eaton. Third row: Adelbert Eaton, Goldie Ryan, Walter Ryan, Eva Pickett, Towne Ryan. Fourth row: Louise Delamarter (teacher), Ursula Ryan, Leta Randall, Emma Cardner, Florence Tobin, Duane Angell.



Source: Virginia Whitmarsh, *A Postcard History of Cuyler*, 1975. Seven members of the Roger and Ursula Benjamin Ryan family of Cuyler Hill are represented here in this photo from 1907 or 1908. Florence Tobin is the daughter of John and Mary Ann Lonergan Tobin.

## The Roger J. Ryan Family



Source: 1920 Census – Cortland Co., Cuyler T625\1096\Part1\195A 138/141  
Roger was a dairy farmer and both of his parents were born in NY. This is probably the son of Roger and Ursala Ryan however in the 1900 census his middle initial was given as an “A.”

The 1880 Census records for Truxton give the following information:

Name	Age	Occupation
Anthony Ryan	50	Works in sawmill
Mary Ryan	40	Works in house
Bridget E. Ryan	16	At home
Mary Ryan	12	At home
Catherine Ryan	10	At home
Walter	8	At home
Johannah	6	At home
Anthony	4	At home

Anthony Ryan was born in Ireland as were both his parents. Mary Burke Ryan was born in New York State and her parents were born in Ireland. Roger Ryan is not shown as living with his parents in the 1880 census.

Information from the 1900 Federal Census for the Town of Cuyler, T623\1020\Part 2\138B-139A.

Name	Born	Age
Roger A. Ryan	Sept. 1859	40
Ursala A. (Benjamin) Ryan	April 1863	37
Mary E. Ryan	May 1883	17
Roger A. Ryan	June 1886	14
John L. Ryan	Jan. 1887	13
Arlie A. Ryan	June 1889	11
Ursala A. Ryan	Feb. 1892	8

Walter B. Ryan	Oct. 1893	6
Daughter (Probably Goldie)	Oct. 1894	5
Anthony T. (Towne) Ryan	Dec. 1896	3
Edmond D. Ryan	Mar. 1900	3/12

In St. James Cemetery, Cazenovia, Madison Co., NY there is an Edmund Ryan who died on January 6, 1921 at the age of 83. This means he was born ~1838. Could he possibly be the same person as Edward Ryan, Anthony Ryan's brother, who married Mary Burke on Feb. 12, 1868. Edmund would have been 30 in 1868 and that fits but many an Edmond became an Edward rather than the other way around.

Catherine Ryan was the daughter of Roger A. Ryan's. She married Philip Stahl. See Virginia Whitmarsh's *Stories of Cuyler*, p. 14ff. Roger A. Ryan's family was known as the Ryans of Cuyler Hill, Cuyler, New York.

## Bernard Ryan of Cazenovia

<p><b>Bernard Ryan</b>          (probably known as Barney)          b. ~1799 in par. Drumhaun          (Drumbane), Co. Tipperary, Ireland.          d. Feb. 6, 1865. Buried in the Catholic          Cemetery (St. James) in Cazenovia,          Madison Co., NY.</p>	=	<p><b>Ellen Malowney (Moloney) Ryan</b>          b.~1811 in Ballychill (Ballycahill), Co. Tipperary,          Ireland.          Died Jan. 21, 1889, buried in the Catholic Cemetery          (St. James) in Cazenovia, Madison Co., NY.</p>
	—	<p><b>Catherine Ryan</b>          b.~1834 in Ireland</p>
	—	<p><b>Ellen Ryan</b>          b.~1836 in Ireland, d. Nov. 13, 1871          Buried in the Catholic Cemetery (St. James) in          Cazenovia, Madison Co., NY.</p>
	—	<p><b>John Ryan</b>          b.~1838 in Ireland</p>
	—	<p><b>Barney Ryan</b>          b. ~ 1846 in Ireland</p>
	—	<p><b>Mary Ryan</b>          b. ~ 1847 in Ireland</p>
	—	<p><b>Margaret Ryan</b>          b. Aug. 1850 in New York, d. May 30, 1876          Buried in the Catholic Cemetery (St. James) in          Cazenovia, Madison Co., NY.</p>
	—	<p><b>Patrick H. Ryan</b>          b.~1852 in New York, d. July 22, 1870          aged 27 yrs 9 mo. (b. ~Nov. 1852)          Buried in the Catholic Cemetery (St. James) in          Cazenovia, Madison Co., NY.</p>
	—	<p><b>Elizabeth Ryan</b>          b. 1854, bap. May 14, 1854          Sp: Jeremiah Burke and Julia Murphy          d. Oct. 4, 1873          Buried in the Catholic Cemetery (St. James) in          Cazenovia, Madison Co., NY.</p>

In the 1850 Federal Census Barney Ryan is living in the Township of Fabius, Onondaga Co., NY. Margaret Ryan was born just one month prior to the taking of Barney Ryan's census information.

In the 1855 NYS Census Barney Ryan was living in Cazenovia, Dist. #3, Dwelling #13, Family #13 frame dwelling worth \$100, Age 56, resident for 5 years. He had 8 people in his household and listed his occupation as farmer. The children's names came from the 1850 census and a list of those individuals buried in St. James Catholic Cemetery, Cazenovia, Madison Co., NY. These were the children who remained in the Cazenovia area there might have been other children who had left the area. Two of their children, Barney Ryan and Mary Ryan, were found living with Barney and Ellen Ryan in the 1860 Federal Census.

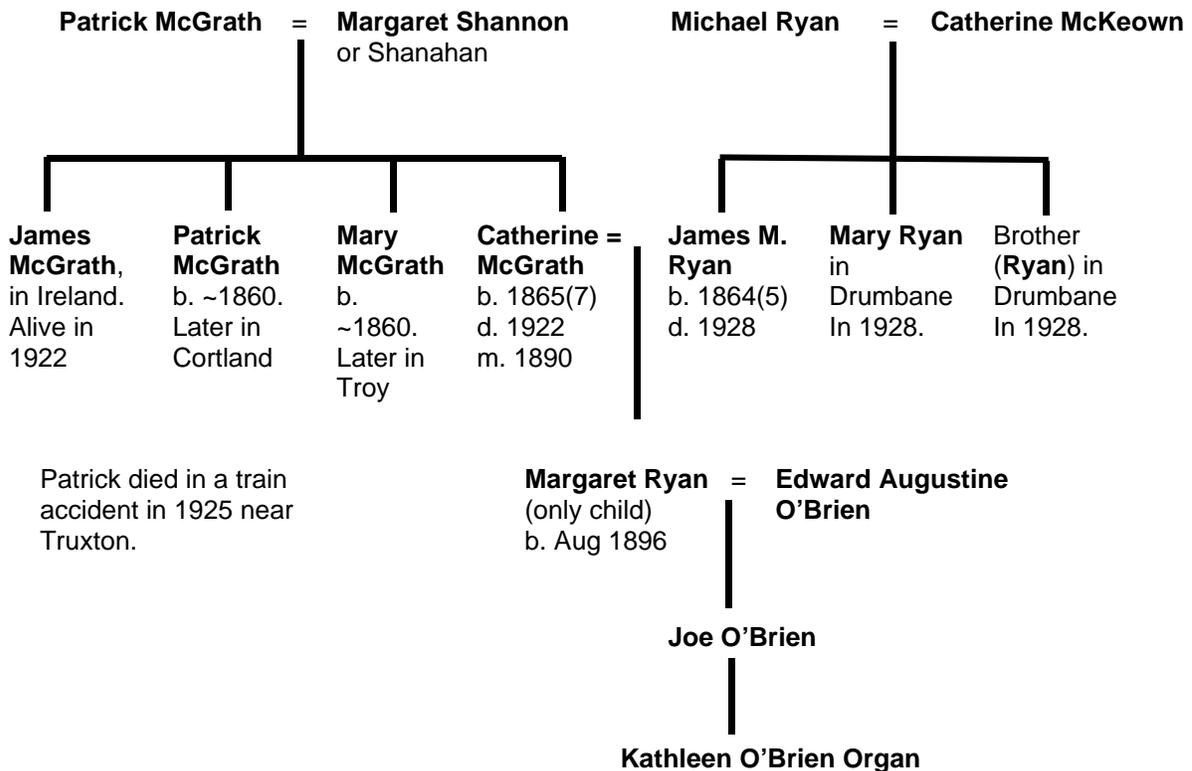
The Roman Catholic Parish in the region where Bernard was from was called Upperchurch-Drumbane. The Roman Catholic parish consists of the civil parishes of Upperchurch, Templebeg and Moyaliff. Drumbane is a townland in the civil parish of Moyaliff. In the R.C. Upperchurch parish records there was a Barney Ryan who, along with Philip Magrath, were witnesses for the marriage of John Magrath and Bridget Ryan. The marriage took place in Upperchurch on September 4, 1842.

Bernard and Ellen were married in Ireland and their daughter Ellen was also born there. Their daughter Margaret was born in the same year that Bernard and Ellen arrived in Cazenovia. Assuming that they came directly from Ireland to Cazenovia then Margaret was probably born in Ireland. Ellen and Margaret don't show up in the St. James baptism records because they were probably baptized in Ireland prior to the family coming to America. Patrick was born prior to the beginning of the St. James records and so he doesn't appear but Elizabeth Ryan, born in 1854, does appear in the St. James baptism records.

65. RYAN, Elizabeth, daughter of Bernard RYAN and Helen MOLONEY, baptized 14 May 1854. Sponsors: Jeremiah Burke and Julia Murphy. Priest: J. P. Cahill.

Based on baptismal records and census information Bernard Ryan and family arrived in America between 1847 and 1850. The 1855 census has him as a resident for 5 years and that places his arrival in America prior to June 1850. He probably knew Edmond and Mary McGrath and arrived in central New York before Mary, Michael and John McGrath came to America in November 1850.

## The Ryans and McGraths of Drumbane, Co. Tipperary



This family tree belongs to Joe O'Brien whose grandparents came from Ireland and lived in the Troy area. His grandmother was a Catherine McGrath (1867-1922), one of whose brothers later went to Cortland and died in a train accident in 1925 near Truxton. Joe's grandfather was James Ryan (1864-1928) who came from Drumbane, Moyaliff, Co. Tipperary and settled in the Troy area. I've written to Joe and given him information on Edmund and family but received no reply. It was through his daughter Kathleen that I finally contacted him in 2001.

This information comes from Joe O'Brien and his daughter Kathleen O'Brien Organ. The chart above is based on my best interpretation of the information that Joe and Kathleen have provided and on information that I have been able to find in various census records.

Catherine and James both arrived in the U.S. in 1888 and were living in the town of Cortlandville according to the 1900 census. Catherine McGrath and James Ryan were married in the U.S. in late 1889 or early 1890, probably in Cortland Co. There might be a marriage record on file in Cortland County. James was born in Drumbane, Moyaliff, Co. Tipperary in March 1866 according to his obituary. Two sisters named Gilmartin were still in Ireland according to the same obituary.

James was employed as a laborer in something called the "gas works." Their daughter Margaret married Edward Augustine O'Brien and settled in Troy, New York. The parents of Edward Augustine O'Brien were Timothy O'Brien (born in U.S. or Ireland) and Mary Mannion (born in England). Two sisters were married to brothers named Hurley. Whether they were O'Brien or

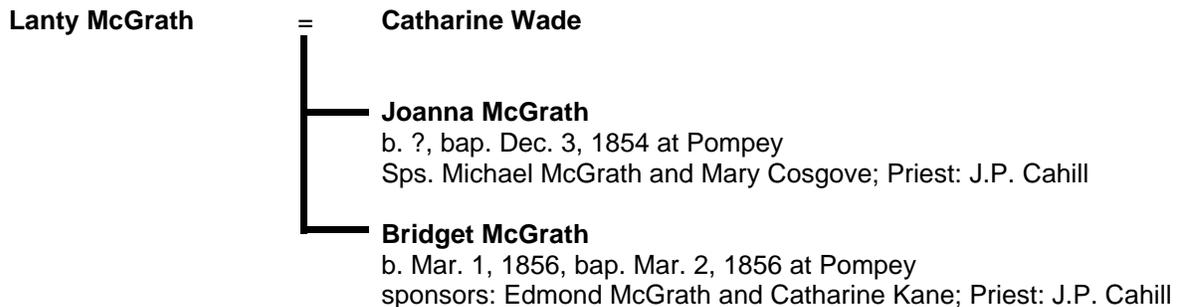
Mannion is uncertain.

Joe and Kathleen had indicated that Patrick McGrath died in a train accident near Truxton in 1925. In the McGraw family there was a John Rooney (g-grandmother Alice's brother) who also died in a train accident in East Homer, near Truxton in 1913. John Rooney is buried in the McGraw family plot in the Catholic Cemetery in Truxton, NY. There was a Patrick McGraw boarding with a Ryan family that was living on the same farm as the Michael O'Brien family in Truxton in the 1900 Cortland County census. This Patrick was born in Nov. 1868 and arrived in America in 1895. This might be the same person as the Patrick McGrath that is related to Joe O'Brien.

NOTE: 1900 Census – Patrick McGraw boarding with William Ryan, b. Nov 1868, 32, single, born in Ireland as were both his parents. Came to the US in 1895. Could not read or write English.  
June 13, 1900 – T623\1020\PART 2\ 259B

## The Interesting Name of Lanty

Lanty McGraw shows up in Truxton (probably the 1850 Federal Census for the Township of Truxton – which included the present day Township of Cuyler) apparently alone in 1850. There was a Lanty McGrath living in the Township of Fabius, Onondaga Co., with his wife Catharine Wade McGrath and six children in 1855 according to the NYS Census carried out in June of that year. In the 1855 NYS Census Lanty is recorded as having been in the country (county?) for 5 years. On March 1, 1856 their second daughter, Bridget, was born. She was baptized on the following day, at Pompey, by the priest from St. James Catholic Church in Cazenovia, Father J.P. Cahill. One of the sponsors was Edmond McGrath who is probably our Edmond McGrath from Upperchurch.



The name Lanty is a bit unusual and that could be helpful in determining where Lanty McGrath might have emigrated from in Ireland. The large number of Ryan families in Co. Tipperary has led to the use of nicknames by these families to help keep things sorted out. The following Ryan individuals all share the family nickname of Lanty. These were the only individuals on the Griffith's Valuation Index CD who had this nickname attributed to them and the CD contains information on over 1 million individuals. All these parishes form a close cluster of parishes adjacent to the southern edge of Moyaliff parish, which is further evidence that these Ryans are all related.

Name	Townland	Parish	County
John Ryan	Turraheen Lower	Clogher	Tipperary
John Ryan	Clonoulty Curragh	Clonoulty	Tipperary
James Ryan	Carrow	Donohill	Tipperary
Philip Ryan	Carrow	Donohill	Tipperary
John Ryan	Knockakill	Templebeg	Tipperary
Judith Ryan	Knockakill	Templebeg	Tipperary

A further search for locations in Co. Tipperary that included the word Lanty failed to turn up any candidate locations. Searching the Griffith's Valuation Index CD for the occurrences of Lanty as a surname turned up the following individuals:

Name	Townland	Parish	County
James Lanty	Townfields	Modreeny	Tipperary
John Lanty	Liskinlahan	Borrisokane	Tipperary
Thomas Lanty	T/CloghJordan, Main Street	Modreeny	Tipperary
Thomas Lanty	Townfields	Modreeny	Tipperary

The parishes of Modreeny and Borrisokane are adjacent to each other and are located in the northern portion of the North Riding of Co. Tipperary. Upperchurch and Thurles are in central Tipperary, just above the southern boundary of the North Riding. A possible scenario is that one of the female Lantys married into the Ryan family of central Co. Tipperary and the descendents from that marriage adopted the Lanty maiden name as their family nickname.

Going back further over 100 years earlier, there was a Lanty Fogarty living near Upperchurch. He is mentioned in the Will of Malachy Fogarty of Fithmone. Lanty had signed the Will dated April 25, 1732 [<http://homepage.eircom.net/~jjcondon/wills>]. James Fogarty was from the townland of Ballinlonty and was a relative of this Lanty Fogarty. The townland of Ballinlonty is in the parish of Kilfithmone, Co. Tipperary. This location is about 8 miles northeast of Upperchurch. Drom and Kilfithmone were part of the ancient lands of the Fogarty family. Considering how the spelling of Irish place names can change and the liberties taken with spelling it is possible that Ballinlonty could have equally had been Ballinlanty that translates to Lanty's village.

Rickard Magrath was mentioned in this same will of Malachy Fogarty where they were described as cousins. This relationship originates with the marriage of Thomas Fogarty of Drom & Fithmone and Anna McGrath of Derrymore in around 1700. Derrymore is a townland in Clogher parish which is adjacent to Moyalliff parish on the south. There is another similar reference found in the Morman IGI data Thomas Fogarty of Drom & Fithmone married Alice Magrath in 1745. This IGI data set is constructed from the submissions of well meaning individuals but it is totally unverified. There were many other errors in the rest of this Magrath data set that I was able to repair but I suspect that the Alice Magrath reference is really a reference to Ann McGrath. The Fogarty information is much more reliable and there is no reference to another female McGrath marrying into the family other than the initial Ann McGrath reference, and so the 1745 date is probably incorrect

Searching for Lanty or Lant as a first name on the Griffith's Valuation CD turned up the following list

Last Name	First Name	County	Parish	Townland
Johnston	Lanty	Cavan	Larah	Aghaway
Molloy	Lanty	Donegal	Donegal	Cornaveagh
Byrne	Lanty	Donegal	Glencolumbkille	Cloghan
Mc Nelis	Lanty	Donegal	Glencolumbkille	Drum
Hamilton	Lanty	Donegal	Glencolumbkille	Malin More
Byrne	Lanty	Donegal	Glencolumbkille	Meenasillagh
Brennan	Lanty	Donegal	Inishkeel	Buncroobog
Byrne	Lanty	Donegal	Kilcar	Crowkeeragh
Menalis	Lanty	Donegal	Kilcar	Roxborough Glebe
Hanlon	Lanty	Donegal	Lettermacaward	Meenagowan
Gallagher	Lanty	Donegal	Templecrone	Ballintra
Johnston	Lanty	Fermanagh	Boho	Lesky
Dawson	Lanty	Monaghan	Aghabog	Drumacreeve
<b>Quinlan</b>	<b>Lanty</b>	<b>Tipperary</b>	<b>Moyaliff</b>	<b>Clareen</b>
<b>Ryan</b>	<b>Lant</b>	<b>Tipperary</b>	<b>Thurles</b>	<b>Stradavoher</b>
<b>Ryan</b>	<b>Lanty</b>	<b>Tipperary</b>	<b>Upperchurch</b>	<b>Cappanaleigh</b>
Coyle	Lanty	Tyrone	Donaghmore	Killymoyle
Mccanny	Lanty	Tyrone	Longfield West	Dooish

The two Ryans listed in the table above were not associated with the nickname Lanty according to the Griffith's Valuation index CD but they were in the Upperchurch area. Lanty Quinlan was

from Moyaliff where Edmond and Mary McGrath were living when their first two children were born and this is adjacent to the Upperchurch civil parish to the north. The Griffith's Valuation for Co. Tipperary was carried out in 1851.

All of this evidence builds a case for attaching the name Lanty to a region in and around the parish of Upperchurch. This establishes yet another connection between Upperchurch, Co. Tipperary, Ireland and the Pompey area of Onondaga County, NY.

By combining the information from St. James Cemetery, Cazenovia and the 1855 NYS Census for the township of Cazenovia I have put together a list of where the individuals came from in Ireland. The highest concentrations came from Co. Meath and Co. Tipperary. The McGraths (brothers Thomas and William) came from Johnstown RC parish, Co. Meath but after the 1855 Census. There was a Bernard (Barney) Ryan (died Feb. 6, 1865, age 66) from Drumbane, Moyaliff par., Co. Tipperary who had arrived in Cazenovia in 1850. There was also a Barney Ryan, probably the same Barney, who showed up in the Upperchurch RC parish records. He was one of the witnesses at the wedding of John Magrath and Bridget Ryan on Sept. 4, 1842, the other witness was Philip Magrath. Others buried in Cazenovia from around the Upperchurch area are Flanagan, Heffernan, Stapleton and Burke.

Lanty McGraw and Barney Ryan both came to the Central New York area around 1850. In the final analysis we still don't know who came to the area first. However, there is plenty of evidence for a strong connection between the Upperchurch area in Ireland and tri-county area of Madison, Onondaga and Cortland counties.

## The McGraths of Madison Co.

On July 10<sup>th</sup> 2000 I found a post from Pat Bird (state of Washington) on the Tipperary list on the Internet. She was looking for descendants of Phillip and Margaret Ryan of Gleninchaveigh, Co. Tipperary. They had settled in Pompey in the early 1850's and were buried in the Immaculate Conception Cemetery in Pompey. This opened a virtual floodgate of new information. Pat led me to Dick Barr who was assembling the family history of Phillip and Margaret Ryan. Dick and Pat informed me that there wasn't a Catholic Church in Pompey in the 1850's and so people went to Cazenovia for the sacraments. This led me to the Madison County web page and to an amazing man named Daniel Weiskotten. He is doing an extensive cemetery project on ALL the cemeteries in three of the towns in Madison County (Cazenovia, Fenner and Nelson). From his work I found out that there were 21 McGraths buried in the Cazenovia Cemetery (aka St. Agnes or St. James).<sup>88</sup>

The following information came from Dick Barr's extensive work with the names from the Baptism and Marriage records of St. James Church, Cazenovia, NY. Here are six McGrath families who might have lived in Pompey, Cazenovia or somewhere in between. Since there wasn't a church in Pompey in the 1850's and 1860's the people traveled to Cazenovia to receive the sacraments. A search of the relevant census records will be needed to determine the exact place of residence of these individuals. Until they can be assigned somewhere else these McGraths are being labeled as the McGraths of Madison County.

The 1855 State Census, Town of Cazenovia, Madison County, NY (heads of families only) has been transcribed and edited by Daniel H. Weiskotten and posted on his web site. The following entries are the McGraws and Ryans found in that list

Tabular summary of the 1855 Census<sup>89</sup> above:

Name	Age	Birth Year	Family Size	Resident	Arrival Year
John C. Ryan (Cazenovia)	34	~1821	5	14 years	1841
James McGraw (Cazenovia)	30	~1825	4	6 years	1849
Barney Ryan (Cazenovia)	56	~1799	8	5 years	1850
Patrick Ryan (Fenner)	38	~1817	6	4 years	1851
Michael McGraw (Cazenovia)	23	~1832	3	3 years	1852
John Ryan (Cazenovia)	30	~1825	3	3 years	1852

In the Truxton Catholic Cemetery there is an Ann McGrath, d. May 25, 1883 age 87 yrs (b.~1796). Her monument is next to the McGrath (John W. and Ellen Comerford) monument and on the north side of it. Ann died in DeRuyter but was buried in Truxton. According to Doug Currie Ann's husband was Patrick McGrath and they were listed in the 1850 Federal Census as living in Pompey and having 2 children. The 1855 NYS Census found Ann and Patrick living in Fabius. According to the 1860 Federal Census Patrick was 50 and Ann was 60 and both were born in Ireland. They had a son Miles, age 17, who was also born in Ireland. Patrick died on Feb. 20, 1893 (Cazenovia Death Certificate #581) at the age of ~86 (b.~1807). According to the information on the death certificate his father was Miles McGrath and he was born in Ireland; his mother was Jerusha Vibbard and she was born in Connecticut. This looks like Miles would have met Jerusha in America – but Patrick reported on the 1860 census that he was born in Ireland. The certificate also states that he is buried in the Truxton Cemetery even though there is no engraving on his wife Anna's monument that would indicate that he is buried there.

The following information on the church history in Cazenovia is from Christine O. Atwell's Cazenovia, Past & Present – A Descriptive and Historical Record of the Village, Florida Press, Orlando, 1928, Chapter V, pp. 41-47.

**St. James's Catholic Church**, organized 1849 by Rev. Michael Hayes; brick church erected in 1849-52. The Universalist church was organized in 1853, and after many years of somewhat feeble existence, declined and ceased to exist.

There are five churches in Cazenovia, as follows: Presbyterian, founded in 1798, with Rev. Joshua Leonard the first pastor; the church was built in 1806 and extensively repaired in 1834 (sic) [1868]. Present pastor, S.E. Persons. The Methodist church, formed as part of the Cortland Circuit in 1816, and incorporated in 1830; first meeting house erected in 1838, and the present one in 1873. The Baptist church, built in 1817, organized in 1820; church extensively repaired in 1868, burned in 1871, and rebuilt of brick in 1871 at a cost of \$15,200; completed in 1880. St. Peter's Episcopal Church, organized 1844 and incorporated 1845; church erected in 1848.

The Catholic Cemetery is located on Lincklaen Road just over 1 mile (1.8 km) north of the center of the Village of Cazenovia.

#### **Baptisms and Marriages – Cazenovia Catholic Church**

Source: Death's – Daniel Weiskotten, Cazenovia, NY; Baptisms and Marriages – Dick Barr, Syracuse, NY.

**James McGrath**

=

**Anna Fay**

m. Jan. 22, 1854

Witnesses: Thomas Wallace and Joanna Monahan

Priest: James P. Cahill

**Elizabeth Anna**, b. ?, bap. Oct. 15, 1854

Sps. John Dardis and Anna Fay Sen.; Priest: J.P. Cahill

**Mary**, b. Nov. 20, 1856, bap. Nov. 21, 1856

Sps. John Dardis and Anne Fay; Priest: M.W. Rooney.

Died 1952. Buried in the Catholic Cemetery (St. James) in Cazenovia, Madison Co., NY.

**Lanty McGrath**

=

**Catharine Wade**

**Joanna**, b. ?, bap. Dec. 3, 1854 at Pompey

Sps. Michael McGrath and Mary Cosgove; Priest: J.P. Cahill

**Bridget**, b. Mar. 1, 1856, bap. Mar. 2, 1856 at Pompey

sponsors: Edmond McGrath and Catharine Kane; Priest: J.P. Cahill

Note: The Edmond McGrath is identified as Edmond of Upperchurch based on the fact that he was living in the area and also the spelling of Edmond with an "o" instead of a "u."

**Michael McGrath**

b.~1825 in Ireland. Son of John McGrath and Jane Mooney, both born in Ireland. Died April 1, 1908 at Cazenovia. Buried in the Catholic Cemetery (St. James) in Cazenovia, Madison Co., NY.

= **Catherine Fox**

b. ~1830 in Ireland. Dau. of Patrick and Margaret Fox, both born in Ireland. Catherine probably married in Ireland. Died on April 6, 1896 at Cazenovia. Buried in the Catholic Cemetery (St. James) in Cazenovia, Madison Co., NY.

— **John**, b. ?, bap. Feb. 18, 1855  
Sps. Peter and Anna McGrath; Priest: J.P. Cahill

— **Patrick**, b. April 6, 1857, bap. April 12, 1857  
Sps. William Flanigan and Mary Driscoll; Priest: M.W. Rooney

— **Mary Jane**, b. Dec. 9, 1859, bap. Dec. 1859  
Sps. John Durken and Catherine Jackson; Priest: Bonaventure Carney

— **Michael**, b. Oct. 17, 1866, bap. Oct. 28, 1866 at Cazenovia  
Sps. John Burke and Catherine Burns; Priest: P.C. Brady

— **Anne**, b. May 11, 1869, bap. May 29, 1869 at Cazenovia  
Sps. Cornelius Ryan and Catherine Heffron; Priest: P.C. Brady

— **Michael**, b. May 17, 1872, bap. June, 1872 at Cazenovia  
Sps. Michael and Miss Boyle; Priest: P.C. Brady  
Known as Peter M.(Michael??) McGrath. Died July 9, 1897 at Cazenovia. Buried in the Catholic Cemetery (St. James) in Cazenovia, Madison Co., NY.

**James McGrath**

= **Bridget Ryan**

m. Oct. 21, 1855  
Witnesses: Thomas Ryan and Catharine Ryan  
Priest: James P. Cahill

— **Mary**, b. Aug. 14, 1856, bap. Nov. 2, 1856 at Pompey  
Sps. Thomas Ryan and Mary Ryan; Priest: M.W. Rooney

**Michael McGrath**

= **Margaret Farrell**

— **Denis**, b. April 11, 1857, bap. May 10, 1857  
Sps. Richard Burk and Johanna Burk; Priest: M.W. Rooney

**William McGrath**

b. 1832 in Ireland. Son of Mathew McGrath and Bridget Donnelly, both born in Ireland. Died Nov. 5, 1916 at Cazenovia Village. Buried in the Catholic Cemetery (St. James) in Cazenovia, Madison Co., NY.

=

**Ellen O'Brien**

b.~1831 in Ireland. Dau. of John and Mary O'Brien, both born in Ireland. m. May 10, 1857 at Chittenango  
Witnesses: Cristy Hart and Bridget Cullen  
Priest: Michael W. Rooney  
Died on July 23, 1900 at Cazenovia. Buried in the Catholic Cemetery (St. James) in Cazenovia, Madison Co., NY.

**Bridget Elizabeth**, b. Feb. 18, 1858, bap. Apr. 17, 1858  
Sps. Patrick Greenen and Bridget Donnelly; Priest: P.W. Rooney  
Died July 11, 1919. Buried in the Catholic Cemetery (St. James) in Cazenovia, Madison Co., NY.

**Mary Jane**, b. Sept. 14, 1859, bap. Oct. 16, 1859  
Sps. James Flemming and Elizabeth Fay; Priest: Bonaventure Carney

**Ann**, b. Sept. 8, 1861, bap. Oct. 6, 1861 at Cazenovia  
Sps. Martin Pierce and Bridget Daily; Priest: Bonaventure Carney

**Ellen Agnes**, b. Jan 4, 1871 in Cazenovia. Never married. Died May 4, 1911 at Cazenovia Village. Buried in the Catholic Cemetery (St. James) in Cazenovia, Madison Co., NY.

**Catherine**, b. Jun. 19, 1872, bap. Aug., 1872  
Sps. J. Daly and Kate Callahan; Priest: P.C. Brady

**John**, b. July 13, 1874, bap. 1874  
Sps. Walter Lynch and Margaret Daly; Priest: P.C. Brady

**John Henry**, b. June 13, 1875, Died May 5, 1910 in Cazenovia Village. Buried in the Catholic Cemetery (St. James) in Cazenovia, Madison Co., NY. Next of kin was Bessie McGrath

Bessie McGrath was probably Elizabeth Butterly McGrath, widow of Thomas McGrath (died Nov. 16, 1898). Since John Henry's father, William, was still alive in 1910 why was Bessie the next of kin?

**John McGrath**

=

**Ann Ward**

**Michael**, b. Sept. 14, 1861, bap. Oct. 20, 1861 at Chittenango  
Sps. Thomas Baker and Mary Lyons; Priest: Bonaventure Carney

**Denis McGrath**

=

**Catherine Quigley**

m. Nov. 13, 1861, at Cazenovia  
Witnesses: John Gorman and Johanna Gorman  
Priest: Bonaventure Carney

**Mary**, b. Dec. 25, 1864, bap. Jan. 16, 1865 at Pompey  
Sps. Patrick and Catherine Heffron; Priest: P.C. Brady

**John McGrath**

=

**Honora Ward**

**Patrick**, b. may 15, 1867, bap. June 19, 1867 at Chittenango  
Sps. James Burke and Bridget Barry; Priest: P.C. Brady

**Thomas McGrath**

b. 1841 in Ireland. Son of Mathew and Bridget McGrath, both born in Ireland. Died Nov. 16, 1898 at Cazenovia. Buried in the Catholic Cemetery (St. James) in Cazenovia, Madison Co., NY. (Brother of William)

=

**Elizabeth Butterly** (Aunt Bessie?)

d, 1920 at age 74. Buried in the Catholic Cemetery (St. James) in Cazenovia, Madison Co., NY.

**Mathew**, b. Sept. 6, 1870, bap. Sept. 17, 1870 at Cazenovia  
Sps. Peter Hughes and Kate Burns; Priest: P.C. Brady

**William**, b. Dec. 30, 1872, bap. Jan., 1872(?) at Cazenovia  
Sps. **William McGrath and Ellen McGrath**; Priest: P.C. Brady  
Died Oct. 6, 1913. Buried in the Catholic Cemetery (St. James) in Cazenovia, Madison Co., NY.

**Francis**, b. Jan. 24, 1874, bap. Feb. 23, 1874 at Cazenovia  
Sps. James Hutchison and Mary Day; Priest: P.C. Brady

**Henry**, b. July 25, 1876, bap. Aug. 20, 1876  
Sps. John Heffernan and Mary Donnelly; priest: C.A. Reilly

**Catharine Elizabeth**, b. Feb. 15, 1879, bap. Apr. 6, 1879  
Sps. Timothy Heffernan and Jane McGrath; Priest: J.L. Reilly

**Theresa**, b. Sept. 29, 1880, bap. Oct. 17, 1880  
Sps. William Finn and Mary Moran; Priest: P.J. Brady

**Sarah**, b. Sept. 16, 1882, bap. Oct. 8, 1882.  
Sps. Christopher Tormey and Ella Donnelly; priest: J.L. Reilly

**Matthew McGrath**

=

**Anna Hayes**

**William**, b. Sept. 20, 1882, bap. Sept. 24, 1882  
Sps. Thomas Donnelly and Bridget McGrath; Priest: C.A. Reilly

**Mary Agnes**, b. Apr. 4, 1885, bap. Apr. 12, 1885  
Sps. Michael Tormey and Margaret Tormey; priest: Edward M. Brady

**Thomas**, b. Nov. 27, 1886, bap. Dec. 12, 1886  
Sps. Thomas Tormey and Ellen McGraw; Priest: James L. Meagher

**Joseph**, b. Oct. 31, 1888, bap. Nov. 4, 1888  
Sps. William McGrath and Mary Donnelly; Priest: James L. Meagher

Note: For the baptisms of William and Mary Agnes, Matthew's surname is given as McGrath. For the baptisms of children Thomas and Joseph, Matthew's surname is given as McGraw.

**John McGrath** = **Bertha Lamb**  
m. Aug. 25, 1898  
Witnesses: John McCullough and Bridget Cregan  
Priest: Daniel Doody

**William John**, b. Nov. 17, 1902, bap. Nov. 30, 1902 at Chittenango  
Sps. Christopher McGrath and Ellen Lydon; Priest: Daniel Doody

### Other Marriages

Peter Blake, age 30 = **Ann McGrath**, age 47  
m. Oct. 7, 1847  
Witnesses: ?  
Priest: Rev. Mr. Hays of Syracuse

**Daniel McGrath** = Maria Ryan  
m. Feb. 9, 1855  
Witnesses: Stephen Ryan and Catharine Ryan  
Priest: James P. Cahill

Patrick Reilly = **Anna McGrath**  
m. Jun. 25, 1855  
Witnesses: Felix McCarthy and Joanna Meahan  
Priest: James P. Cahill

Owen Carroll = **Alice McGrath**  
m. Feb. 4, 1856  
Witnesses: Andrew Dardis and Johanna McNally  
Priest: James P. Cahill

Thomas Nix = **Mary McGrath**  
m. Nov. 18, 1856  
Witnesses: Anthony Nix and Margaret Nix  
Priest: Michael W. Rooney

**Martin McGrath** = Mary Keogh  
Died in 1917. Buried in Immaculate Conception Cemetery in Pompey, Onondaga Co., NY  
m. April 9, 1871  
Witnesses: William Keogh and Margaret Keogh  
Priest: Patrick C. Brady

- Edward Timmon = **Anna McGraw**  
m. Oct. 3, 1888  
Witnesses: Andrew Mullaly and **Jane McGraw**  
Priest: James L. Meagher
- John Matthews = **Bridget McGraw**  
m. Mar. 9, 1894  
Witnesses: Mary J. Burchill and Mary Anna Reilly  
Priest: James L. Meagher
- Richard Googin = **Margaret McGraw**  
m. Nov. 6, 1895  
Witnesses: Peter Reily and **Mary McGrath**  
Priest: Patrick C. Brady
- Frank J. Callahan = Catherine McGrath  
m. Apr. 27, 1904  
Witnesses: John Guilfoyle, Mary McGrath and **Nellie McGrath**  
Priest: Albert J. Hayes
- Christopher McGrath** = Fannie Stanley  
m. Nov. 29, 1905  
Witnesses: Dr. W.J. Doyle and **Bessie McGrath**  
Priest: Albert J. Hayes

#### **McGraths / McGraws as Witnesses**

- John Farrell = Margaret Clarke  
m. Feb. 3, 1854  
Witnesses: **Michael McGrath** and Jane Farrell  
Priest: James P. Cahill
- John Tobin** = **Margaret Ryan** (Mary Ryan's sister)  
m. May 8, 1854  
Witnesses: Michael Reardon and Catharine Fitzgerald  
Priest: James P. Cahill
- Dennis Moan = Margaret Ryan  
m. Dec. 30, 1854  
Witnesses: **Edmund McGrath** and Maria Maher  
Priest: James P. Cahill

John Durkin = Mary E. Bennett  
m. Nov. 17, 1878  
Witnesses: Denis Durkin and **Eliza. A. McGrath**  
Priest: Charles A. Reilly

Michael Tormey = Ellen Farley  
m. Oct. 27, 1887  
Witnesses: **Thomas Heffernan** and **Bridget McGraw**  
Priest: James L. Meagher

Francis H. Suits = Ellen Dwyer  
m. Aug. 13, 1889  
Witnesses: David B. McCarthy and **Mary A. McGraw**  
Priest: James L. Meagher

Thomas Jackson = Jane King  
m. Mar. 27, 1894  
Witnesses: Richard Mahony and **Catherine McGraw**  
Priest: James L. Meagher

Walter S. Jackson = Anna Larkins  
m. May 5, 1897  
Witnesses: **William McGrath** and Catherine Putney  
Priest: ?  
Note: "Disparity of cult"

Daniel A. Culver = Nellie Matthews  
m. Oct. 17, 1903  
Witnesses: Frank Callahan and **Kate McGrath**  
Priest: Albert J. Hayes  
Note: "Dispensation for disparity of cult obtained"

John Heffernan = Julia Reiley  
m. Sept. 19, 1904  
Witnesses: **Patrick Heffernan** and **Mary Jane McGrath**  
Priest: Albert J. Hayes  
Mary Jane is probably the dau. of William or Michael.

### Some Death Certificates from Town of Cazenovia

This information was furnished by Daniel H. Weiskotten, the former Cazenovia Historian and J. Rush Marshall the current assistant Cazenovia Historian. More extensive information on the McGraths buried in the Catholic Cazenovia Cemetery

Name (McGrath)	Date of Death	Age	Born	Death Certificate No.	Comment
Ann	1916	83	1833	N.L.	wife of James
Bridget E.	1919	61	1858	20	dau. of William & Ellen
<b>Catherine</b>	Sept. 6, 1896	66	1830	951	Maiden name Fox. Wife of Michael.
Christopher	1928	81	1847	N.L.	Husband of Fanny
Elizabeth Butterly	1920	74	1846	N.L.	Wife of Thomas, probably also known as Aunt Bessie.
<b>Ellen Bryan</b>	July 23, 1900	69	1832	1231	O'Brien. Wife of William
<b>Ellen A.</b>	May 4, 1911	40	Jan. 4, 1871 (1869?)	1867	Dau. of William & Ellen
Fanny W.	1924	75	1849	32	Wife of Christopher
Henry	1880	5	1875	<1884	
James (1)	1894	62	1832	N.L.	husband of Ann Fay
James (2)	1882	19	1863	<1884	
John (1)	1882	27	1855	<1884	
John (2)	1927	69	1858	N.L.	
<b>John H.</b>	May 5, 1910	35	Jun 13, 1875	1792	Son of William and Ellen.
Mary	1952	96	1856	< 50 yrs	dau. of James & Ann
Mary J.	1916	56	1860	N.L.	
<b>Michael</b>	April 1, 1908	83	~1825	1683	Husband of Catherine
Michael Jr.	1876	9	1867	< 1884	
<b>Patrick</b>	Feb. 20, 1893	86	~1807	581	Possible husband of Ann McGrath who died in 1883 and is buried in the Truxton Catholic Cemetery next to John and Ellen McGrath.
<b>Peter</b>	July 9, 1897	25	May 17, 1872	1040	Peter M(Michael?) son of Michael & Catherine.
<b>Thomas</b>	Nov. 16, 1898	56	1841	1129	Brother of William
<b>William</b>	Nov. 5, 1916	85	1832	33	Brother of Thomas, husband of Ellen Bryan (actually O'Brien).
William Joseph	Oct. 6, 1913	41	Dec. 30, 1872	N.L.	son of Thomas & Elizabeth
Thomas and William are brothers from Johnstown R.C. parish in Co. Meath.					

**Bolded Names** already appear in the previous table. N.L. means "Not Listed" in the Town of Cazenovia records. Therefore these persons did not die within the Township of Cazenovia even though they were buried in the Cazenovia Catholic Cemetery.

Name	Place of Birth	Father	Place of Birth	Mother	Place of Birth
Patrick McGrath	Ireland	Miles McGrath	Ireland	Jerusha Vibbard	Conn

Catherine McGrath	Ireland	Patrick Fox	Ireland	Margaret Fox	Ireland
Peter M. McGrath	Cazenovia	Michael McGrath	Ireland	Catherine McGrath	Ireland
Thomas McGrath	Ireland	Mathew McGrath	Ireland	Bridget McGrath	Ireland
William McGrath	Ireland	Mathew McGrath	Ireland	Bridget Donnelly	Ireland
Ellen McGrath	Ireland	John O'Brien	Ireland	Mary O'Brien	Ireland
Michael McGrath	Ireland	John McGrath	Ireland	Jane Mooney	Ireland
John Henry McGrath	Cazenovia	William McGrath	Ireland	Ellen O'Brien	Ireland
Ellen Agnes McGrath	Cazenovia	William McGrath	Ireland	Ellen O'Brien	Ireland

### Some Burials in Immaculate Conception Cemetery, Pompey, NY

Name	Date of Birth	Date of Death	Age	Death Certificate No.
Martin McGraw	1847	1917		
Mary McGraw	1846	1929		
Martin and Mary Keogh McGraw were married on April 9, 1871				
Susan A. McGraw		Oct. 5, 1970	88	
Died in Syracuse, New York, Single. Cause of death: Coronary thrombosis. Buried October 7, 1970				
Anna G. McGraw		April 7, 1963		
Died in DeWitt, New York. Single. Cause of death: Cerebral hemorrhage right hemorrhagia				
John McGraw	1877	July 11, 1916		
Died in Syrause, New York. NYS Death Index No. 43972				
James M. McGraw	1873	Aug. 6, 1910		
Died in LaFayette, New York. NYS Death Index No. 38772				

### From the 1917 Rural Madison County Directory.

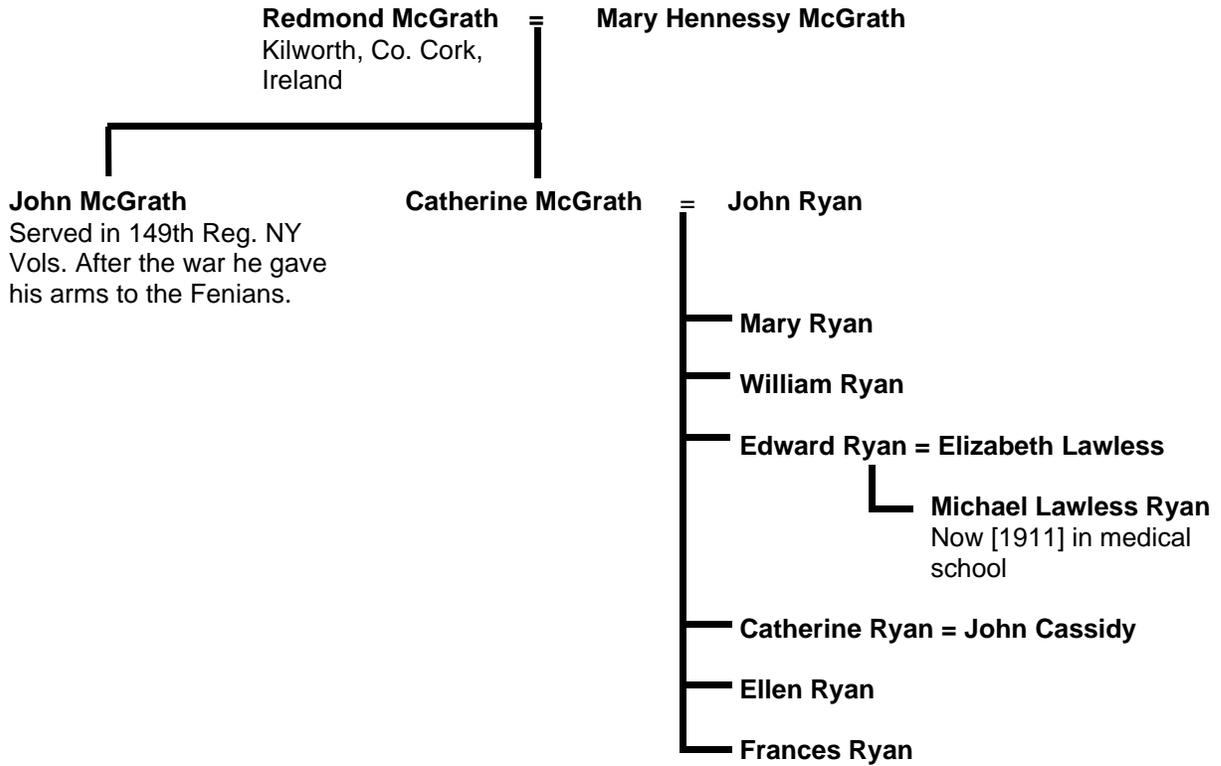
The Farm Journal Illustrated Rural Directory of Madison County, New York published in 1917 by Wilmer Atkinson Company, Philadelphia

Name	Description	Owens	Address	Town
Bessie McGrath	boarders & roomers	Yes	Hurd St.	Cazenovia
Mrs. M. McGrath	dermatology		Sullivan St.	Cazenovia
C. McGraw	truckman	Yes	Nelson St.	Cazenovia
F.W. McGraw	2 ch laundryman	Tenant	Eaton St.	Hamilton
Mrs. H.W. McGraw	owns House & Lot	Yes	Eaton St.	Hamilton
H. Ward McGraw	student		Eaton St.	Hamilton
Bernice L. McGraw	student		Eaton St.	Hamilton
Margery McGraw	student		Eaton St.	Hamilton
Robert McGraw	student		Eaton St.	Hamilton

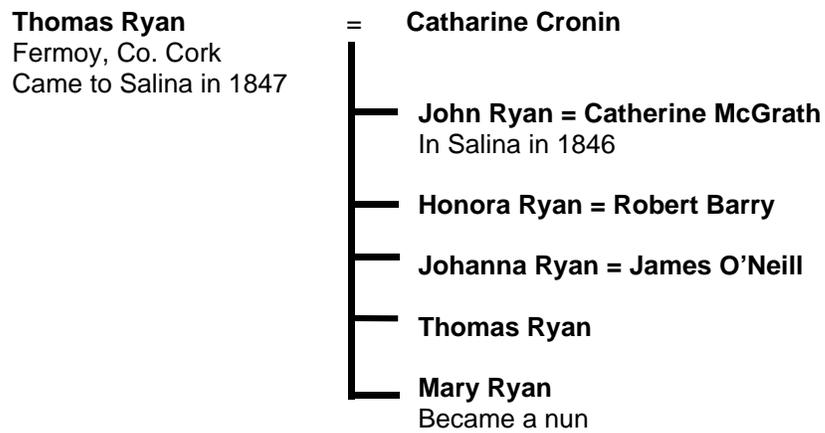
Bessie McGrath is probably Elizabeth Butterly McGrath, widow of Thomas McGrath.  
F.W. McGraw might be Francis Michael McGrath, son of Thomas and Elizabeth McGrath.  
Mrs. H.W. McGrath might be Mrs. Honora Ward McGrath, wife of John McGrath. H.Ward, Bernice L., Margery and Robert McGrath are obviously children of Mrs. H.W. McGrath.

## Redmond McGrath of Kilworth, Co. Cork

From "Pioneer Irish of Onondaga" by Theresa Bannan, M.D.<sup>90</sup>

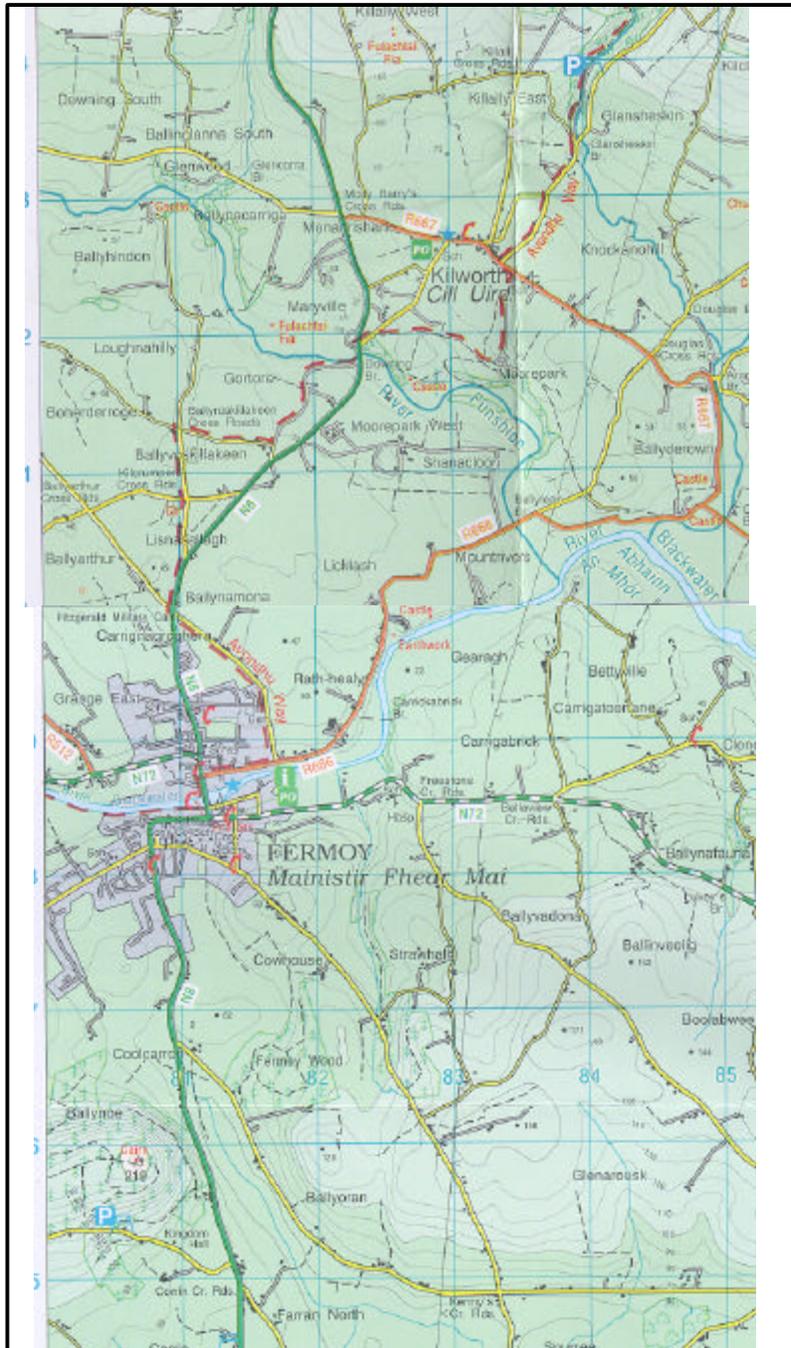


The parents of Elizabeth Lawless were Michael J. Lawless and Mary Ryan.



The reason for including this family is not that there might be a direct connection between Edmond McGrath of Upperchurch, Co. Tipperary and the McGrath's of Co. Cork but a more long-range objective. There might be a common ancestor back in the 16th century in the form of Miler Magrath (1522 – 1622), the protestant archbishop of Cashel and Emly from 1571 until his death in 1622. Miler had a son named Redmond, who had a son named Edmond, who in turn had a son named Redmond and so on. These names were not that common and in various records Remond and our Edmond used the same Magrath spelling of their surname that was used by Miler Magrath and which is also not that common.

“John Ryan had a master’s knowledge of both tongues (Gaelic and English). As clerk and assistant to his uncle in the grain business in Fermoy, County Cork, he also acquired a training in business put to use in Onondaga. Here in 1846 he went to work in the salt mill of Captain William Porter of Salina. In 1863 he moved to Syracuse and formed a partnership in flour and feed business with William H. Gere. After ten years he returned to the salt industry in the wholesale branch, later combining with it the flour and feed business, in which he remained for many years.



He married Catharine McGrath of Killworth, Co. Cork. One of their sons was Edward Ryan who was born in Syracuse and was educated in the public schools of that city. “At an early age he engaged in the hardware business and later in the clothing business. He has always taken an active interest in city affairs, serving under both Republican and Democratic administrations as Fire Commissioner, Health Commissioner, Police Commissioner, and Deputy Commissioner of Public Safety. Meanwhile he has been identified for many years with the Catholic Mutual Benefit Association which he has served as Branch

President, Law Commissioner of the Grand Council of N.Y. State, Vice-President, and the President of the Grand Council, and now Grand Secretary. He is a charter member of the first branch of the Ancient Order of Hibernians organized in 1886 in this County. He married Elizabeth Lawless, and had one son, Michael Lawless Ryan, now a student in medicine.”

The Village of Kilworth is only a few miles north-northeast of Fermoy. The townland of Monadrishane is just north of the Village of Kilworth. Both Fermoy and Kilworth are very close to the region where the counties of Limerick, Tipperary, Waterford and Cork come together. It was very easy for families to wander between these four counties: live in one, attend church in another, get married in still another and be buried in a fourth. Searching for records on people who lived close to this many borders can drive a person crazy. Below are some excerpts from the Griffith's Valuation for Kilworth and Fermoy. There is a Redmond Magrath (probably Catharine's father) living in Monadrishane and he is probably related to the other two "McGraths" living there, Maurice and Margaret. There are also plenty of Hennesseys around and Catharine's mother's maiden name was Hennessey. In Fermoy there was only one Thomas Ryan living on Patrick Street and so there is a good possibility that this is John Ryan's father.

### **Griffith's Valuation, Co. Cork**

Village of Kilworth, Main-St  
Maurice Mc Grath  
Denis Hennessey  
John Hennessey

Monadrishane Village of Kilworth, Glanworth-Rd  
James Hennessy  
Maurice Magrath  
Redmond Magrath  
Margaret Mc Grath

Village of Kilworth: Anthony's-Rd  
John Mc Grath

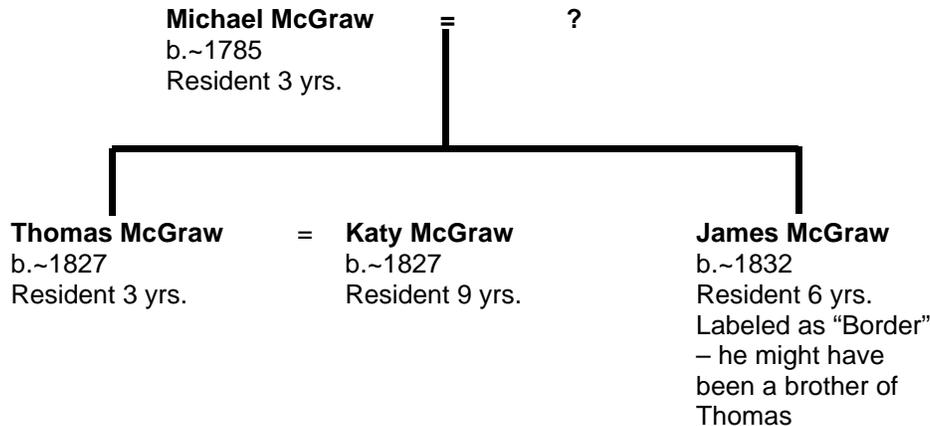
Village of Kilworth: Glanduff-Rd  
Denis Hennessy

Town of Fermoy, Patrick St.  
Thomas Ryan (only Thomas Ryan in the entire parish of Fermoy.)

## Miscellaneous McGraths

### Michael McGraw and Family of Pompey, New York

From the 1855 NYS Census



These people were not found in the Town of Pompey in the 1850 and 1860 census.  
 Notes: M432 is the 1850 Census: M432\567: Manlius, Pompey, Fabius, Tully, Otisco, LaFayette -  
 M432\568: Geddes - M432\569: Ward 2, Ward 3 - M432\570: Salina, DeWitt

These McGraths are most intriguing to me since my ggg-grandfather was a Michael Magrath (McGrath) and was of the right age to have a son Edmond born between 1813 and 1820. A search of the 1850 census looking for James McGraw, who had been a resident for 6 years failed to turn up any evidence of him in the Census. Edmond Magrath arrived in America in November 1848 and might have been Thomas' and James' older brother. James might have followed Edmond in 1849 with Thomas and his father Michael coming to America three years later in 1852. The census in the township of Pompey was conducted from August to October 1850 – hardly the “everybody on the same day” standard in effect in these modern times. It might have been possible to miss people due to the normal moving around that went on everyday. A lot of possibilities but so far no hard evidence.

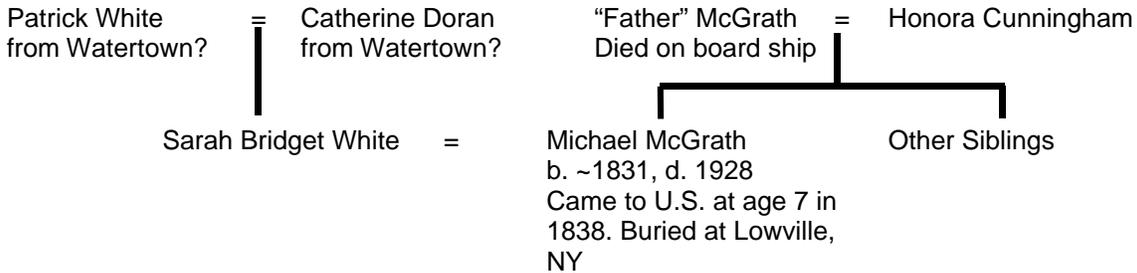
On the negative side a preliminary search of the 1860 Census for Onondaga County has failed to turn up any of these individuals. A search of the Town of Pompey returns showed that none of them were there. The use of the name McGraw is also a possible problem. Although my Magraths were McGraths when they came to America they used both McGrath and McGraw for about the next twenty years until the McGraw variation took hold. Most of the people with the surname McGraw whose ancestors came over to America in the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century or earlier were from Northern Ireland or Scotland and were Protestants, usually Presbyterians. These individuals have Catholic given names and so perhaps they began as McGraths also.



## The McGraths, Ryans and Gleesons of Lewis County

The first reference that I had come across was a reference to a McGrath in the Lowville area that showed up on the McGrath Family Genealogy Forum. Lowville is just up the road from Maple Ridge and these McGraths might be related to Candie's ancestors but at this point the necessary evidence is missing.

Michael McGrath of Lowville, New York



Source: Deborah Simcoe – June 7, 1999 at 17:01:49, McGrath Family Genealogy Forum

Michael might possibly be a brother of James McGrath (1829-1891(1911?)) and Thomas McGrath(? – Mar. 4, 1883). But there is no evidence at present.

This information posted on 05 Jan 2000 and 19 Jan 2000 by Candie Miller on a Tipperary Bulletin Board. I was particularly interested in the information on the Ryans and McGraths. I wrote to her and told her that my gg-grandparents were Edmond McGrath and Mary Ryan. Prior to coming to America, in 1848 and 1850 respectively, they were living in Moyliff and Upperchurch parishes. More specifically Drumdiha, Moyliff and Gleninchaveigh (now Glown), Upperchurch. In addition I also included what was known about our ancestors and the other McGraths living in that area of Co. Tipperary at that time.

Candie finally answered in July, 2000 and supplied more details on Thomas McGrath of Moyliff and James McGrath. Those were the McGrath ancestors who had married her Ryan and Gleeson ancestors.

One of Candie's messages is shown below "**McGraths** in Tipperary."

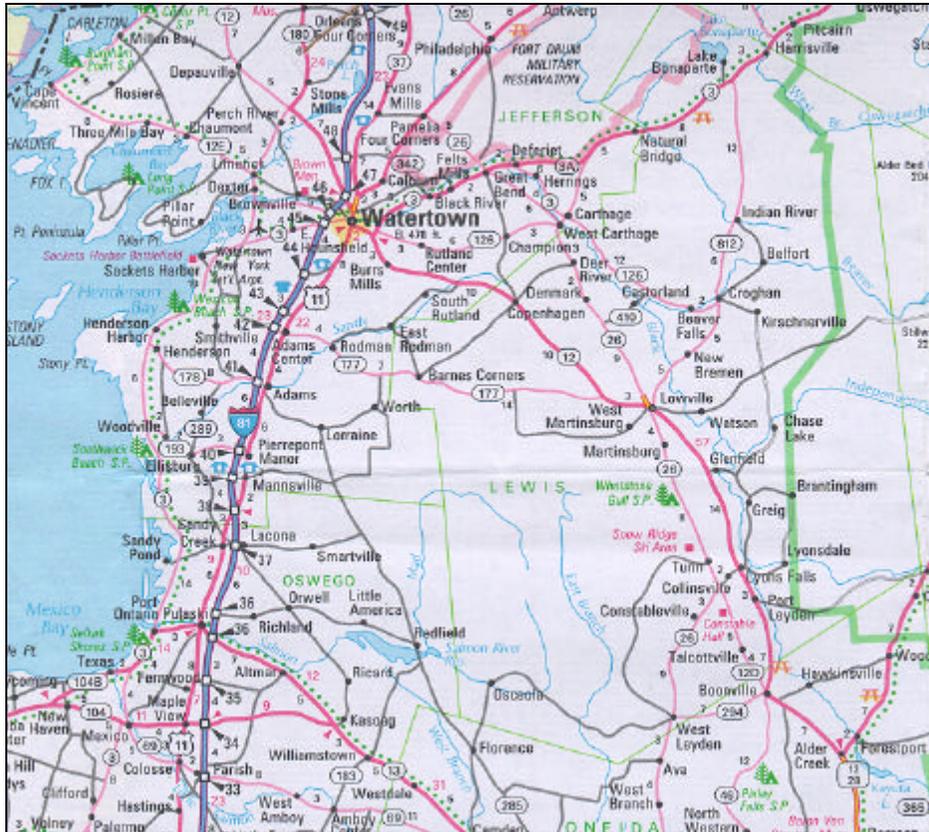
Posted by Candie Miller <camilleret@aol.com> on Wed, 19 Jan 2000, in response to McGrath, posted by Margaret **McGrath** on Sat, 15 Jan 2000  
Surname: **McGrath**, Ryan, Gleeson

Dear Margaret:

My great grandfather (Thomas Gleeson Ryan, 1828-92) had a sister, Bridget (1836-1909) who married **James McGrath** (1829-1892). The Ryans were from near Thurles, Tipperary (**Moyliff**, Ballycahill & Holy Cross are also parish & civil names associated with this area). They immigrated to New York state around 1850. Family history has it that many Irish from that area of Tipperary settled in the same part of NY. The couple were married c. 1855 in Maple Ridge, NY, near Martinsburg & both are buried there at St. Patrick's Catholic church. He was a farmer. They had six (some sources say eight) children: Mary '57 (m. Henry Dow), Thomas '59 (9 children), James '64 (m. Lena Rogers), Margaret '67, John '69 and Bridget E. July '74-11/12/78. All were born in Lewis

Co. (Maple Ridge), NY. Thomas Gleeson Ryan also had an uncle, **Thomas McGrath** (died 1883, "native of **Mealiffe [Moyaliff]** near Holy Cross, Co. Tipperary" from the gravestone), buried at St. Patrick church in Maple Ridge, NY. Finally, the baptismal sponsors of my grandfather, Thomas Francis Ryan, (bap. 7/27/1968) were James and **Mary McGrath**, according to records at St. Mary's church, **Constableville, NY**. That's it for me. A most the information we have is post-immigration, but if there's a connection in Ireland, we'd be thrilled!

On the next two pages I have reassembled the information from her two posts (Jan 5 and Jan 19) so that it was easier to assimilate the information and to see the various connections.



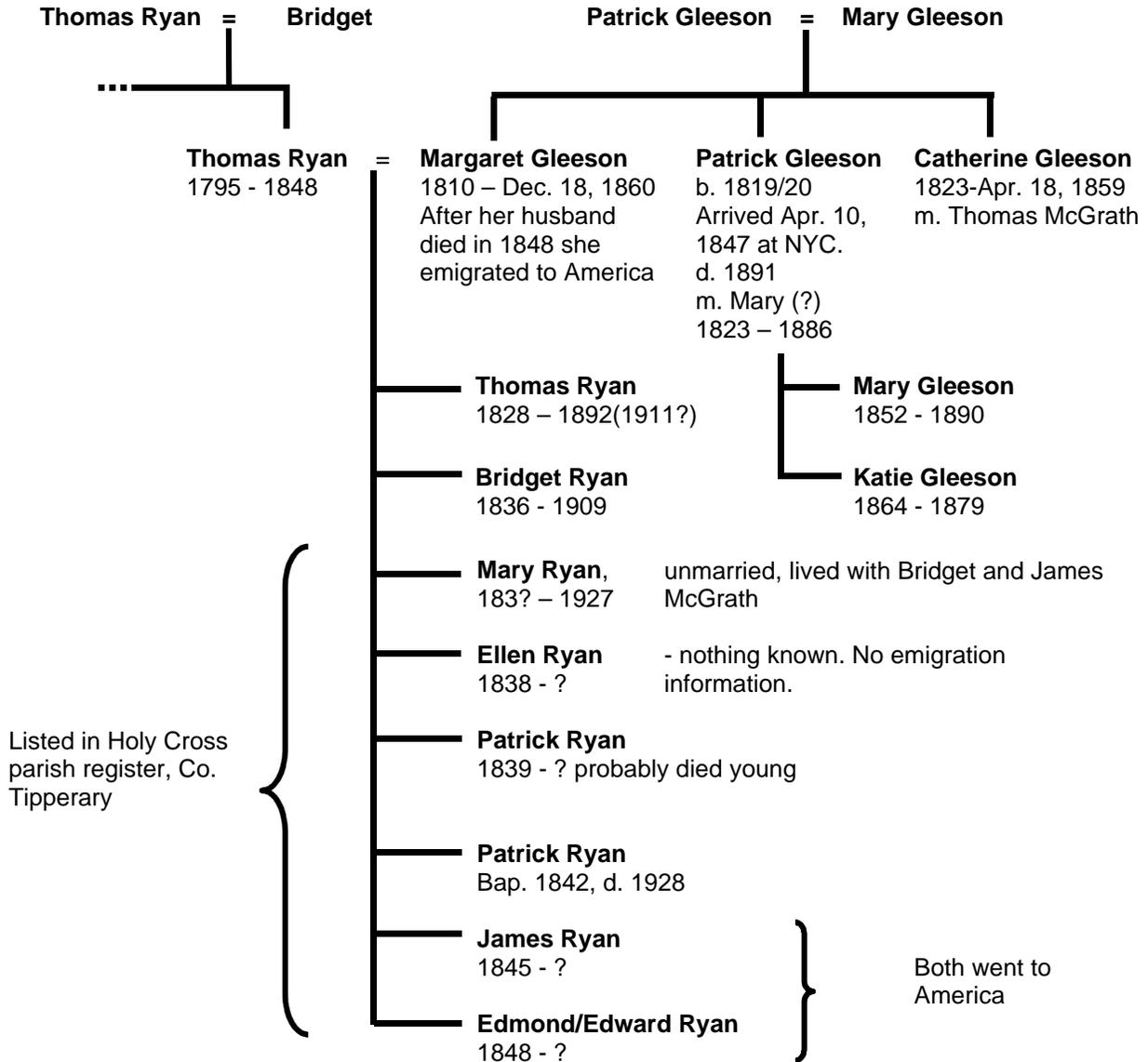
This map shows the area around Lewis County. Maple Ridge is near Martinsburg.

There are still some unanswered questions:

From the time our family left Ireland (Edmond McGrath [1848] and Mary Ryan McGrath, Michael & John McGrath [1850]) until Edmond's Declaration of Intention was filed in Onondaga County in Dec. 1854 we don't know where they were living. Lewis County was one that had not been searched yet for records on the family. Recently Dick Currie searched the naturalization records for Lewis County and found 5 McGraths ( a John, Michael and 3 Thomas) but no Edmond. This information is included toward the end of this section.

Candie said that her ancestors from the Moyaliff, Ballycahill and Holy Cross area, in Ireland, all settled in the Maple Ridge area near Martinsburg, Lewis County, New York. Moyaliff is in the parish of Moyaliff where our Edmond McGrath lived in Ireland. Ballycahill and Holy Cross are in the parish of Holycross which is adjacent to the eastern boundary of the parish of Moyaliff.

## Ryan and Gleeson in Maple Ridge, Lewis County, NY



The parents names Thomas Ryan, Bridget Ryan, Patrick Gleeson and Mary Gleeson were assigned by using the Irish naming convention and there is no evidence to confirm these guesses.

- Patrick Gleeson was the first family member to immigrate.
- Edmond Ryan probably emigrated to New York with his mother Margaret in 1853. It isn't certain if James emigrated with Edmond and their mother Margaret or at another time.
- Margaret Gleeson Ryan is buried in Maple Ridge Cemetery, St. Patrick's Church, Lewis Co., NY.

P. Gleeson (age 27) and J. McGrath (age 44) sailed from Liverpool on the *Juno* on June 3, 1847. (The Famine Immigrants, 6: 567).





McGrath/McGraw Naturalizations in Lewis County – Compiled by Doug Currie

Name	Address	Naturalization	Arrival	Birth	Witnesses
John McGrath	Martinsburg, Lewis Co.	Dec. 17, 1857 Lewis Co. Court File C-1028	June 1849 - NYC	? Ireland	Richard Finn Martinsburg, NY Thomas Phelon Martinsburg, NY
Thomas McGrath	Martinsburg, Lewis Co.	Feb. 5, 1859 Lewis Co. Supreme Court File D-1290		? Great Britain	Edwin Pitcher, Martinsburg, NY Abram Mereness, Martinsburg, NY
Michael McGrath	Martinsburg, Lewis Co.	Aug. 15, 1868 Lewis Co. Supreme Court File E-1841	May, 1849	June 25, 1840 Ireland	Patrick Gleason Lowville, NY Michael Greer Martinsburg, NY
Thomas McGrath	Martinsburg, Lewis Co.	May 18, 1871 Lewis Co. Supreme Court File E-1931		? Great Britain	John Kennedy Martinsburg James Fahy Martinsburg, NY
Thomas McGraw	Pinckney, Lewis Co.	Nov. 2, 1872 Lewis Co. Supreme Court File F-1950	March, 1865	Marc 16, 1848 Canada	C.T. Kilham Harrisburgh, NY C.C. Lampher, Lowville, NY

The country given along with the date of birth is either the “Country of birth or allegiance.” The use of Great Britain usually reflected the control of Ireland by Great Britain in the political sense. In these cases the individual was usually born in Ireland.

These individuals were not born in America by the fact that they required naturalization. None of these individuals seem to be the Thomas or James McGrath described by Candie Miller. Interestingly there is a Patrick Gleason of Lowville who was a witness for the naturalization swearing in of one Michael McGrath of Martinsburg, NY.

St. Patrick’s Church, Maple Ridge Cemetery, Lewis Co., NY

**John McGrath** = **Hannarah (?) McGrath**  
~1802 – Sept. 6, 1875

├── **Ella McGrath**

└── **Ida McGrath**

**John McGrath** = **Anna O’Brien**  
1836 - 1914                      1844 - 1919

**James E. McGrath** = **Lena (?) McGrath**  
└── Infant son

## Friends and Acquaintances



This Federal-style brick-and-stone mansion was built above the village of Truxton between 1818 and 1824 for \$8,000 by Dr. John Miller. It was later the home of Dr. Judson Nelson, surgeon for the 76th NYV in the Civil War. The Miller/Nelson home was purchased and used as the high school until the centralization of the district led to the construction of a K-12 structure in 1935. That school now is a K-6, and has been named for Marion Hartnett, a teacher and principal in Truxton from 1919 to 1960.

Picture source: Kane, Mary Ann, *Images of America – Cortland County*, Arcadia Publishing, Charleston, SC, 1999, p 70.

### Dr. Judson Nelson

This was the house of Dr. Nelson who was the physician who delivered John J. McGraw on April 7, 1873. Ten years later when tragedy struck the family Dr. Nelson was once again involved. “Black diphtheria, they called it. The Union Free School was closed. Doors were locked, and all churches suspended services. Poor Dr. Nelson was blamed as a carrier. He had treated two diphtheria patients ‘in the hills’ just before ushering in Ellen’s last baby, Nellie, who miraculously survived.”<sup>91</sup>

“During the late 1800’s diphtheria epidemics swept the United States...most victims were under 10 years of age.”<sup>92</sup> The number of deaths that occurred in Truxton during 1883 don’t support the idea that an epidemic struck the town, however, it was certainly an epidemic from the perspective of the McGraw family that lost several of its members to the disease. The weakness of the medical profession of that time and its ignorance of the causes of disease and its means of

transmission probably contributed to the death toll. "The drive for the reform of medical education and the search for fact rather than theory would gain strength in the generation after 1870 and lead to rapid progress in medical science. Only in the next century, however, would the United States assume a position of leadership in the medical world. For the patient, military or civilian, who was concerned with his health and his life, the period from 1818 to 1861 was a bleak one."<sup>93</sup>

The doctor and his family are buried in the Village Cemetery of Truxton

Judson C. Nelson (Doctor), died July 11, 1895, aged 71 years.

Henrietta S. Nelson, wife of Judson C., died April 24, 1877, aged 46 years.

Nettie, their daughter, died December 12, 1865, aged 10 mo.

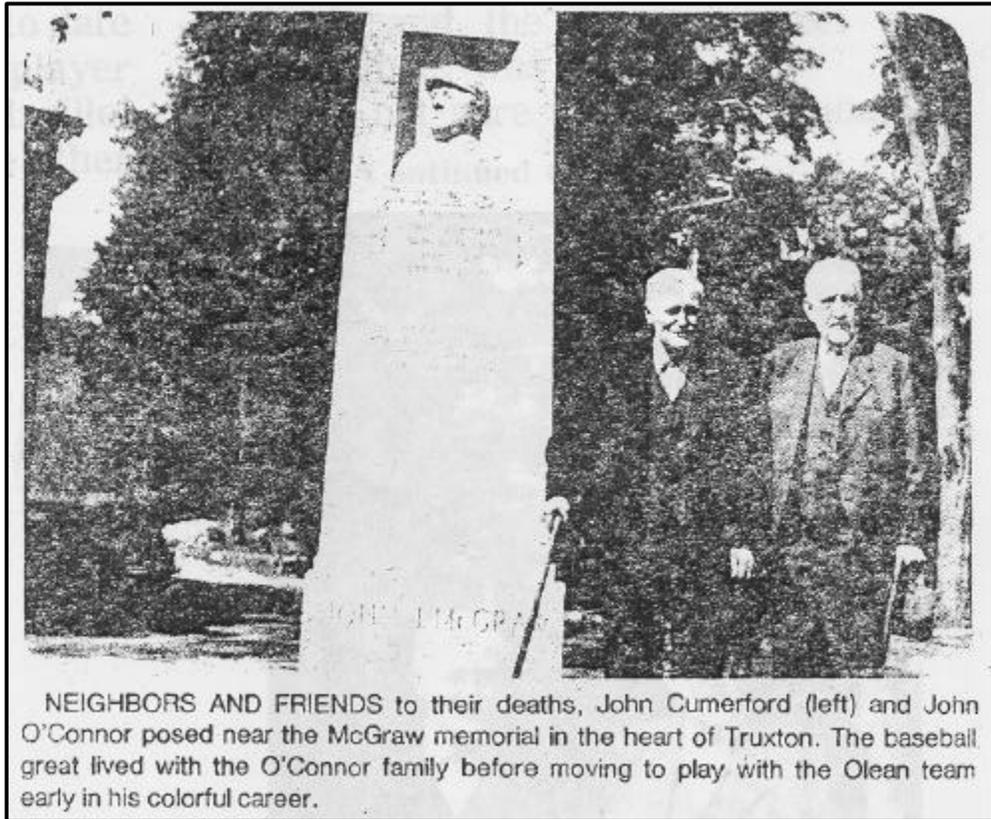
Infant son, died July 25, 1871 (no age given).

Arthur B. Nelson, their son, died April 2, 1918, aged 66 yrs.

Lillian Call Nelson, wife of A. B., died June 25, 1938, aged 84 yrs. 2mo. 9 days.

The house was torn down in 1935 to make way for the construction of the new school.

## Friends of John J. McGraw



Source: The Independent Villager, Marathon, New York, Monday, July 19, 1976, No. 34.

I suspect that the names of the gentlemen in this rather poor quality photo are reversed. The man on the right is definitely a Comerford and the man on the left must be John O'Connor. The picture comes from a Xerox of a Xerox of a newspaper photo and all things considered it didn't turn out half-bad. This is probably an old photograph that one of the Dwyer ladies or Mrs. French provided for the article. The memorial baseball game that was played in Truxton to raise funds for the John J. McGraw monument was held in August 1938 and the monument was erected in 1942. In fact this might have been a photo taken at the time of the dedication of the monument except there doesn't seem to be anyone else around in the background.

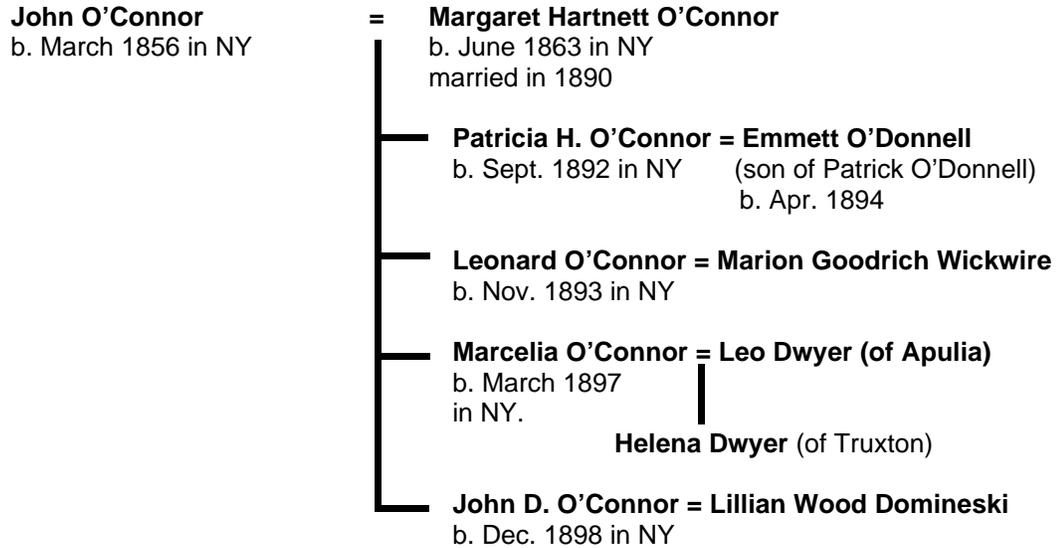
John O'Connor hired John J. McGraw to drive his "milking cows to and from pasture when farmers were busy with calving seasons."<sup>94</sup> Although John McGraw was known to have lived at the Truxton House hotel in the Village of Truxton from the fall of 1885 until he left Truxton it is possible that he lived with the O'Connor family when he was working for them.

John Comerford is probably the son of John Comerford and Elizabeth Stapleton. He was the half-brother of Patrick Comerford who was the son of John Comerford and Catherine Ryan. John Comerford (younger) was the grandfather of Josephine French. Patrick Comerford the older brother of Ellen Comerford McGraw, John J.'s mother. The Patrick Comerford and John W. McGraw families were living next door to each other on the North Road in 1883 when John J.'s mother and three siblings died.<sup>95</sup> John W. McGraw's parents, Edmond and Mary McGraw, had lived on Morgan Hill near Patrick and John Comerford's father, John Comerford in the 1860s.



## John O'Connor Family

This John O'Connor is the son of Cornelius and Bridgit O'Connor.

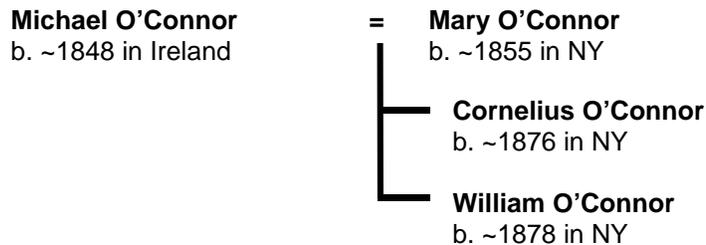


Source: 1900 Census – T623\1020\PART2\260B, Farm 202, Family 213. John was a hotel keeper in 1900. Both John and Margaret's parents were born in Ireland and they were both born in NY. John and Margaret were married in 1891 and by 1900 they had four children and all of them were still living in June 1900.

The O'Connor Hotel was run by John O'Connor and it was located where Brown's garage was on Route 13 at the bend by John J. McGraw's monument. This was the old Truxton House Hotel that Mary Goddard ran in the late 1880's when John J. McGraw was living there. John had been a school teacher before he acquired the hotel in the late 1880's a few years before he married Margaret Hartnett in 1890. Margaret Hartnett was a teacher at a schoolhouse out on West Hill Road.

## The Michael O'Connor Family

This Michael O'Connor is NOT one of the sons of Cornelius and Bridgit O'Connor. Michael was known as "M.B."



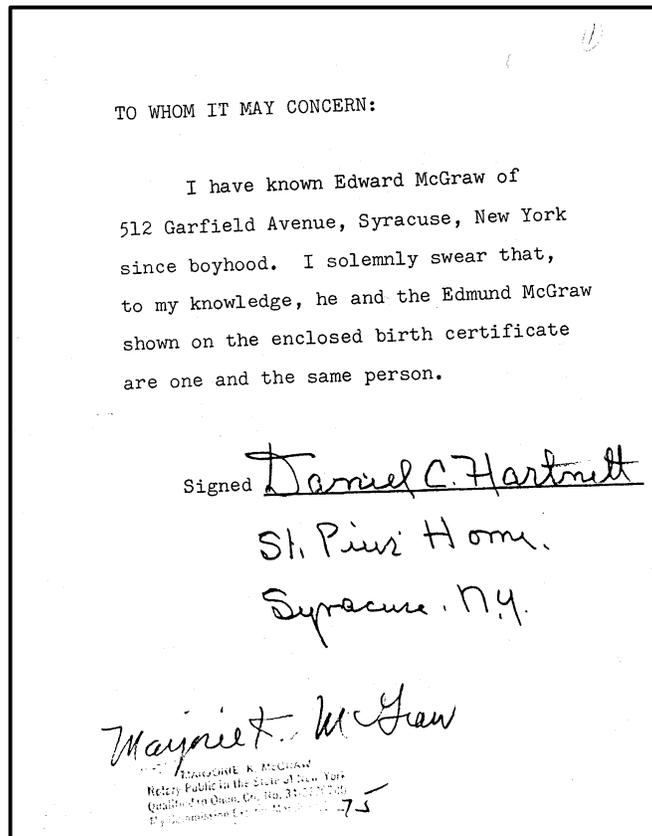
Source: 1880 Census – Cortland Co., Truxton, NY T9\822\Part1\241B 180/193 Michael O'Connor. Both Michael and Mary's parents were born in Ireland.



## The Hartnett Family

The Hartnetts were friends of the McGraw family. Marion Hartnett was born in Dec 1895 and she was a teacher and then a principal. The K-6 school was built on the site of Dr. Judson Nelson old house and it was named for Marion Hartnett.

Daniel C. Hartnett was a friend of Edward C. McGraw (my grandfather). Sometime before 1975 he signed a notarized document stating that he had known Edward "since boyhood" and that Edward McGraw and Edmund McGraw were one and the same person. Edward was 85 years old at this time and they probably discovered this "potential identity crisis" when he was writing his will or putting his estate in order. As far as I know this name change was not common knowledge however his brothers and sisters must have been aware of it. Since he and his grandfather Edmond McGraw were living in the same house with Edward and his parents they might have started calling young Edmund by the name Edward to avoid confusion. So it might be possible that even his siblings were not aware of the name change. Edward even named one of his sons Edward C. McGraw, Jr.

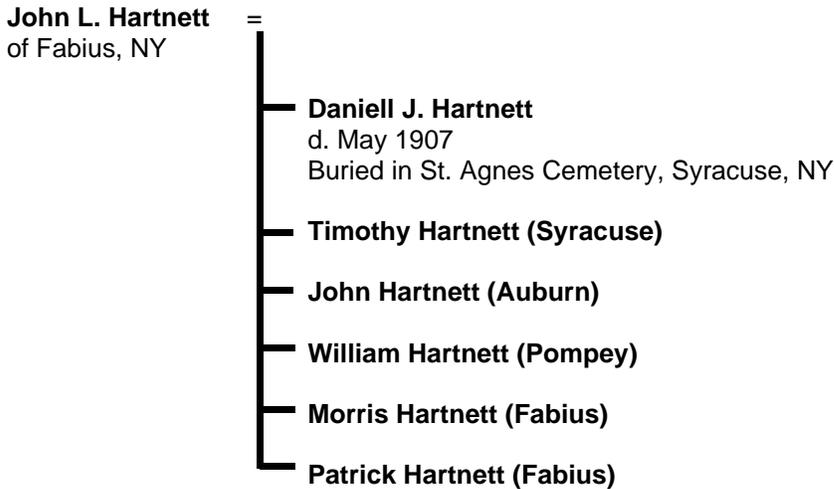




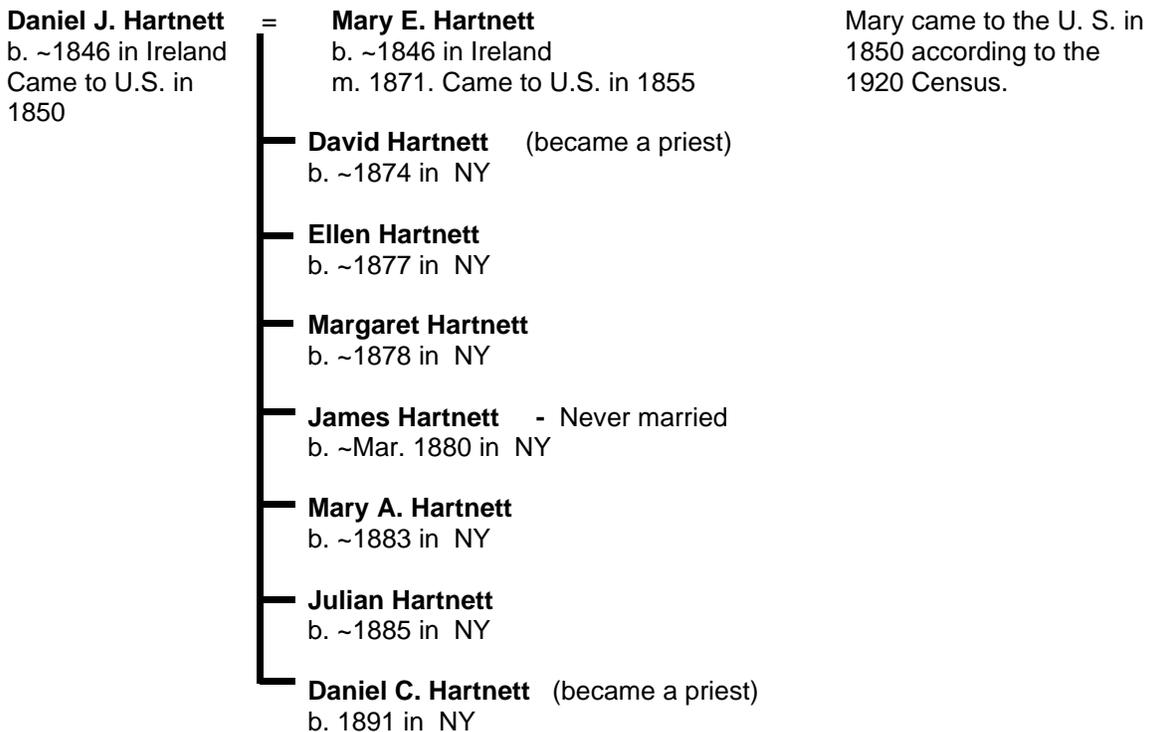
1910 Census – Cortland Co., Truxton T624\934\Part2\308A 168/176 Daniel P. Hartnett (b. ~1860 in NY), married Mary E. ? (b. ~1859) in 1895.

1920 Census – Cortland Co., Truxton – T625\1096\Part1\297B – 46/46 Daniel J. Hartnett on the North Road. Neighbors were the Lonergans, Flahertys and the Caseys.

### From Daniell J. Hartnett's obituary – Tully Times, June 1, 1907



### Another Daniel J. Hartnett of Truxton



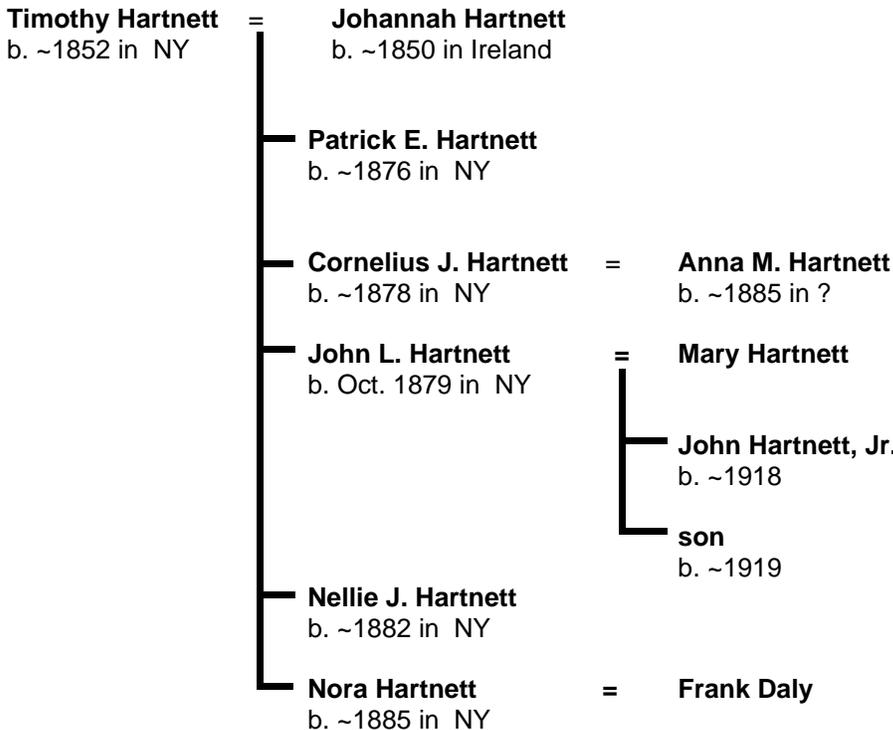
Mary came to the U.S. in 1850 according to the 1920 census. Daniel was referred to as “D.J.” James Hartnett never married. Helena Dwyer remembers him as a tall and very distinguished looking gentleman.

Sources:

1880 Census – Cortland Co., Truxton, T9\822\Part1\241A – 174/187 June 15, 1880. Daniel and Mary were born in Ireland as were their parents. They were living next to Patrick Flaherty on the West Road.

1920 Census – Cortland Co., Truxton – T625\1096\Part1\300A – 111/116 -James Hartnett was living on Maiden Lane (Prospect Street) with his mother Mary (age 71) and sisters: Margaret (age 41), Mary (age 37) and Julian (age 35).

**The Timothy Hartnett Family of Truxton**



Source:

1880 Census – Cortland Co., Truxton – T9\822\Part1\244A – 218/247 - June 21, 1880  
 1910 Census – Cortland Co., Truxton – T624\934\Part2\302B – 19/19, 20/20  
 1920 Census – Cortland Co., Truxton – T625\1096\Part1\295B – 64/65 & 65/66  
 1920 Census - Cortland Co., Truxton – T625\1096\Part1\299B – 101/104 – Frank Daly & Nora Hartnett.

In 1880 Hannah W. O'Connor was staying at the Timothy Hartnett home. She was born in ~1820 in Ireland. Timothy was born in NY and his parents were born in Ireland. Johannah was born in Ireland as were her parents.

In 1920 Cornelius and John Hartnett were living on the Truxton – Cuyler Road. John Hartnett, Jr. was a Lawyer in Syracuse, NY. There might be an additional daughter of Timothy and Johannah Hartnett named Julia.

96. HARTNET, Daniel married Ellen HENNESSY 4 February 1857. Priest: Michael W. Rooney. Witnesses: John Hartnet and Johanna Breef.

166. HARTNETT, John married Catherine McDONNELL 9 March 1861, at Truxton. Priest: Bonaventure Carney. Witnesses: Thomas Hartnett and Margaret Wallace.

## Jerome Woodruff and the Keeney Settlement School



Picture source: Kane, Mary Ann, *Images of America – Cortland County*, Arcadia Publishing, Charleston, SC, 1999, p 65. This distinguished looking gentleman in the photo from 1914 just might be Jerome Woodruff who taught at Keeney Settlement School for many years.

Jerome Woodruff was the son of Orin Woodruff and Myra Wheat. For many years he was associated with the school at Keeney Settlement. This school was on Cuyler property but was shared with Fabius.

The following paragraphs are from Virginia Whitmarsh<sup>96</sup>

“Jerome Woodruff is a name to remember when you think of this school. He was of sufficient stature as a teacher to win wide acclaim. O.W. Webster wrote an article enumerating his virtues which was published in a neighboring newspaper. Entitled ‘One Model Schoolmaster’ it describes Mr. Woodruff as a ‘picturesque, polished, cultured gentleman’ who taught more than what was in the book. He opened school with scripture and prayer and then called the little ones to stand around his chair as they recited. Some of the little ones died a few weeks later in an epidemic of diphtheria. The funeral was held across the road in the church the bell tolling as was the custom.

“Jerome Woodruff taught many terms in Keeney Settlement. Sometimes he would close the day with a lecture praising good work, suggesting that they could do better, telling them how disappointed their parents would be if they didn't and how delighted they would be with improvement. He would suggest that they come with new purpose and determination to make the most of their time the next day.

“He was a school commissioner in Cortland County for nine years.

"It is certain there have been other teachers in the township of Cuyler who would rank as high. Mr. Woodruff happened to be the one found praised in print.

In the 1861 School Records of Supervisor Silas Blanchard are found the names of teachers: Jerome Woodruff for District 3 and W. Waters and G.L. both for District 19.<sup>97</sup> Jerome Woodruff was born in 1836. In 1914 Jerome would have been 78 and that was the approximate age of the teacher in the 1914 Cuyler area school photo of the teacher with his students. The age is right and the description fits the picture so this just might be Jerome Woodruff – longtime friend of Michael W. McGraw of

Truxton.

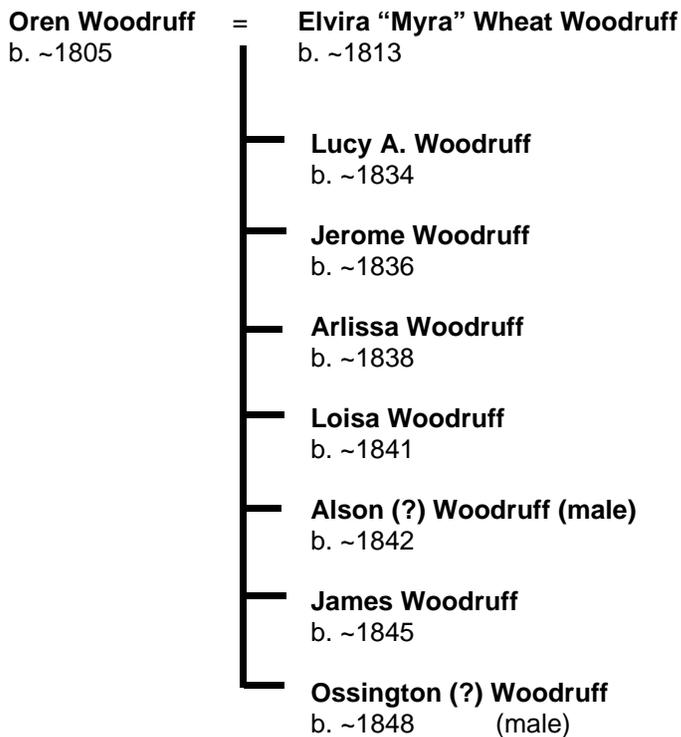
**Keeney Settlement School - A residence 1973**



Courtesy of Ann Ludke

**This picture of the old Keeney Settlement schoolhouse bears a striking resemblance to the schoolhouse in the picture at the top.**

The 1850 Census gives the following Woodruff families





## Kenney's General Store, Truxton, New York



The gas pumps in Truxton are symbolic of why the trolleys ran no more in the county. Kenney's grocery store took advantage of the increasing automobile traffic on Route 13 in the 1930s. The Independent Grocers Association's (IGA) large warehouse in Cortland supplied many area stores until the supermarket chains' competition became too great, both for it and for its customers.

106

Bert Kenney ran a hotel in Truxton at one time and also a general store that was located on Main Street. He was a life long friend of John J. McGraw and bankrolled John's professional baseball career in the early days by giving the young man \$75.

Bert Kenney died on Sept. 30, 1931 (70y, 6m, 26d.). None of the people in this picture appear to be over 40 so Bert Kenney himself is not in this picture. The name on the sign is H.O. Kenney and this is probably one of Bert's descendants and possibly the man in the middle in the above photo.

## Non-Related McGraws

### The McGraws of the Village of McGraw, Cortland County,

"Two brothers, McGraw, left Scotland – a while at Dublin, then settled at Bennington, VT. There son Samuel, brought up by Gov. Tichnor of Vermont, born Oct. 17, 1772, left Bennington, Vermont, and lived a short time on a farm west of the Tioughnioga River, near Blodgett Mills, NY. Went upstate to the Mohawk River in Herkimer Co. Returned and bought all land in and about McGrawville, N.Y. from Rowe's to Hick's and settled there. He married Elizabeth Whitcomb of Vermont."<sup>98</sup>

The rest of this material comes from: History of Cortland County edited by H. P. Smith, D. Mason & Co. publishers, Syracuse NY 1885

McGrawville is a village in the town of Cortlandville, about five miles to the eastward of Cortland village. In 1885 it contained the second largest corset manufactory in the United States. The village received its name in honor of Samuel McGraw, who migrated from New Haven, Conn., to Cortlandville in 1803 and located on lot 87, where he purchased 100 acres. In 1809 he removed to McGrawville and purchased about 200 acres. Mr. McGraw was a native of Plymouth, Vermont, where he was born in 1772. He was married to Miss Betsey Whitcomb in 1794 in Bennington, Vt. by which marriage he had eleven children. The first four of whom, namely, William, Henry, Betsey, and Hiram, were born before their parents removed westward. Samuel, a younger son, was a resident of Homer village in 1885. The children all became prominent in the early history of this village. Mr. McGraw died Feb. 6th, 1835.

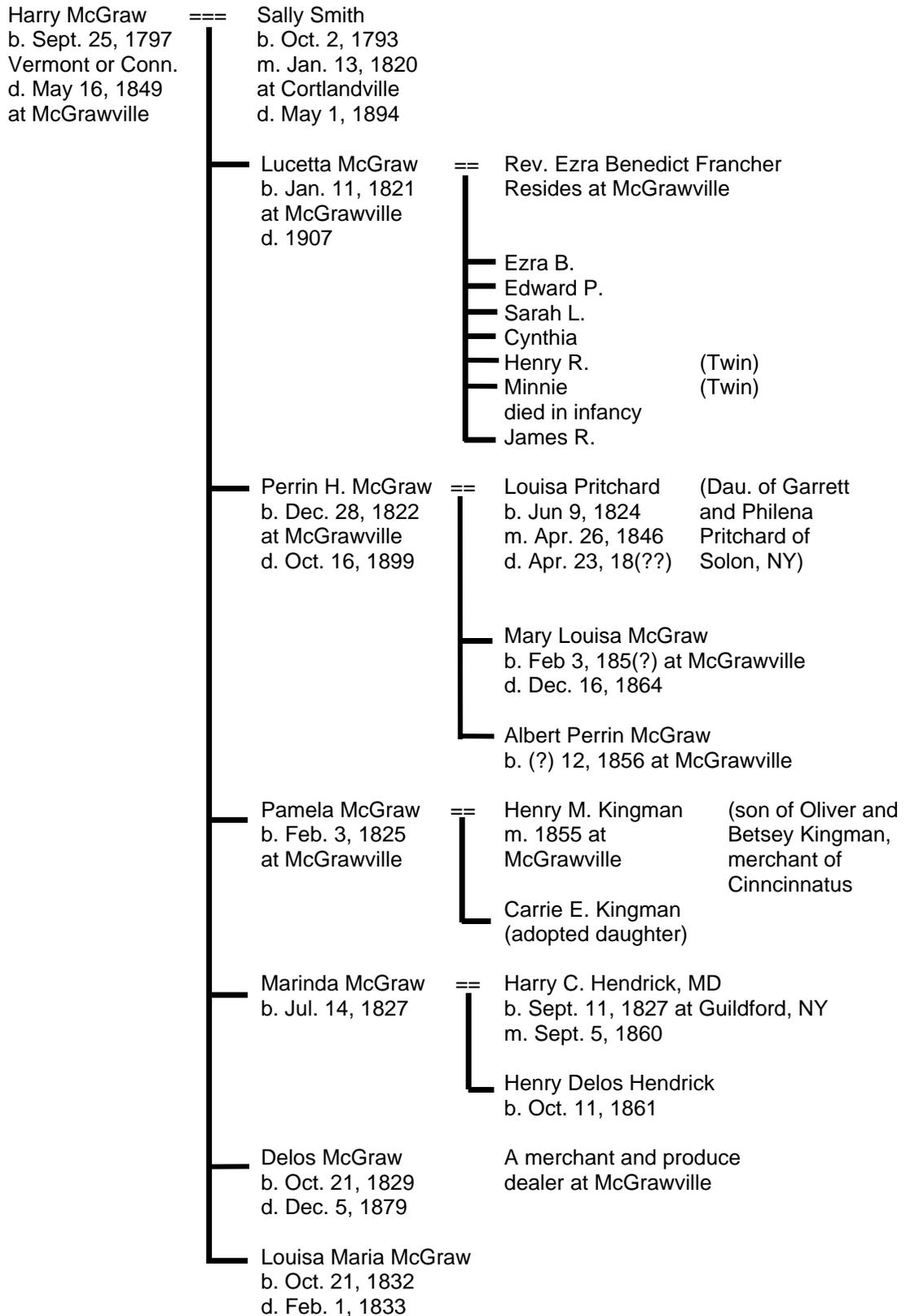
When Samuel McGraw came to this place he built a log cabin, in which he lived until 1815, when he there erected a frame house. Elisha Coburn, a native of Springfield, Mass. came in from Oxford and located on lot No. 79, in 1811, one-half mile south of McGrawville, where he cut timber and built an ashery and for many years manufactured "black salts. E. B. Fancher and Rensselaer Merrill, an associate of Harry McGraw, are both prominent names in the history of this section of the town, but came upon the field somewhat later.

Samuel McGraw built the first log house in what is now the village of McGrawville. Henry McGraw, his son, became the first merchant in the village. He purchased the first goods ever brought to McGrawville of Roswell and Wm. Randall, in Cortland village, and after carting them to his place, opened up in his father's old log cabin (1818). After trading here for a season only he built the second store in the place, a part of which is now (1885) occupied as the post office. This was the year 1822. About 1835, he sold out to Marcus McGraw and A. V. P. Wilcox. From 1841 to 1843 he rented the building to Greenman & Thompson; then H. McGraw & Son (P. H. McGraw) continued the business until the death of the father in 1849, when a company was formed, consisting of P. H. McGraw, Deloss McGraw and Lucius Babcock, and business was continued from 1849 to 1854 under the firm name of P. H. McGraw & Co., who had the third largest store in the county. Upon the dissolution of the last named firm, P. H. & D. McGraw began in the produce business and have continued it from that date to the present time (1885), trading also extensively in wool, cattle and general merchandise.

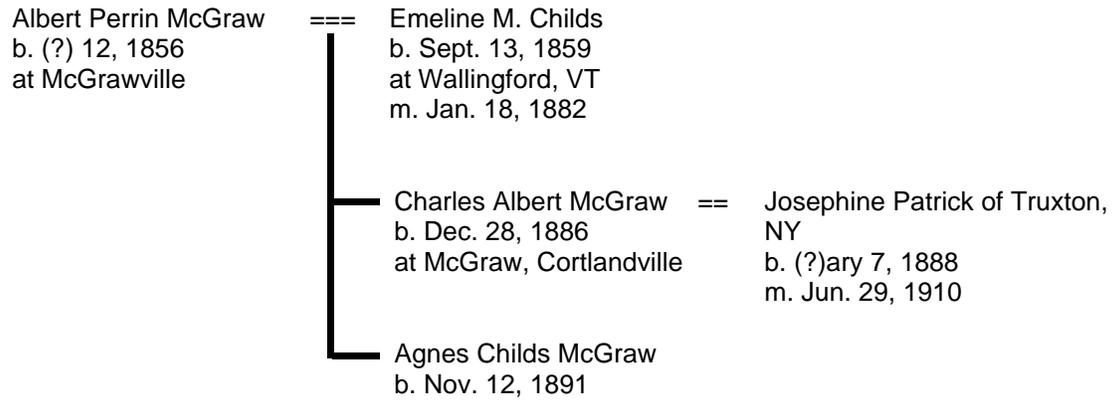
## Samuel McGraw of McGraw, New York

<p>Samuel McGraw b. Oct. 17, 1772 Vermont</p>	<p>=== Elizabeth Whitcomb b. Feb. 1, 1775 m. 1794, Bennington, VT d. July 7, 1860</p>		
	<p>— William McGraw b. Jan. 28, 1796 d. Oct. 22, 1862</p>	<p>== Sally Barnum</p>	<p>(10 Children)</p>
	<p>— Harry McGraw b. Sept. 25, 1797 Vermont or Conn. d. May 16, 1849 at McGrawville</p>	<p>== Sally Smith b. Oct. 2, 1793 m. Jan. 13, 1820 at McGrawville d. May 1, 1874</p>	<p>(6 Children)</p>
	<p>— Hiram McGraw b. Sept. 25, 1797 d. July 1798</p>		<p>Twin of Harry</p>
	<p>— Hiram McGraw b. Jan 24, 1800 d. Apr. 5, 1877</p>	<p>== Philena Graves (1) Martha Sturtevant (2)</p>	
	<p>— Betsy McGraw b. Sept. 24, 1802 d. Dec. 5, 1879</p>	<p>== Reuben G. Dowd</p>	
	<p>— John McGraw b. May 30, 1804 d. June 27, 1848</p>	<p>== Minerva Graves</p>	
	<p>— Samuel McGraw b. Sept. 25, 1806 d. Dec. 14, 1889</p>	<p>== Jerusha Eaton (1) Nancy Clark (2)</p>	
	<p>— Marcus McGraw b. Oct. 31, 1808 d. May 16, 1870</p>	<p>== Louisa Eaton (1) Eliza Y. Munson (2)</p>	
	<p>— Marcia McGraw b. Jan 3, 1811 d. May 2, 1855</p>	<p>== Rev. George B. Hapgood</p>	
	<p>— Newton McGraw b. June 30, 1813</p>	<p>== Rowena Jones</p>	
	<p>— Elinor McGraw b. Oct. 8, 1815 d. Dec. 4, 1886</p>	<p>== Thomas Rogers</p>	
	<p>— Maria McGraw b. Nov. 17, 1817 d. March 6, 1897</p>	<p>== David W. Greenman</p>	

# Harry McGraw



Albert Perrin McGraw



Source: Cutter's Genealogies and Family Portraits of Central New York, Volume 1.

## The McGraws of Dryden, New York

"The McGraws, her father's forebears, had abandoned Scotland in Cromwell's time and settled in County Armagh in Ireland. Terrance McGraw, Jennie's great grandfather, was trained for the medical profession but became instead a successful cattle dealer. At his death, his sons, Joseph and Thomas, joined a group of Scotch-Irish protestants that emigrated to America in 1801. Joseph was something of a Latin scholar, retaining his interest in the language all his life, but he made his living as a weaver. He first settled in Orange County, New York, where in 1805 he married Jane Nelson, also from Northern Ireland. Six years later the young couple, with other members of the Scotch-Irish colony, removed to Dryden where they formed what has always since been called the Irish settlement. Joseph McGraw practiced his craft by traveling from home to home in the neighborhood and using the household looms to weave blankets, bedspreads, and fabric for clothing."<sup>99</sup>

There were four children: Thomas, Nancy, Joseph Jr., and John plus an adopted son Thomas. All three boys became merchants in Dryden. Joseph Jr. later turned to farming. The area called South Hill near Drydens Corners was the Irish Settlement.

"One of Dryden's leading merchants was John Southworth, whose fine brick home built in 1836 is still a landmark on North Street. Southworth had several attractive daughters, and one of these, Sarah Ann, was wooed and won by Thomas McGraw, who became a partner and manager of Southworth's business."<sup>100</sup>

"The eldest, Thomas, went into the lumber business of his uncle, John McGraw, who at one time apparently meant to make the boy co-heir with Jennie. Meanwhile, John McGraw, youngest of the three brothers and father of Jennie, was working for a Dryden merchant named Daniel J. Shaw for \$8 a month, half of which princely salary he gave religiously to his mother. Years later, when his drive and initiative had made him a millionaire and a power in the industrial world, he liked to recall what he claimed was one of the happiest moments of his life. After working in Shaw's store for a week or two he had asked his boss if his services were satisfactory. Shaw had replied promptly, 'I am more than satisfied.'"

John McGraw was one of the The McGraws of Cornell Fame.<sup>101</sup> John McGraw (d. 1878) was a lumber businessman, a millionaire and a benefactor to Cornell University. His only daughter, Jennie McGraw, was raised in Dryden and Ithaca, New York. She was born in 1840 and died of tuberculosis in September 1881. Jennie's cousin was Thomas McElheny who married Adelaide (Ada) Taber.

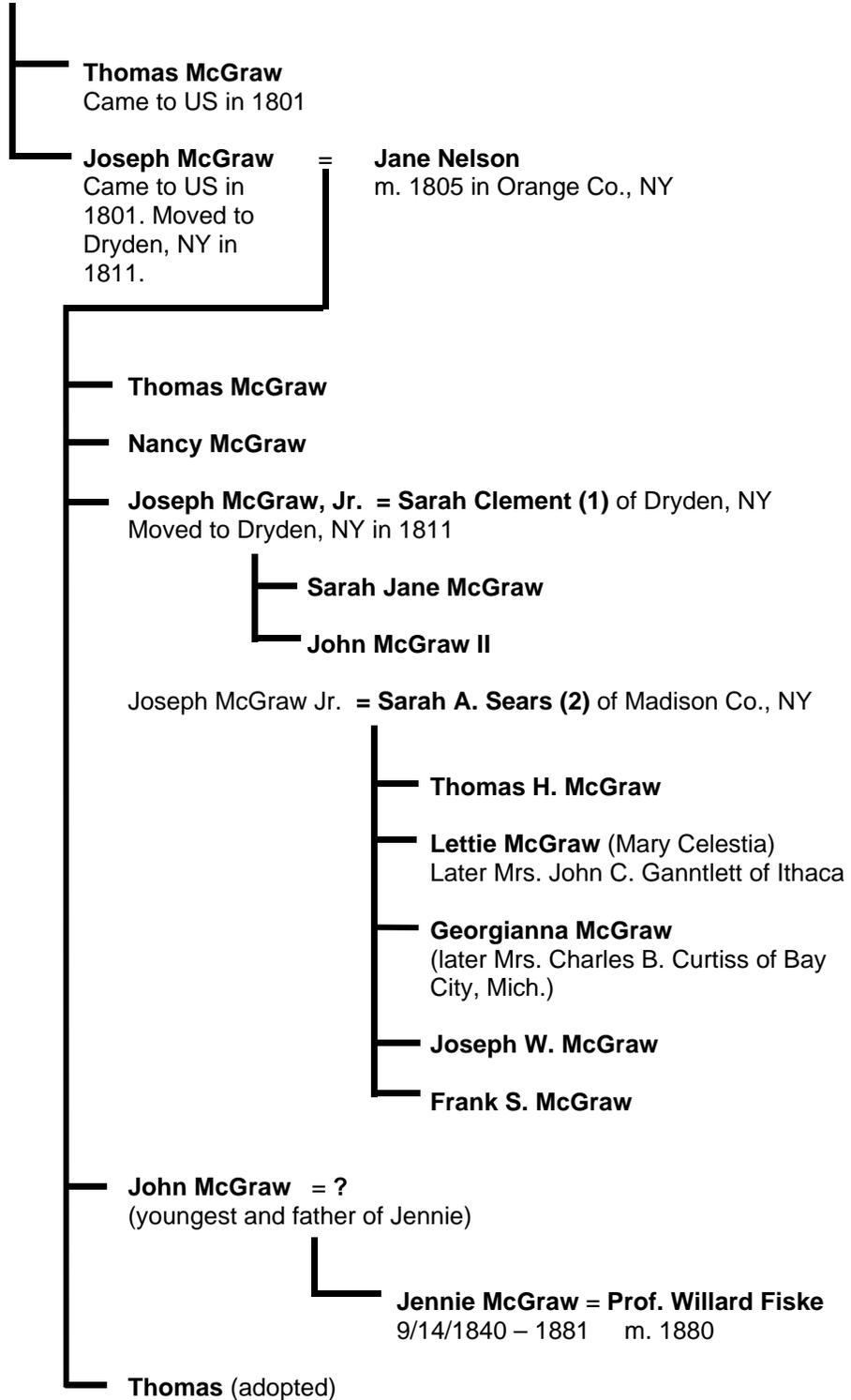


Jennie's father was the benefactor for whom the McGraw Tower is named. Later Jennie donated a set of bells to the university that were mounted in the tower named after her father John McGraw.

In July 1880 Jennie married Professor Willard Fiske even though she was in ill health at the time. When she died her fortune was bequeathed to Cornell University according to her will. Fiske and several relatives entered into a protracted fight over Jennie McGraw's estate with the university ultimately emerging the winner. A cousin of Jennie's was Thomas McElheny who was married to Adelaide (Ada) Taber.

## The McGraws of Dryden, NY

**Terrance McGraw** = ?  
Born in Co. Armagh,  
Ireland

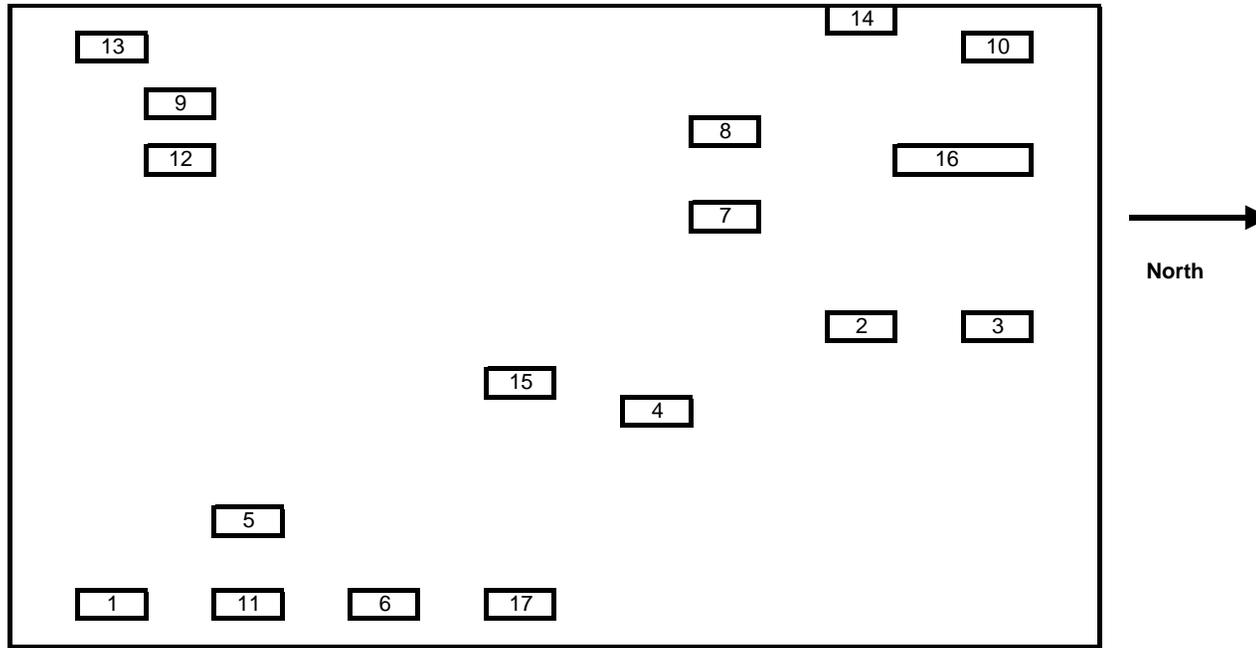


# Appendix

## The Various Spellings of Edmond's Name

Name	Document
Edmund Magrath	Letter from Fr. James O'Meara to Doug Currie dated April 16, 1988. This was in connection with Upperchurch Roman Catholic parish records concerning Edmund and Mary's marriage on September 1, 1841 at Upperchurch.
Edmond McGrath	John William McGraw's Baptismal Certificate [Copy made on April 30, 1913]. Original Baptism at Upperchurch, Co. Tipperary, Ireland, June 24, 1844
Edmond McGraw	New York State Census – June, 1855
Edmond McGraw	Deed of purchase for Cuyler Lot 76, Subdivision 1; November 10, 1855 – Deed Book 26, Page 107 – Cortland County Court House.
Edmond McGraw	Deed of sale for Cuyler Lot 76, Subdivision 1; February 1, 1867 – Deed Book 46, Page 372 – Cortland County Court House.
Edmund McGraw	Deed of purchase for Cuyler Lot 76, Subdivision 2; February 27, 1867 – Deed Book 43, Page 431 – Cortland County Court House.
Edmond McGrath	Deed of purchase for Truxton Lots 51 & 52; January 6, 1868 – Deed Book 47, Page 162 – Cortland County Court House.
Edmond McGrath	Mortgage on Truxton Lots 51 & 52; January 6, 1868 – Liber 4 of Mortgages, Page 571 – Cortland County Court House.
Edmund McGraw	Mortgage on Cuyler Lot 76, Subdivision 2 from Edward Miller; March 1, 1872 – Mortgage Book 11, Page 524 – Cortland County Court House.
Edward McGraw	Mortgage Sale papers in connection with Cuyler Lot 76, Subdivision 2; April, 1874 – Deed Book 26, Page 107 – Cortland County Court House.
Edward McGraw	Mortgage Sale papers in connection with Truxton Lots 51 & 52; August, 1874 – Deed Book 57, Page 376 – Cortland County Court House.
Edmond McGraw	Cortland County Poor House Admission Record – August 16, 1892.
Edmond McGraw	Edmond's Death Certificate – May 14, 1899.
Edward McGraw	Michael William McGraw's Death Certificate – April 9, 1923
Edward McGraw	John William McGraw's Death Certificate – November 8, 1926

## The Truxton Roman Catholic Cemetery – July 1999 (Revised June 2001)



<b>1</b>	Flaherty, Michael	<b>9</b>	Carr, Dennis & Comerford John
<b>2</b>	McGrath, John & Family	<b>10</b>	Herlihy, Bridget
<b>3</b>	McGrath, Anne	<b>11</b>	Ryan, William
<b>4</b>	Comerford, Patrick	<b>12</b>	Ryan, Walter
<b>5</b>	McGraw, Michael	<b>13</b>	Tobin, Edward
<b>6</b>	Herlihy, Thomas	<b>14</b>	Nix, Phelan
<b>7</b>	Lonergan, Patrick	<b>15</b>	Comerford, Dennis
<b>8</b>	Mortan/Lonergan	<b>16</b>	Long Family
		<b>17</b>	Long, Doris & Albert

## Flaherty (1)

Flaherty

Leo

Anna

Michael

## Herlihy (6)

Isaac

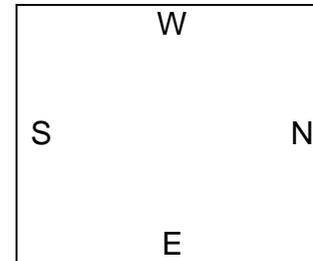
Herlihy

James

Maggie

Mother

Father



### East Side Inscription:

Thomas, d. Jul 3, 1911, 70 yrs.

Mary, w.o. Thomas, d. Sept. 10, 1892

### North Side Inscription:

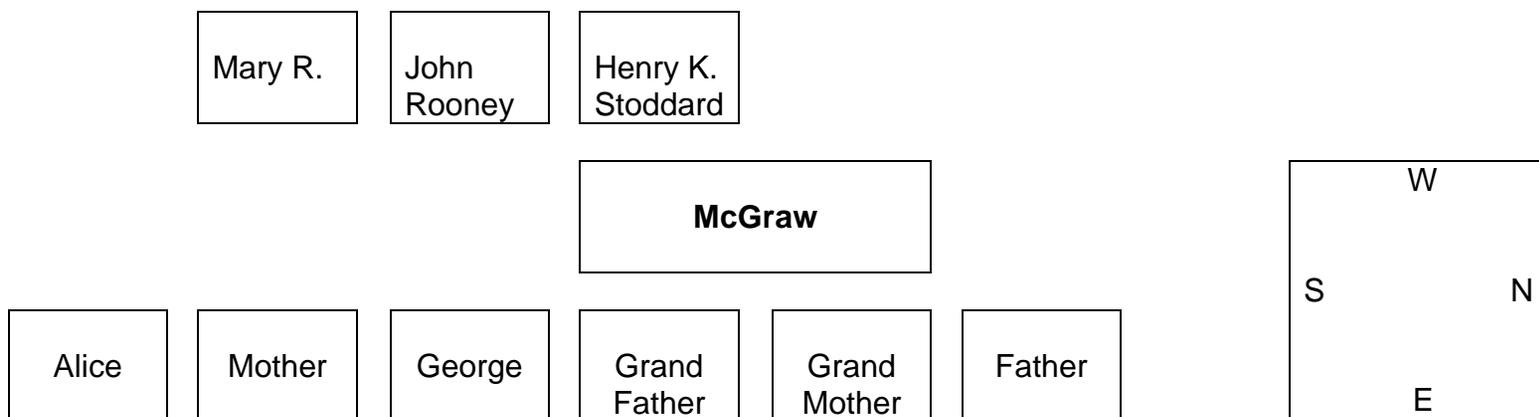
James B. Herlihy, 1881 - 1920

### South Side Inscription:

Isaac Henderson, 1868 - 1919

Margaret, his wife, 1870 - 1919

## McGraw (5)



The main monument and all the individual markers are made from pink Granite and appear to be very new. There are no dates on any of the stones and this could prove confusing in future years. Fortunately we have alternative sources for this information.

Grandfather: Edmond William McGrath (McGraw), 1813 – 1899

Grandmother: Mary Ryan McGrath (McGraw), 1810 – 1899

Father: Michael William McGrath (McGraw), 1843 – 1923

Mother: Alice Rooney McGraw, 1859 – 1940

George: George Francis McGraw, 1893 – 1893

Alice: Alice Rooney McGraw, 1896 – 1980

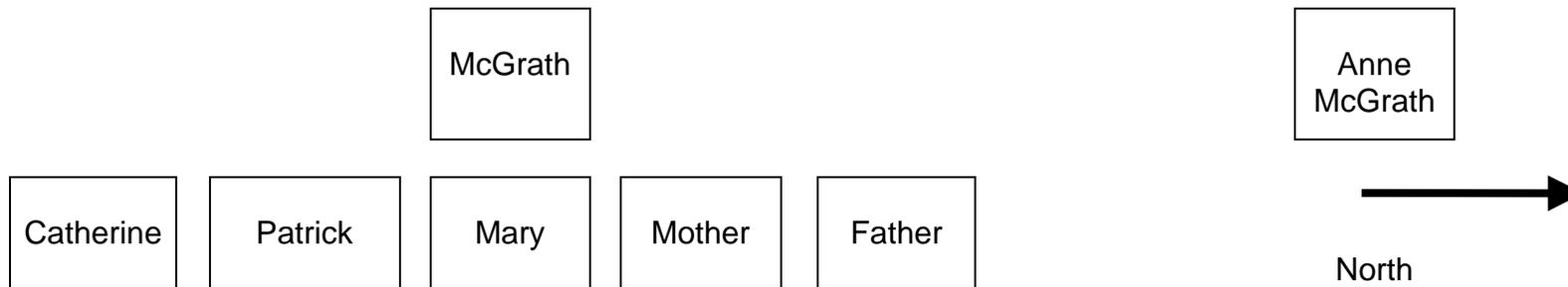
Mary R.: Mary R. McGraw, 1861 – 1932

This is Alice Rooney's sister and 2<sup>nd</sup> wife of Michael's brother John William McGrath (McGraw)

John Rooney is the brother of Alice and Mary Rooney.

Henry K. Stoddard was the husband of Mary Helena McGraw Stoddard.

## McGrath (2) & (3)



East Side Inscription:  
John McGrath  
Ellen McGrath

South Side Inscription:

<p>Patrick Edmond died Sept. 7, 1883 Age 5 years &amp; 5 ms.</p>	<p>Mary died Sept. 12, 1883 Age 12 yrs &amp; 2 ms.</p>	<p>Catherine died Sept. 28, 1883 Age 7 years &amp; 4 ms.</p>
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John William McGrath: June, 1844 – November 8, 1926 (Age 82)  
Ellen Comerfort McGrath: 1853 – August 29, 1883

Mary McGrath: July, 1871 – September 12, 1883  
Patrick Edmond McGrath: April, 1878 - September 7, 1883

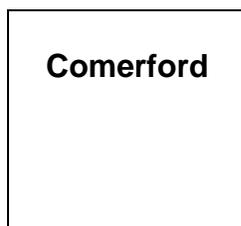
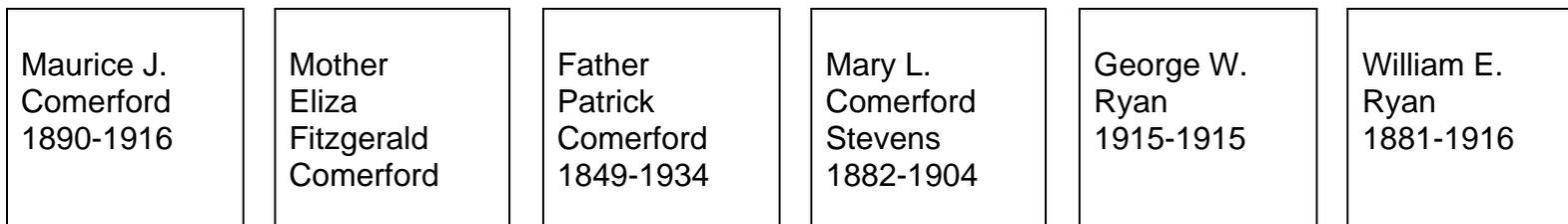
Catherine McGrath: May, 1876 – September 28, 1883

There is another McGrath monument on the lot next to the John McGrath's monument (to the north). The inscription, the only inscription on the monument, was located on the south side of the monument. The "front" of the cemetery is facing the east and by that I mean that the main inscription on all the gravestones face east. Perhaps the east side of the monument was being reserved for her husband Patrick. According to the death records in the Madison County Courthouse, Cazenovia, Madison County, NY Patrick died on Feb. 20, 1893 at the age of 86 (b. ~1807) and he is buried in Truxton, NY. Patrick is not on the list of those buried in the Protestant Cemetery in Truxton and there is no inscription for Patrick on the family monument where his wife Ann McGrath is buried in the Catholic Cemetery in Truxton. It is possible that he is buried in the Catholic Cemetery with his wife Ann and for some reason there was no inscription placed on the tombstone.

South Side Inscription  
ANN McGRATH  
d. May 25, 1883  
age 87 yrs.

May her soul rest in  
peace amen.

## Comerford (4)



Note: The engraving on the top row is upside down from the orientation shown here.  
 Eliza and Patrick Comerford were married after 1880. Patrick is the brother of Ellen Comerford McGraw. Eliza was a Fitzgerald and there were other Fitzgeralds in the Truxton Catholic Cemetery.



Maurice, Mary, Anna and Patrick L. are children of Eliza (Elizabeth) and Patrick Comerford. The relationship of these Ryans (George and William) to the Comerfords is uncertain but Patrick's mother was a Ryan.



## Comerford (15)



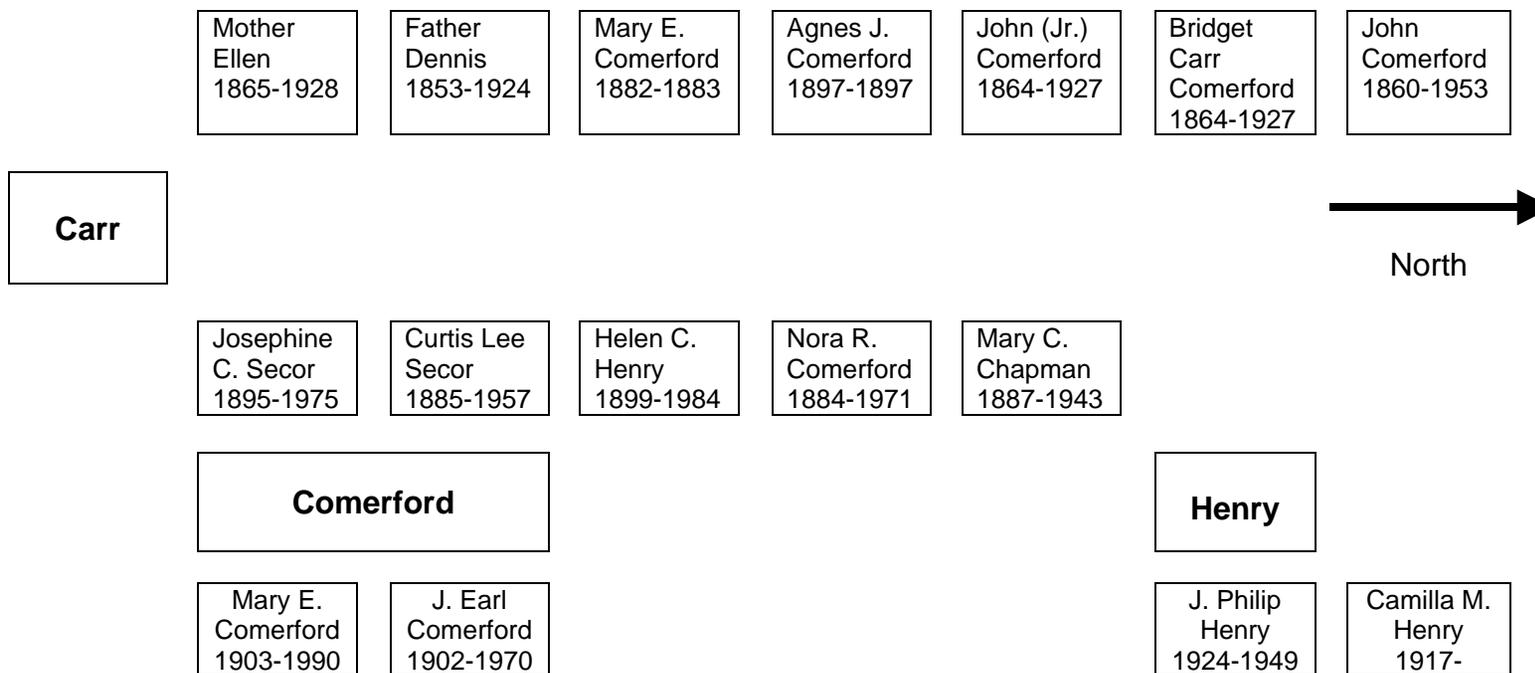
Dennis L. Comerford is the son of John and Bridget Comerford. Mildred is most likely his wife.

## Herlihy (10)

Bridget Herlihy's monument was located near the northwest corner of the cemetery. There was a small stone with the initials "B.H." located in front of the main monument

Bridget Herlihy  
 died Dec. 17, 1867  
 Aged 27 years

## Carr / Comerford (9)



**Carr Monument – Northside**

Daniel J.  
son of Dennis & Bridget Carr  
died  
Feb. 22, 1881  
Aged 21 yrs. 1 mo.  
Verse followed by "May his soul rest in peace, Amen"

Mother Ellen (Carr) is the daughter of Michael O'Brien and Ellen O'Brien Carr. Mary E., Agnes J., Nora R. are children of John and Bridget Carr Comerford. Josephine C. Secor, Helen C. Henry and Mary C. Chapman are also the children of John and Bridget.

J. Philip Henry might be the son of Helen C. Henry. John (Jr.) Comerford doesn't seem to fit in. He might be a son of John and Elizabeth Comerford but then they would have had two sons named John.

**Nix, Phelan (14)**

Hanora Nix  
wife of  
Thomas Phelan  
d. Dec. 3, 1868  
Aged 32 years

Margaret O'Connell  
w. of  
John Nix  
Died July 23, 1866  
Age 36  
  
John, son of  
John & Margaret Nix  
D. June 15, 1861  
Age 16 mo.

**Tobin (13)**

North 

T

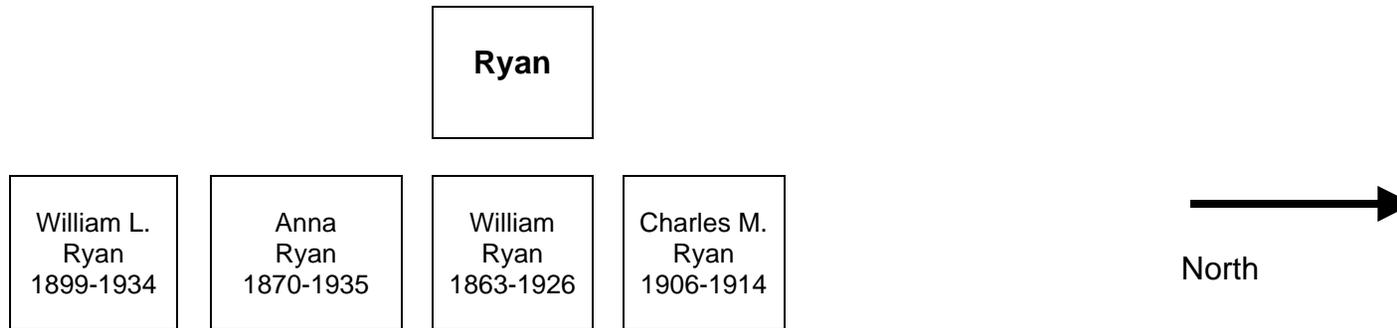
Katherine M.  
Tobin  
1890-1916

The Family of  
Edward &  
Mary Tobin

T

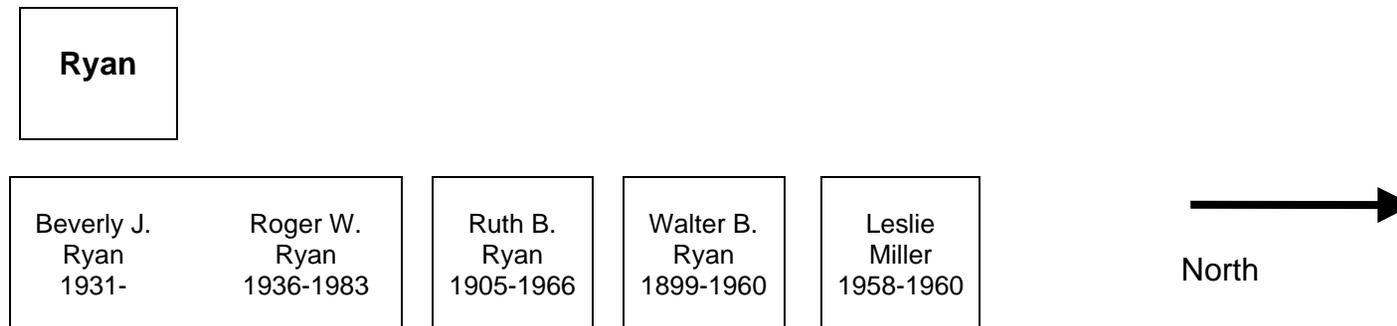
T

## Ryan (11)



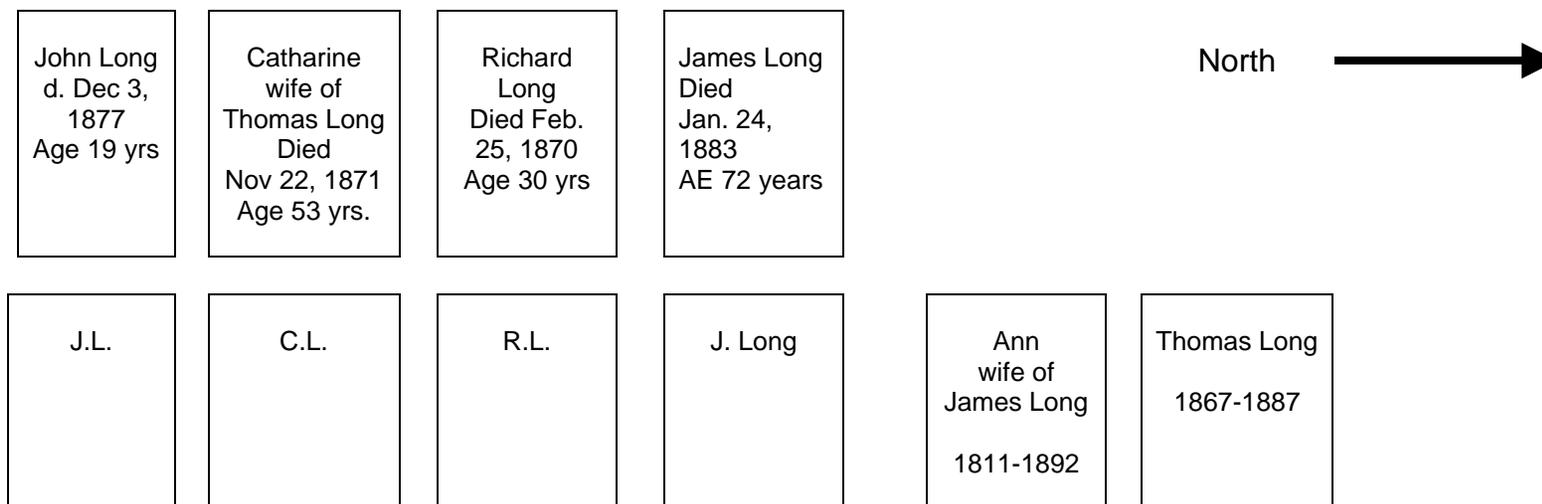
These graves were between the Flaherty and Herlihy graves along the eastern boundary of the cemetery. William and Anna Ryan were the parents of John T. Ryan (born 1908, not buried here) who was the uncle of Doug Currie through marriage to the sister of Doug's father.

## Ryan (12)

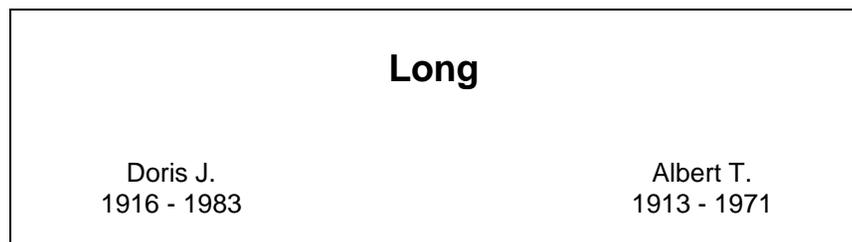


These graves were located in front of the Tobin and Carr graves in the southwestern corner of the cemetery. It isn't known at the present time if these Ryans tie into the McGraw family or any of the other associated families. For Walter B. Ryan the details are: b. Oct. 11, 1899; d. Nov. 2, 1960. There was a Walter B. Ryan (b. Oct. 1893) of the Cuyler Hill Ryans – son of Roger Ryan and Ursala Benjamin – could this be the same person?

## Long (16)



## Long (17)



James Long – See 1870 Census, Truxton, Cortland Co. M593\922\892B.  
Thomas Long is the son of James Long.

Compiled by Michael F. McGraw July 1999, revised June 2001

## The Origins of the Legends About John J. McGraw

These five books are the major biographies on the life of John J. McGraw. The majority of the focus in each of these books was John's baseball career, most of which was very well documented. The early life of this famous baseball player and manager in Cortland County when it was represented in these volumes was not always accurate. These inaccuracies are dealt with in detail in the main text while the aim in this section is to determine in detail where the various legends crept into the written record.

- McGraw, John J., *John J. McGraw – My Thirty Years in Baseball*, University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln, 1923. First Bison printing 1995.
- Graham, Frank, *McGraw of the Giants – An Informal Biography*, G.P. Putnam's Sons, New York, 1944.
- McGraw, Mrs. John J. (Mary Blanche Sindall McGraw), *The Real McGraw*, Edited by Arthur Mann, David McKay Company, Inc., New York, 1953.
- Durso, Joseph, *The Days of Mr. McGraw*, Prentice-Hall, Inc., Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey, 1969.
- Alexander, Charles C., *John McGraw*, University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln and London, 1988.

	McGraw 1923	Graham 1944	Mrs. McGraw 1953	Durso 1969	Alexander 1988
1. Widower in 1871	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES
2. Boys' 1856 arrival	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES
3. John weds Ellen	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES
4. Grandfather Joseph	NO	NO	YES <sup>1</sup>	NO	YES <sup>2</sup>
5. John J.'s Schooling	NO	NO	YES	NO	YES
6. West Hill rental	NO	NO	YES	NO	YES
7. Entire family born and lived on West Hill	NO	NO	YES	NO	YES
8. Death of Ellen	NO	YES <sup>3</sup>	YES <sup>4</sup>	YES	YES
9. Four children died	NO	YES		YES	YES
10. "Epidemic" in valley	NO	NO	YES	YES <sup>5</sup>	YES <sup>6</sup>
11. John moves into the Truxton House	YES <sup>7</sup>	NO <sup>8</sup>	YES <sup>9</sup>	YES <sup>10</sup>	YES <sup>11</sup>
12. Children living with relatives	NO	YES	YES <sup>12</sup>	YES <sup>13</sup>	YES <sup>14</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Mrs. McGraw remarks that Joseph was a "learned grandfather still in Ireland."

<sup>2</sup> Alexander: Joseph was "the baby's grandfather in Ireland."

<sup>3</sup> Graham has John at age 12 when his mother died and he was born on April 7, 1873. This gives an epidemic date of 1885.

<sup>4</sup> Mrs. McGraw – She has John J. at age 12 when his mother died.

<sup>5</sup> Durso was the first to place the epidemic in the winter of 1884-85.

<sup>6</sup> Alexander places the epidemic in the winter of 1884-85.

<sup>7</sup> John McGraw mentions that by 1889 he was living at the Truxton House Hotel run by Mary Goddard.

<sup>8</sup> John moved out of his father's house according to Graham but he says they all went to relatives.

<sup>9</sup> Mrs. McGraw places John J.'s move to the hotel as the fall of 1885.

<sup>10</sup> Durso has John J. eventually living in the Truxton House Hotel in 1889 but not immediately after his mother's death.

<sup>11</sup> Alexander has John J. moving into the Truxton House Hotel in the fall of 1885.

<sup>12</sup> According to Mrs. McGraw Ellen's relatives suggested that John farm out the children. Ellen's niece Ellen O'Brien Carr of East Homer took one of John J.'s sisters.

13. Placing his hits	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES
14. The curve ball story	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES

#### DETAILS OF THE ENTRIES IN COLUMN 1

1. John came to Truxton a widower in 1871 with daughter Anna.
2. The McGraw boys came to Truxton in ~1856.
3. John married Ellen Comerford.
4. Joseph was a grandfather in Ireland.
5. John and Michael had 10-12 years of Catholic schooling in Ireland.
6. John, Ellen and Anna moved into a rented house on West Hill.
7. John J. and the rest of the family were born on West Hill and lived there through Ellen's death.
8. Death of Ellen Comerford McGraw
9. Four children died in addition to their mother Ellen Comerford McGraw.
10. The "epidemic" ravaged the valley in 1884-5.
11. In 1885 John moves into the Truxton House with Mary Goddard.
12. Surviving children went to live with relatives.
13. Placing his hits – a skill learned by John J. to avoid breaking windows
14. The curve ball story

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<sup>13</sup> Durso has all the children going to Ellen's relatives except John J. who remained with his father.

<sup>14</sup> Alexander says this farming out of the children occurred over the time period 1885-88.

## Events Around Truxton 1907-1910

"The Truxton school building was discovered to be on fire at an early hour Monday morning. The flames were subdued before much headway had been made. The school had been closed for a week's vacation, and on Sunday night a fire had been started in the building, preparatory to opening the school on Monday morning." Tully times - April 13, 1907

### Halley's Comet -

"Look in the western sky, near where the sun disappears, this Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings, if you want to see the comet. Last chance in 75 years."

"Barnum said that the American people liked to be humbugged, and the old gentleman was about right. The next thing will be to find it advertised as one of the attractions of the greatest shows on earth. No doubt but the much-talked-of comet, if so advertised, would draw a crowd." Tully Times – May 21, 1910

### Tully Times – June 15, 1907

"The post-office employees will commence on July 1 to weigh the mails sent out from the Tully office. This will continue for six months. The object is to compute, as near as possible, the average haul of the mails of the different classes and sub-classes. In addition to this, other detail work will be required, so as to obtain, as near as possible, the cost to the government of handling the separate classes of mail."

"Dr. Harry Webb of Syracuse, the noted dentist, will be at Fabius, Monday, June 17, ready to serve his customers. By the use of sleep vapor, teeth are extracted without a particle of pain. This is one of the most wonderful agents of the century for the painless extraction of teeth, Dr. Webb does all kinds of dental work and his prices are very reasonable."

"Some meat dealers hint that the new Government inspection has much to do with the advance in meats, as the packers and shippers are in a deadlock over who shall stand the loss on cattle condemned by the inspectors. The packers are trying to buy subject to post mortem approval and the shippers insist on sales in the old way, the packers taking the risk of condemnation."

### The Dangerous Railroad

"Charles O'Neill was killed on the D.L.&W. railroad, between Onativa and Apulia late Saturday night. He was about 30 years old and went to Syracuse last summer after having been employed as a fireman a year by Wickwire Bros. at Cortland. The body was found over a fence from the railroad track, and after investigating the case, Coroner A.M. Willer concluded that Mr. O'Neill's body, after he had been killed by one train, was struck by another train and by it thrown over the fence. Blood found along the tracks led to a search and the discovery of the body." Tully Times - April 13, 1907.

"The D.L.&W. R.R. Co. has been sued for \$20,000 for the death of John McMahon, a brakeman, who was knocked from the top of a car by a footbridge in Syracuse on April 1 and killed. The action is brought by Mary J. Hudson of Pompey, administratrix of McMahon estate." Tully Times – April 20, 1907.

Apulia Station - April 18— "Will McCallen, who has been night man at the D.L. & W. station for some time, has been transferred to Oswego, **John Rooney**, of Onativia, takes his place." Tully Times – April 20, 1907. John was the brother of Alice and Mary Rooney and in 1913 he also died in a railroad accident near Homer, NY.

## Truxton No Match For Tully

"In a slugging match, in which Tully did all the slugging, the High School team won their second game of the season Saturday from Truxton High, by a score of 40 to 10, at the High School grounds (Tully). "

"Tully batted the ball all over the field, hitting the Truxton pitcher at will. Hurlbut, who pitched the first six innings, held Truxton at his mercy, allowing them but five hits and six runs. Brier, who replaced him in the seventh, was wild at the start, giving them bases on balls and one hit which scored four runs. After that he settled down and retired them in one-two-three order. Tully has a fast and heavy hitting team this year and should win most of the games played. Truxton played a fine game but was outclassed. The score follows: "

TULLY	AB.	R.	H.	E.
Willis, lf	5	5	2	0
Smith, 3b	7	4	4	0
Oothoudt, 1b	8	4	4	2
Hurlbut, p&c	6	6	4	0
Quigley, cf	7	4	3	0
H. Ryan, ss	8	3	3	0
Fox, c	6	4	4	0
Howe, 2b	8	4	4	1
A. Ryan, rf	7	6	5	0
Brier, p.f.	1	0	0	0
TOTAL	63	40	33	3

TRUXTON	AB.	R.	H.	E.
<b>O'Connor</b> , 3b	5	0	0	4
<b>Comeford</b> , p	5	0	0	1
Kent, c	4	2	0	4
Dwyer, cf	4	2	2	0
<b>McGraw</b> , lf	4	1	0	0
Mynard, 2b	3	2	1	3
Winnie, rf	4	1	1	1
Gordon, 1b	2	2	0	0
Gay, ss	4	0	2	1
TOTAL	35	10	6	14

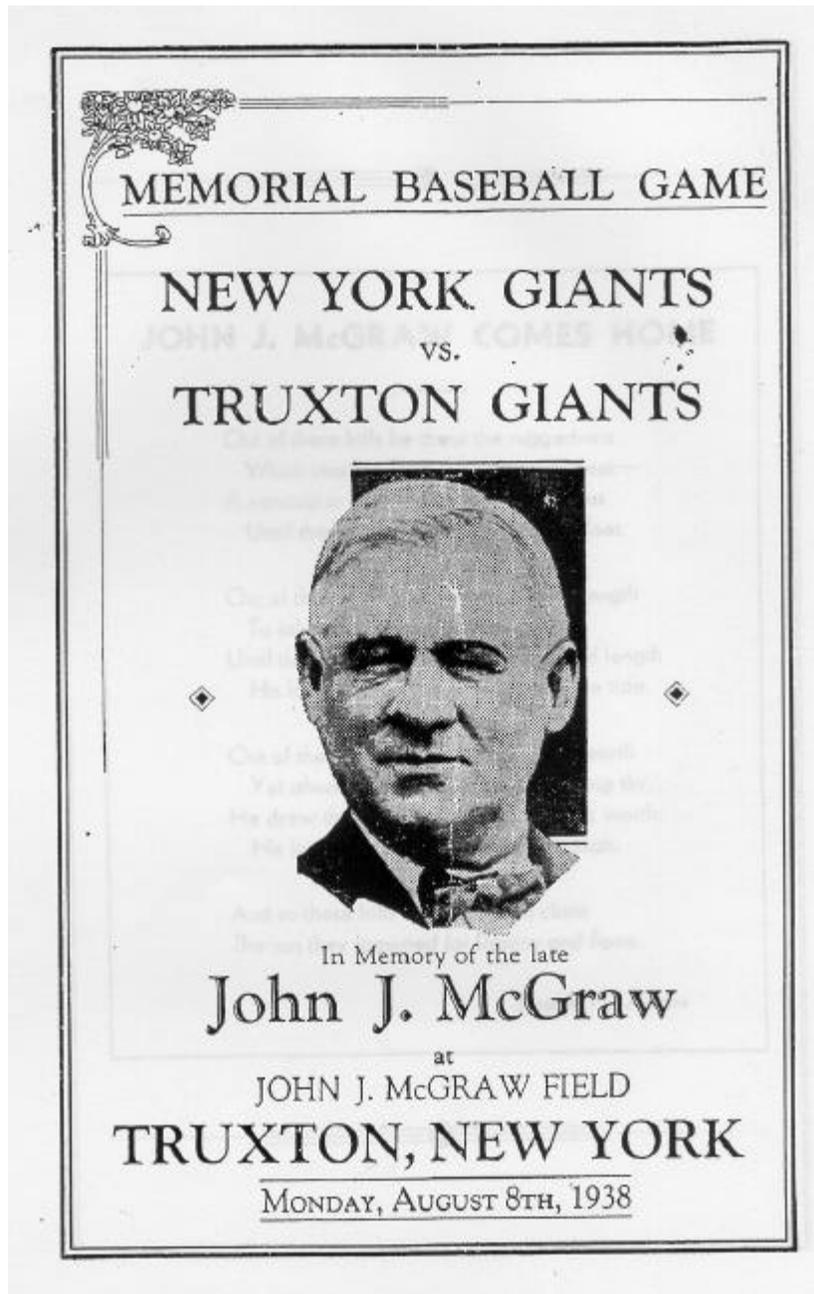
McGraw is Thomas McGraw, age 16, son of Michael and Alice McGraw from the North Road.

O'Connor is probably Leonard O'Connor, age 17, son of John and Margaret Hartnett O'Connor. John ran the O'Connor Hotel in Truxton.

Comeford is probably Dennis L. Comerford, age 17, son of John and Bridget Carr Comerford.

"Batteries: Tully—Hurlbut, Brier, Fox and Hurlbut. Truxton—Comeford and Kent. Two base hits, Smith 2, Oothoudt 3, Hurlbut 1, H. Ryan 1, Howe 1, A. Ryan 1, Dwyer, Mynard, Gay; three base hits, Hurlbut, A. Ryan; base on balls off Comeford 10, off ; Hurlbut 4, off Brier 3. E. Sanford, umpire. " Source: Tulley Times May 21, 1910.

## The Memorial Baseball Game in Truxton



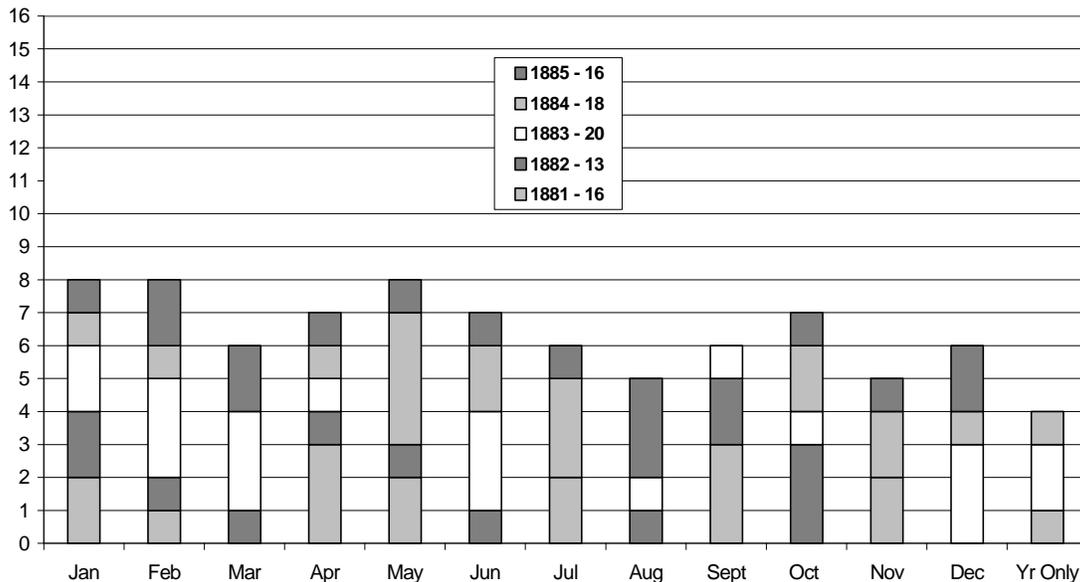
### The Memorial Game in Truxton

This is a copy of the cover of the program for the Memorial game played in Truxton on Monday August 8, 1938. The crease down the center of the copy is the result of this program being folded and inserted into someone's hip pocket. The back cover of the program shows signs of wear that are consistent with being in a hip pocket. This program was found in my father's baseball book collection after his death in 1992. This might have been his program booklet that he received at the memorial game that he attended.

## Truxton and Cazenovia Cemetery Data for 1881 - 1885

The burials in the Truxton Village Cemetery are well documented and were used to determine if an epidemic had taken place in the Truxton area during the 1881 to 1885 time period. The number of deaths recorded for each month in this time period were totaled and displayed in the bar chart below. This was not the Truxton Catholic Cemetery where Ellen McGraw and her three children were buried and so their deaths would not be reflected in the chart. There doesn't seem to be any patterns in the data that would indicate the occurrence of any epidemics. Back in 1883 the reaction of the village was to the possibility of an epidemic. "Black diphtheria, they called it. The Union Free School was closed. Doors were locked, and all churches suspended services."<sup>102</sup> Based on the evidence it appears that no epidemic ensued – perhaps because of their precautions. The chart for the Cazenovia Cemetery also shows an absence of any epidemics in the same time period.

Truxton Village Cemetery  
Deaths per Month

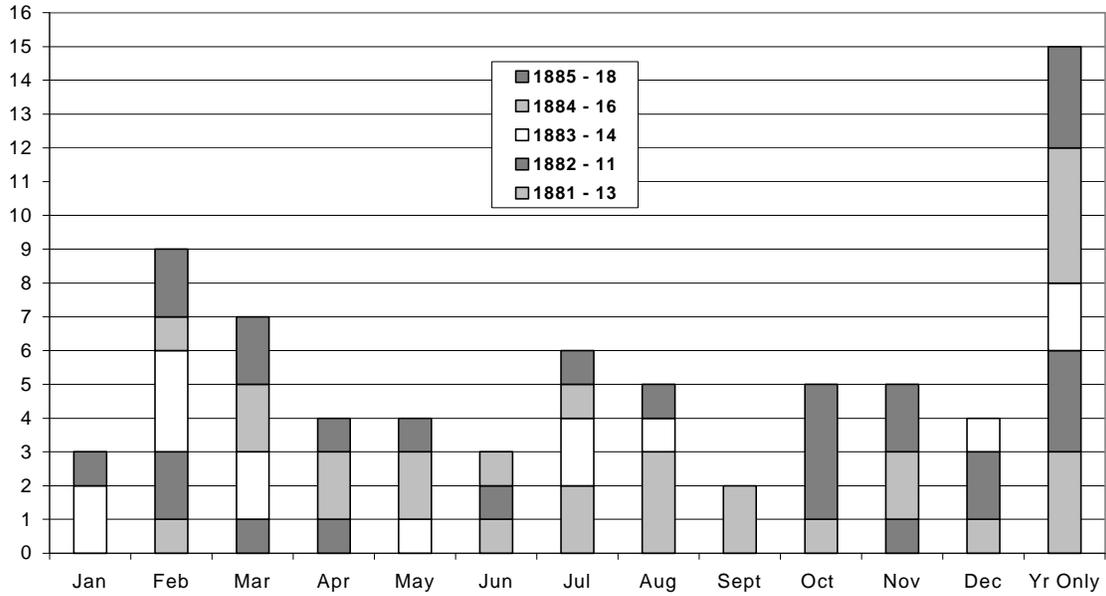


The Village Cemetery of Truxton records are from the Cortland Historical Society files. They were transcribed by James Knapp from scanned images of LDS tape number 1304773, supplied by Pat Stefnik and Vicki Hall Titus.

<http://www.rootswev.com/~nycortla/tvcem/tvcemmi.html>

The Catholic Cemetery, Town of Cazenovia, Madison County, NY (aka St. Agnes, St. James) records were compiled by Daniel Weiskotten and posted on his web site on 10/4/2000. They were compiled from the lists made by Jean and Marie Parisou and Mary Ryan Kennedy, about 1977 and the Staff at Lorenzo State Historic Site, about 1991.

**St. James Catholic Cemetery  
Deaths per Month**



## John J. McGraw's World Series Record

YEAR	WINNER	LOSER
<b>John J. McGraw joined the New York Giants – July 1, 1902</b>		
1903	Boston – Amer.	Pittsburgh – Nat.
<b>1904</b>	No series - <b>New York Giants – Nat.</b> and Boston – Amer.	
<b>1905</b>	<b>New York Giants – Nat.</b>	Philadelphia Athletics – Amer.
1906	Chicago – Amer.	Chicago – Nat.
1907	Chicago – Nat.	Detroit – Amer.
1908	Chicago – Nat.	Detroit – Amer.
1909	Pittsburgh – Nat.	Detroit – Amer.
1910	Philadelphia Athletics – Amer.	Chicago – Nat.
<b>1911</b>	Philadelphia Athletics – Amer.	<b>New York Giants – Nat.</b>
<b>1912</b>	Boston Red Sox – Amer.	<b>New York Giants – Nat.</b>
<b>1913</b>	Philadelphia Athletics – Amer.	<b>New York Giants – Nat.</b>
1914	Boston – Nat.	Philadelphia Athletics – Amer.
1915	Boston – Amer.	Philadelphia – Nat.
1916	Boston – Amer.	Brooklyn – Nat.
<b>1917</b>	Chicago – Amer.	<b>New York Giants – Nat.</b>
1918	Boston – Amer.	Chicago – Nat.
1919	Cincinnati – Nat.	Chicago – Amer. (Black Sox)
1920	Cleveland – Amer.	Brooklyn – Nat.
<b>1921</b>	<b>New York Giants – Nat.</b>	New York Yankees – Amer.
<b>1922</b>	<b>New York Giants – Nat.</b>	New York Yankees – Amer.
<b>1923</b>	New York Yankees – Amer.	<b>New York Giants – Nat.</b>
<b>1924</b>	Washington – Amer.	<b>New York Giants – Nat.</b>
1925	Pittsburgh – Nat.	Washington – Amer.
1926	St. Louis – Nat.	New York Yankees – Amer.
1927	New York Yankees – Amer.	Pittsburgh – Nat.
1928	New York Yankees – Amer.	St. Louis – Nat.
1929	Philadelphia Athletics – Amer.	Chicago – Nat.
1930	Philadelphia Athletics – Amer.	St. Louis – Nat.
1931	St. Louis – Nat.	Philadelphia Athletics – Amer.
1932	New York Yankees – Amer.	Chicago – Nat.
<b>John McGraw retired – June 1, 1932</b>		
1933	<b>New York Giants – Nat.</b>	Washington – Amer.

## Picture Citations

Page	Description	Source
1	View of the valley from the hill behind Labrador Ski Lodge	Labrador Mountain Ski Lodge web page. Wilson Family.
7	Mike McGraw at age 1-1/2 opening a garage door	Parent's photograph
16	Copy of a portion of the Tithe Applotment records – Upperchurch, Co. Tipperary	Scanned from a xerox of a microfilm copy of the Tithe Applotment records from LDS Family History Center.
39	Upperchurch-Drombane RC parish map	Ordnance Survey Map – from Tipperary Family Heritage Foundation. Permission of the Government – Permit No. 5904.
40	Upperchurch – Dundrum map	Old series of Ordnance Survey map. #18
49	Templemore area map	Ordnance Survey map – Discovery Series. #59
56	The McGraw family in front of the ancestral cottage in Glown, Upperchurch, Co. Tipperary.	Personal photo
57	Con Ryan and Mary Ryan in their kitchen, Glown, Upperchurch, Co. Tipperary.	Personal photo
66	Map of Bardeen school and Highland Park, Fabius, NY	U.S. Geodetic Survey Map. DeRuyter Quadrangle, NY, 7.5 Minute Series (Topographic)
67	1874 map of Fabius, NY	Old map. 1874 Atlas of Onondaga County, by Homer D. L. Sweet.
68	1876 map of Morgan Hill, Town of Cuyler, NY	Cortland County Atlas of 1876, by Everts, Ensign & Everts.
71	1876 map of Cuyler and Tripoli, Town of Cuyler, Cortland Co., NY	Cortland County Atlas of 1876, by Everts, Ensign & Everts.
72	Photo of the second Cortland County Courthouse.	Kane, Mary Ann, Images of America – Cortland County, Arcadia Publishing, Charleston, SC, 1999. p. 48
76	1876 map of Kettlebail Road farm and the Shackham Road farm.	Cortland County Atlas of 1876, by Everts, Ensign & Everts.
77	U.S. Geodetic map of northeastern Town of Truxton – Shackham Road.	U.S. Geodetic Survey Map. Tully Quadrangle, NY, 7.5 Minute Series (Topographic)
85	1874 Village of Truxton map	Cortland County Atlas of 1876, by Everts, Ensign & Everts.
86	Photo of John J. McGraw and the Truxton Band	Kane, Mary Ann, Images of America – Cortland County, Arcadia Publishing, Charleston, SC, 1999.p. 113.
93	Photo of Cortland County Poor House	Kane, Mary Ann, Images of America – Cortland County, Arcadia Publishing, Charleston, SC, 1999, p. 13
96	Photo of Cortland Normal School	Kane, Mary Ann, Images of America – Cortland County, Arcadia Publishing, Charleston, SC, 1999, p. 71
105	Christy Mathewson, John J. McGraw and Joe McGinnity in 1903	Brown Brothers
106	John J. McGraw in 1913	National Baseball Library
109	Ed McGraw, Fran McGraw and Mike, Nancy, Mark & Shirley.	Family photo

112	U.S. Geodetic map of northwestern portion of the Town of Truxton.	U.S. Geodetic Survey Map. Tully Quadrangle, NY, 7.5 Minute Series (Topographic)
112	1876 map of the northwestern portion of the Town of Truxton.	Cortland County Atlas of 1876, by Everts, Ensign & Everts.
113	Photo of the location of the old McGraw homestead on the North Road, Truxton, NY	Personal photo
114	Photo of the foundation of the old McGraw homestead on the North Road, Truxton, NY	Personal photo
114	Photo of abandoned trail climbing the eastern side of Morgan Hill	Personal photo
115	Photo showing the top of Blanchard (Eaton) Hill, Town of Cuyler, Cortland Co.	Personal photo
116	Photo of Shackham Creek, Town of Truxton, Cortland, Co.	Personal photo
117	Photo of area on Shackham Road, Town of Truxton, Cortland, Co. where the McGraw family owned a farm in the 1880's	Personal photo
145	Photos of Thomas John Donnelly and Norah Heffernan Donnelly circa 1890.	Sharlotte Kathleen Bridgette Neely Donnelly, Cincinnati, OH. <a href="mailto:donnelly@one.net">donnelly@one.net</a>
146	Photo of six children of Ellen Duggen and Thomas Heffernan	Sharlotte Kathleen Bridgette Neely Donnelly, Cincinnati, OH. <a href="mailto:donnelly@one.net">donnelly@one.net</a>
155	1876 map of the northwest corner of the Town of Cuyler, Cortland Co., NY	Cortland County Atlas of 1876, by Everts, Ensign & Everts.
156	1876 map of the northern portion of the Town of Truxton, Cortland Co., NY	Cortland County Atlas of 1876, by Everts, Ensign & Everts.
161	Photo of Dennis and Ellen O'Brien Carr family	Kathleen Siciliano and Jack Carr.
163	1876 map of the southern portion of the Town of Truxton, Cortland Co., NY	Cortland County Atlas of 1876, by Everts, Ensign & Everts.
171	1876 map of the northern portion of the Town of Truxton, Cortland Co., NY	Cortland County Atlas of 1876, by Everts, Ensign & Everts.
172	1876 map of Morgan Hill, Town of Cuyler, NY	Cortland County Atlas of 1876, by Everts, Ensign & Everts.
185	Photo of the teacher and her class from the Dog Hollow schoolhouse circa 1907.	Virginia Whitmarsh, <i>A Postcard History of Cuyler, 1975</i>
205	Recent map of the Town of Fabius, Onondaga Co., NY	Commercial Road Map
207	A photo of students and their teacher at Cuyler Hill School in 1907 or 1908.	Virginia Whitmarsh, <i>A Postcard History of Cuyler, 1975</i>
228	Map of Fermoy and Kilworth area, Co. Cork, Ireland	Ordnance Survey map – Discovery Series.#74 & #81
233	A map of the Lewis Co. area NY	Commercial Road Map
238	Photo of the home of Dr. Judson Nelson, Truxton, NY	Kane, Mary Ann, <i>Images of America – Cortland County</i> , Arcadia Publishing, Charleston, SC, 1999. P. 70.
240	Photo of John O'Connor and John Comerford standing next to John J. McGraw's monument in Truxton, NY.	The Independent Villager, Marathon, NY, July 1976, #34.
244	Scanned image of a xerox copy of a note	Personal papers of Edward C. McGraw

	signed by Daniel C. Hartnett.	
249	Photo of Jerome Woodruff and the Keeney Settlement School	Kane, Mary Ann, Images of America – Cortland County, Arcadia Publishing, Charleston, SC, 1999, p. 65.
250	Modern photo of the old Keeney Settlement School	From Ann Ludke via one of Virginia Whitmarsh's books.
251	1874 map of Fabius, NY	Old map. 1874 Atlas of Onondaga County, by Homer D. L. Sweet.
252	Photo of Kenney's General Store, Truxton, NY	Kane, Mary Ann, Images of America – Cortland County, Arcadia Publishing, Charleston, SC, 1999. P. 106.
257	Photo of Jennie McGraw (from the Web page)	Williams, Ronald John, <i>Jennie McGraw Fiske Her Influence Upon Cornell University</i> , Cornell University Press, Ithaca, NY, 1949.
275	Scanned image of a Xerox of the front page of the program from the Memorial Baseball game.	Francis McGraw's personal papers.

## FOOTNOTES

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- <sup>1</sup> Lucy Waters Sprague letter to Shirley McGraw Maloney dated December 21, 1980.
- <sup>2</sup> Frost, James M.R.I.A., *The History and Topography of the County of Clare*, Soaly, Bryers & Walker, Middle Abbey Street, Dublin 1893, pp. 225.
- <sup>3</sup> The *Ardri*, indeed every king in ancient and mediaeval Ireland, was chosen by election from within the royal house, from the *deirbhfhine* group within which any man whose father, grandfather or great grandfather had been king was theoretically of the *rioghdhamhna*, or king material, and thus eligible for election. Future eligibility extended from the king to the whole *deirbhfhine* descended from him. In the lifetime of the king, one man of the *deirbhfhine* was nominated *tánaiste*, or heir presumptive, to succeed on the king's death; the *tánaiste* was second in authority. - Brian Boru, King of Ireland, Roger Chatterton Newman, Anvil Books, Dublin, 1996, p. 23.
- <sup>4</sup> Chatterton Newman, Roger, *Brian Boru, King of Ireland*, Anvil Books, Dublin, 1996, p. 50.
- <sup>5</sup> Duffy, Sean, *Ireland in the Middle Ages*, MacMillan Press, Ltd., London, 1997, p. 34.
- <sup>6</sup> Frost, James M.R.I.A., *The History and Topography of the County of Clare*, Soaly, Bryers & Walker, Middle Abbey Street, Dublin 1893, pp. 160-1.
- <sup>7</sup> Frost, James M.R.I.A., *The History and Topography of the County of Clare*, Soaly, Bryers & Walker, Middle Abbey Street, Dublin 1893.
- <sup>8</sup> White, Rev. P., *History of Clare and the Dalcassian Clans of Tipperary, Limerick, and Galway*, M.H. Gill & Son, 50 Upper O'Connell Street, Dublin, 1893, republished by O'Brien Book Publications, Newmarket-on-Fergus, Co. Clare, 1997, p. 116-7.
- <sup>9</sup> White, Rev. P., *History of Clare and the Dalcassian Clans of Tipperary, Limerick, and Galway*, M.H. Gill & Son, 50 Upper O'Connell Street, Dublin, 1893, republished by O'Brien Book Publications, Newmarket-on-Fergus, Co. Clare, 1997, p. 127.
- <sup>10</sup> Include reference from the Irish Texts books that describe the source of the information of this bardic school.
- <sup>11</sup> Maguire, Thomas (of Chuocninne, Clanabogan, Omagh, Co. Tyrone), *Fermanagh, its Native Chiefs and Clans*, Omagh, 1945.
- <sup>12</sup> Butler, W.F., "The Lordship of Mac Carthy Mor", *The Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland*, Vol. 36, 1906, p. 366.
- <sup>13</sup> Leyburn, James G., *The Scotch-Irish A social History*, The University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, 1962, p. 327. Bannan, Theresa M.D., *Pioneer Irish of Onondaga (About 1776-1847)*, G.P. Putnam's Sons, The Knickerbocker Press, New York and London, 1911, p. 285.
- <sup>14</sup> Index to the Townlands and Towns, Parishes and Baronies of Ireland, Printed by Alexander Thom, 87 & 88 Abbey Street, Dublin, 1861, Reprinted by Genealogical Publishing Co., Baltimore, 1997.
- <sup>15</sup> Pat Bird was the source for this information. She got the information from the Ryan monument in the Immaculate Conception Cemetery, Pompey, NY and was uncertain if both Phillip and Margaret were born in Gleninchneaveigh or just one of them.

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- <sup>16</sup> Marnane, Denis G., "The Famine in South Tipperary – Part Three", *Tipperary Historical Journal* – 1998, p. 63
- <sup>17</sup> Bannan, Theresa M.D., *Pioneer Irish of Onondaga*, G.P. Putnam's Sons, New York & London, The Knickerbocker Press, 1911
- <sup>18</sup> Admission papers of Edmund McGraw, Record Number 647, Cortland County Poor House, August 16, 1892. Cortland County Historical Society.
- <sup>19</sup> Glazier, Ira and Tepper, Michael: *Famine Immigrants*, Genealogical Publications Co., Inc, Baltimore, 1985
- <sup>20</sup> Laxton, Edward: *The Famine Ships, The Irish Exodus to America*, Henry Holt and Company, New York, NY, First American Edition 1997. pp 189.
- <sup>21</sup> Adams, William Forbes, *Ireland and Irish Emigration to the New World from 1815 to the Famine*, Yale University Press, New Haven, CT, 1932, p. 88-9.
- <sup>22</sup> Laxton, Edward: *The Famine Ships, The Irish Exodus to America*, Henry Holt and Company, New York, NY, First American Edition 1997. pp 224-5.
- <sup>23</sup> Laxton, Edward: *The Famine Ships, The Irish Exodus to America*, Henry Holt and Company, New York, NY, First American Edition 1997. pp 225.
- <sup>24</sup> Laxton, Edward: *The Famine Ships, The Irish Exodus to America*, Henry Holt and Company, New York, NY, First American Edition 1997. pp 231.
- <sup>25</sup> National Archives and Records Administration, Film M575, Reel 5.  
Transcribed by Mary Koelzer for The Immigrant Ships Transcribers Guild. 8 June 1999
- <sup>26</sup> Bayor, Ronald H. and Meagher, Timothy J. (Editors), *The New York Irish*, The Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, MD, 1996, p. 158
- <sup>27</sup> Baedeker, Karl, *Baedeker's New York*, Hippocrene Books Inc., New York, 1985, p. 26.
- <sup>28</sup> Adams, William Forbes, *Ireland and Irish Emigration to the New World from 1815 to the Famine*, Yale University Press, New Haven, CT, 1932, p. 377
- <sup>29</sup> . Adams, William Forbes, *Ireland and Irish Emigration to the New World from 1815 to the Famine*, Yale University Press, New Haven, CT, 1932, p. 347
- <sup>30</sup> Baedeker, Karl, *Baedeker's New York*, Hippocrene Books Inc., New York, 1985, p. 31.
- <sup>31</sup> Rudolph, B.G., *From a Minyan to a Community - A History of The Jews of Syracuse*, Syracuse University Press, Syracuse, N.Y., 1970, p. 16
- <sup>32</sup> Bruce, Dwight H., *Onondaga's Centennial*, "History of the Town of Fabius", Boston History Company, 1896, Vol. I, pp. 866-889
- <sup>33</sup> Bruce, Dwight H., *Onondaga's Centennial*, "History of the Town of Fabius", Boston History Company, 1896, Vol. I, pp. 866-889.
- <sup>34</sup> Dunham, Luella S., "Talks About Pompey Hill", Weekly Recorder, August 28, 1879.

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- <sup>35</sup> Webster, O.W., *Keeney Settlement*, 1923.
- <sup>36</sup> Webster, O.W., *Keeney Settlement*, 1917.
- <sup>37</sup> Whitmarsh, Virginia, *Stories of Cuyler Vol. II*, 1997. p. 6
- <sup>38</sup> Whitmarsh, Virginia, *Stories of Cuyler Vol. II*, 1997. p. 6
- <sup>39</sup> Mortgage Book 4, Page 571, Jan. 6, 1868, Cortland County Courthouse, Cortland, New York.
- <sup>40</sup> Need info on Foreclosure Document
- <sup>41</sup> Foner, Eric, *Reconstruction: America's Unfinished Revolution*, Harper & Row, Publishers, New York, 1988, p. 512-13.
- <sup>42</sup> Foner, Eric, *Reconstruction: America's Unfinished Revolution*, Harper & Row, Publishers, New York, 1988, p. 512-13.
- <sup>43</sup> Foner, Eric, *Reconstruction: America's Unfinished Revolution*, Harper & Row, Publishers, New York, 1988, p. 515-16.
- <sup>44</sup> Whitmarsh, Virginia, *Stories of Cuyler, Vol. 1*, 1982, p. 39.
- <sup>45</sup> During a visit with the Casey family in June 2001 John Casey (Sr.) told me he had recently had the "old school house" roofing replaced. The roof had been reshingled several times before but always over the older shingles. This time John had the all the old shingles removed down to the wood. The roofer told him the oldest shingles hadn't been wheathered in the manner he had expected to see. Not expecting the answer he was about to receive he asked John if the house had ever faced the other way. John informed him that it just so happened that now the front of the house faced west but back in 1947, when it was the old Truxton School House #2 located on the North Road out of Truxton, that the front faced east.
- <sup>46</sup> The actual number of children that died in John w. McGraw and Ellen Comerford McGraw's family was three based on the number of graves in the Truxton Catholic Cemetery. The name on the monument is McGrath, the original family name when they came from Ireland, rather than McGraw that the family had been using.
- <sup>47</sup> McGraw, Blanche, *The Real McGraw*, Edited by Arthur Mann, David McKay Company, Inc., New York, 1953, p. 28
- <sup>48</sup> McGraw, John J., *My Thirty Years in Baseball*, University of Nebraska Press (1995) – Originally 1923, p. vi
- <sup>49</sup> Alexander, Charles C., *John McGraw*, Viking Penguin, New York, 1988, p. 20.
- <sup>50</sup> In an affidavit, taken on September 17, 1889, for John McGraw's application for a military pension, based on an injury to the third finger of his left hand, two friends gave statements in support of John not having the injury prior to his entering the service. From these statements we can draw several conclusions about John employment prior to entering the army, neighbors in Cuyler and also determine the approximate time frame for John's arrival back in Cuyler after his discharge. Patrick Gleason testified that John McGraw had worked for him on his farm prior to John's enlistment on June 29, 1862 at Fabius, Onondaga County, NY. Patrick's farm was on Lot 56 in the township of Cuyler a couple miles west on the road out of Kenney Settlement. Patrick Comerford stated that he had been a neighbor of John McGraw prior to John's enlistment. The

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Comerford's farm was on Lot 65 in Cuyler down the road northwest of the McGraw farm on Lot 76 also in Cuyler. Both men swore that they saw John McGraw immediately upon his return from the war. The point of their sworn statements was to establish that John had this injury to his finger upon leaving the military and not as the result of some incident that occurred after he was discharged from the Army. Therefore the two Patricks would have to have seen John McGraw very shortly after he was discharged for these statements to have any value. This would imply that John returned to Cuyler immediately after his discharge at Willet's Point, Long Island, NY on August 23, 1865 probably arriving in Cuyler in late August or early September 1865.

<sup>51</sup> Blake, Kellee, "First in the Path of the Firemen -The Fate of the 1890 Population Census", Quarterly of the National Archives and Records Administration, Spring 1996, vol. 28, no. 1 (<http://www.nara.gov/publications/prologue/1890cen1.html>).

<sup>52</sup> Mary Goddard's husband died in approximately 1881-2. There was no Goddard in the Truxton Village Cemetery that matches his description. There was no Mary Goddard either. It is possible that she and her deceased husband weren't originally from Truxton.

<sup>53</sup> Alexander, Charles C., *John McGraw*, Viking Penguin, New York, 1988, p12-13.

<sup>54</sup> McGraw, Mrs. John J., *The Real McGraw*, Edited by Arthur Mann, David McKay Co., Inc., New York, 1953, P. 34-5.

<sup>55</sup> McGraw, Mrs. John J., *The Real McGraw*, Edited by Arthur Mann, David McKay Co., Inc., New York, 1953, P. 36

<sup>56</sup> McGraw, John, *John J. McGraw – My Thirty Years in Baseball*, University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln, Nebraska, 1995, p. 33-4. Originally published in 1923.

<sup>57</sup> However, the Cortland Co. web site on the U.S. GenWeb Project sponsored by Rootsweb identifies this as the Apulia Cemetery. "No. 7 in 1876 Atlas Map, Lot 73. Three miles from Truxton on N. Road to Apulia." On my version of the 1876 Atlas map there is a cross to the east of the North Road located across the road from the Twentyman farm about three miles out of the village of Truxton but there is no name on the map identifying the cemetery.

<sup>58</sup> Checking the 1880 Census shows that James M.Miles was 47 at the time of the census. James was born in New York as were both his parents. If he, or his wife, is related to the Rooney's it will not be an easy relationship to determine.

<sup>59</sup> Intemperate – given to excessive use of intoxicating liquors. The New York State Senate appointed a Select Committee to "...visit Charitable Institutions supported by the State and all city and county poor and workhouses and jails." The 1857 investigation by this committee of the Cortland County poorhouse determined that "Two thirds of the whole number supported at this house are brought there consequent upon habits of inebriation." From the Poorhouse Story website.

<sup>60</sup> Currie, Doug, *A Genealogy of the McGraw's of Truxton*, 10 Jan 94.

<sup>61</sup> This story was related to me in a letter from Lucie Sprague who received it in a letter from Mary McGraw Carr in 1998. Mary was the oldest child of James McGraw (Alice and Michael's 2<sup>nd</sup> child). James was the original source of this story. Mary Agnes McGraw married Harvey Carr.

<sup>62</sup> Kane, Mary Ann, *Images of America – Cortland County*, Arcadia Publishing, Charleston, SC, 1999, p. 71.

<sup>63</sup> 1910 Census, Cortland Co., Truxton T624\934\Part2\312A 266/280 John O'Connor.

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1910 Census, Cortland Co., Truxton T624\934\Part2\309A 172/180 Michael McGraw

<sup>64</sup> 1920 Census, Cortland Co., Truxton T625\1096\Part1\296B 18/18 Patrick Comerford.  
1920 Census, Cortland Co., Truxton T625\1096\Part1\296B 63/64 William Ryan.

<sup>65</sup> Kellum, Stan, Duck Pins, (wysiwyg://359/http://www.qis.net/~duckpin)

<sup>66</sup> Okrent, Daniel and Lewine, Harris (editors), *The Ultimate Baseball Book*, Houghton Mifflin Co., The Hilltown Press, Boston, 2000.

<sup>67</sup> The Legend of the Game (http://www2.cybernex.net/~jfox/legends/mcgraw1.html)

<sup>68</sup> Alexander, Charles C., *John McGraw*, Viking Penguin, New York, 1988, p. 233.

<sup>69</sup> Alexander, Charles C., *John McGraw*, Viking Penguin, New York, 1988, p. 255.

<sup>70</sup> From Doug Currie (Sept. 17, 1999): "...the house at Main and Prospect was torn down in Sept. 1987 and the Andy Tei memorial was put up in June 1990."

<sup>71</sup> Kennedy, William, *O Albany!, Improbable City of Political Wizards, Fearless Ethnics, Spectacular Aristocrats, Splendid Nobodies, and Underrated Scoundrels*, The Viking Press, New York, 1983.

The north end (it was called the Colonie) was the lumber district, between the canal and the Hudson River – "All of Limerick was there." "By the 1850s lumber was almost as important to the North Enders as Jesus and a good glass of ale."

- Lumber supplies from the Adirondacks had already been dwindling in the 1890s, and by 1915 were all but exhausted.
- And then the foundries left, the result of new Western ore sources and their owners' desire to situate their plants near coal mines.
- The Eastern Tablet Co. and the Albany Paper Works, spin offs from the lumber opened up. The Albany Felt Mill was new and skilled worked found work at Simmons Machine Tool.
- The oldest Catholic church downtown is St. Mary's at Pine & Chapel – first built in 1797.

3000 Irishmen were building the Erie Canal in 1818. In 1850 there were 961,719 Irish in the U.S. In Albany by 1875 there were 14,184 Irish born citizens of out of a total population of 86,541.

"The Irish first settled along the pools when the city tumbled the old Irish shantytown of Martinville and they brought their geese and ganders with them, giving the place the name: Gander Bay." p. 47

"The Irish inhabited one periphery of the Beaverkill (kill is Dutch for creek) in the shantytown Martinville, said to have been named for James Martin, its builder, who earlier might have run a grocery store on the spot. A photo of Martinville taken in 1892 reveals it as a trapezoidal jungle of about four dozen two- and three-story multifamily dwellings, back a bit from the slip-clay slopes of the Beaverkill ravine, which looks polluted even in black and white." p. 75

<sup>72</sup> In 1961 after Father John McGraw was ordained at the Vatican in Rome, Italy they stopped in Ireland on the way home to America.

<sup>73</sup> Buried in Pompey Catholic Cemetery. Spelled Sheahan on headstone.

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<sup>74</sup> Buried in Pompey Catholic Cemetery.

<sup>75</sup> All Sheahan children born in America.

<sup>76</sup> Buried in Pompey Catholic Cemetery.

<sup>77</sup> Buried in Pompey Catholic Cemetery.

<sup>78</sup> Buried in Pompey Catholic Cemetery.

<sup>79</sup> Buried in Pompey Catholic Cemetery.

<sup>80</sup> Witnesses: Dennis Carr and Bridget Burke.

<sup>81</sup> The 1863 date of birth was found on William's (of Truxton) gravestone in the Truxton Catholic Cemetery, Truxton, NY and in the 1900 Federal Census for Cortland County, NY it was given as Dec. 1863. The Mar. 1863 date of birth for William of Cuyler was found in the St. James Catholic Church records that had been transcribed by Dick Barr of Syracuse, NY and which he generously shared with me.

<sup>82</sup> Land Records, Book 59, Page 323, Cortland County, Courthouse, Cortland, NY.

<sup>83</sup> Land Records, Book 61, Page 482, Cortland County, Courthouse, Cortland, NY.

<sup>84</sup> Notes from Shirley McGraw Maloney – 12/24/1980.

<sup>85</sup> Child, Hamilton, *Gazeteer and Business Directory of Cortland County, N.Y.*, Syracuse, 1869, 131.

<sup>86</sup> Whitmarsh, Virginia, *Cuyler Schools – Beginning to End*, Self published, 1979, p. 20.

<sup>87</sup> Whitmarsh, Virginia, *Stories of Cuyler Vol. I*, self published, 1982.

<sup>88</sup> This information was furnished by Daniel H. Weiskotten. The first names of the McGraths buried in the Catholic Cemetery in Cazenovia (aka St. Agnes, St. James) are: Ann, Bridget E., Catherine, Christopher, Elizabeth Butterly, Ellen Bryan, Ellen A., Fanny, Henry, James, John (1), John (2), John H., Mary, Mary J., Michael, Michael Jr., Peter, Thomas, William, William Joseph.

<sup>89</sup> Town of Cazenovia

McGraw, James, (McGraw, James), District #3, Dwelling #178.1, Family #197, Page 125, Line 32, Plank Dwelling Valued at \$200, Age 30, Resident 6 Years, 4 in Household, Occupied as Weaver.

McGraw, Michael, (McGraw, Michael), District #2, Dwelling #255, Family #278, Page 71, Line 24, Frame Dwelling Valued at \$300, Age 23, Resident 3 Years, 3 in Household, Occupied as Laborer.

Ryan, Barney, (Ryan, Barney), District #3, Dwelling #13, Family #13, Page 105, Line 42, Frame Dwelling Valued at \$100, Age 56, Resident 5 Years, 8 in Household, Occupied as Farmer.

Ryan, John, (Ryan, John), District #2, Dwelling #240, Family #262, Page 69, Line 43, Frame Dwelling Valued at \$600, Age 30, Resident 3 Years, 3 in Household, Occupied as Laborer.

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Ryan, John C., (Ryan, John C.), District #2, Dwelling #225, Family #245, Page 68, Line 10, Frame Dwelling Valued at \$1600, Age 34, Resident 14 Years, 5 in Household, Occupied as Tailor.

Note: This is probably the same John C. Ryan who died on May 9, 1873 and was buried in the Catholic Cazenovia Cemetery.

Town of Fenner

Ryan, Patrick, (Ryan, Patrick), Dwelling #50, Family #51, Page 6, Line 8, Frame Dwelling Valued at \$15, Age 38, Resident 4 Years, 6 in Household, Occupied as Laborer.

<sup>90</sup> Bannan, Theresa M.D., *Pioneer Irish of Onondaga*, G.P. Putnam's Sons, New York & London, The Knickerbocker Press, 1911, p. 135-6.

<sup>91</sup> McGraw, Mrs. John J., *The Real McGraw*, Edited by Arthur Mann, David McKay Company, Inc., New York, 1953, p. 28.

<sup>92</sup> Levitzky, Michael G., "Diphtheria," Discovery Channel School, original content provided by World Book Online, <http://www.discoveryschool.com/homeworkhelp/worldbook/atozscience/d/159760.html>, 12/17/2001.

<sup>93</sup> The Army Medical Department 1818-1865: The State of the Art, p. 25-6.; [http://www.armymedicine.army.mil/history/booksdocs/civil/gillett2/amedd\\_1818-1865\\_chpt1.html](http://www.armymedicine.army.mil/history/booksdocs/civil/gillett2/amedd_1818-1865_chpt1.html)

<sup>94</sup> McGraw, Mrs. John J., *The Real McGraw*, Edited by Arthur Mann, David McKay Co., Inc., New York, 1953, p.27.

<sup>95</sup> Patrick Comerford was John McGraw's neighbor on Morgan Hill in Cuyler and on the North Road out of Truxton. He was a deponent in the process of John McGraw and later his widow Mary Rooney McGraw attempting to receive an Invalid Pension from the Government. On September 17, 1889

"The said Patrick Gleason says that he knew claimant well before the war that claimant worked for affiant before he enlisted and that he saw claimant immediately on his coming home from the war that when claimant came home he had an injury of the third finger on left hand that claimant told affiant he received while in the service and affiant further says that applicant did not have said injury when he enlisted and the said Patrick Comerford says that he knew the applicant well before he enlisted that he lived neighbor to applicant that at the time applicant enlisted he had no injury of either hand that he saw applicant immediately on his coming out of the war that when applicant came home he had an injury of the third finger of left hand that applicant told affiant that he received said injury while in the late war."

Again on September 16, 1927

"Patrick Comerford, being duly sworn deposes and says that he is seventy-eight years old and that his post office address is 26-1/2 Grant Street Cortland, New York, that he was present at the time that Ellen Comerford McGraw died and that it was August 28, 1883, and that she died at Truxton, N.Y.

"Deponent further says that he has been acquainted with said claimant, Mary Rooney McGraw, since along before her marriage to the deceased soldier and knows of his own knowledge that she was not married prior to her marriage to the late John McGraw."

<sup>96</sup> Whitmarsh, Virginia, *Cuyler Schools – Beginning to End*, Self published, 1979, p. 44.

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<sup>97</sup> Whitmarsh, Virginia, *Cuyler Schools – Beginning to End*, Self published, 1979, Appendix 1.

<sup>98</sup> McGraw Family Record, 1897, '98, '99, Origin & Pedigree of the McGraw Family, Record made by A.P. McGraw, McGraw, NY – Cortland County Historical association

<sup>99</sup> Williams, Ronald John, *Jennie McGraw Fiske Her Influence Upon Cornell University*, Cornell University Press, Ithaca, NY 1949, p. 3.

<sup>100</sup> Williams, Ronald John, *Jennie McGraw Fiske Her Influence Upon Cornell University*, Cornell University Press, Ithaca, NY 1949, p. 5.

<sup>101</sup> McKeown, Ed, *The Cornell Chimes*, Cornell University, 1991, p XXX. The bells were originally donated by Jennie McGraw in 1867 before there was even a tower in which to hang them. McGraw Hall was a gift to the university from Jennie's father John McGraw. When this hall was completed in 1872 the bells were relocated to that building's tower. The bells were relocated again in 1891 when the library tower was completed. This is now called McGraw Tower. They have remained in the library tower since that time. Cornell students compete for the title of Chimesmaster and the honor of serenading the campus three times per day from McGraw Tower. One of the numbers that all the competing students must play during their audition is the "Jennie McGraw Rag."

<sup>102</sup> McGraw, Mrs. John J., *The Real McGraw*, Edited by Arthur Mann, David McKay Company, Inc., New York, 1953, p. 28.