

Truxton McGraw Family Stories

By

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Introduction

This is an update to a few stories that were published in *The McGrath Family of Truxton, New York*, back in 2002. Since that time more data has become readily available online. The Federal and NYS census results are also available online. Additionally, there are web sites that have searchable, digitized versions of the old microfilmed newspapers.¹ These have allowed the opportunity to fine tune the movements of the various McGraw families, their friends and relatives. In some cases, the additional information has helped verify or simplify assumptions about family events that had been made previously. Additionally, these newspaper articles provide detailed insight into the day to day lives of these people.



This circa 1983 photo shows the former Michael and Alice McGraw residence at the northwest corner of Prospect and Main Streets in the village of Truxton. The family moved here from John O'Donnell's rent house on Prospect Street in 1915.

Detailed lists of the families' residences and their movement between them provides a framework for the residence descriptions that will be developed to provide details about the several McGraw family stories described in this paper.

(1) Michael McGraw and his family's move to the farm on the North Road and their subsequent movement into the village of Truxton is described. At one time or another John and Michael and their families and their parents Edmund and Mary had lived on the same small 1-1/2 acre farm on Shackham Road. By 1880 John and his family was living on the North Road. After

his marriage to Alice Rooney Michael, his growing family and his parents remained at Shackham Road until 1893, at which point they all moved to the former Kent farm on the North Road. Both of Michael's parents died in 1899 and they were buried in St. Patrick's Cemetery in Truxton. In 1911 the Michael's family left the farm on the North Road and moved into John O'Donnell's rent house on Prospect Ave in the village of Truxton.

(2) It was a common belief in our family that John and Ellen Comerford McGraw's three youngest children had been farmed out to relatives after the death of their mother, Ellen Comerford McGraw and three of their siblings in 1883. In this section of the paper an extensive search was conducted to determine where those children had been living between 1883 and 1900.

(3) It was believed that the second marriage of John McGraw had produced no children. John had married Mary Rooney on February 11, 1890 and they were residing on a farm on the West Road that John had purchased prior to this marriage. The older generations in our family told stories of multiple miscarriages and in the end said "that marriage just didn't take." By 1892 the couple had separated and in the census for the year 1900 Mary Rooney McGraw reported that she had given birth to one child and that child was no longer alive. That was the first evidence that the couple's short marriage had produced any offspring. John and Mary Rooney McGraw's child, Alice Mary, died at 8 days of age in 1891. In this section the search for the details of this child's short life and her parents' subsequent separation are described.

(4) The story of the McGrath gravestones on Shackham Road was first told to the author by Mary McGraw Stoddard in 1998. These were said to be the gravestones of Ellen Comerford McGrath and her three children who had died during August - September 1883. Had they been buried up on Shackham Road at one time? Were the gravestones still up there? These mysteries have existed for some time and every few years an attempt has been made to resolve them. A plausible narrative has finally been constructed that unites the different elements of the mystery and appears to resolve most of the issues — with the exception of where are those gravestones today.

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McGraw Residence Table

Year	Edmund & Mary	John & Family Married in 1870	Michael & Family Married in 1882
1850		Fabius (1)	
1855		Cuyler (1a)	
1860		Cuyler (2)	
1865		Cuyler (2a)	
1868 ²		Kettlebail Road (3)	
1870		Kettlebail Road (3)	
1874 ³		Kettlebail Road (3)	
Everyone was living in the same residence up to this point. After the farm was foreclosed in 1874 the families scattered to separate residences.			
1875	On the West Road, just outside the village (4)	Morgan Hill (5) Next to Pat Gleason	O'Brien farm (6b) On North Road
		Bought Shackham Road property 1875 - 1880	
1880	Shackham Road (7)	North Road (8) Next to John Comerford	Sky High Road, Tully (9) On James Miles farm
1883		Moved to the Village of Truxton (10) after his wife's and three children's deaths.	Shackham Road (7)
1889 ⁴		West Road (11)	
1890 ⁵		West Road (11)	
1892	Shackham Road (7)	See John McGraw - Ellen Comerford - Mary Rooney Residences	Shackham Road (7)
1893 ⁶	McGraw farm (12) On North Road		McGraw farm (12) On North Road
1900	Both deceased - 1899		McGraw farm (12) On North Road
1905			McGraw farm (12) On North Road
1910			McGraw farm (12) On North Road
1911 ⁷			Upper Prospect (17)
1915			Prospect & Main (18)
1920			Prospect & Main (18)
1925			Prospect & Main (18) Michael- d. 1923
1930			Prospect & Main (18)
1940			Prospect & Main (18) Alice - d. 1940

The numbers in the first column of the McGraw Residence Table above refer to year of the census information unless otherwise stated. The numbers in parenthesis represent the particular residences that the family members were residing. Descriptions of the [actual residences](#) are in a later table in the Appendix. The [current status](#) of these residences, if they are known, will also be found in the Appendix.

John McGraw – Ellen Comerford – Mary Rooney Residence Table

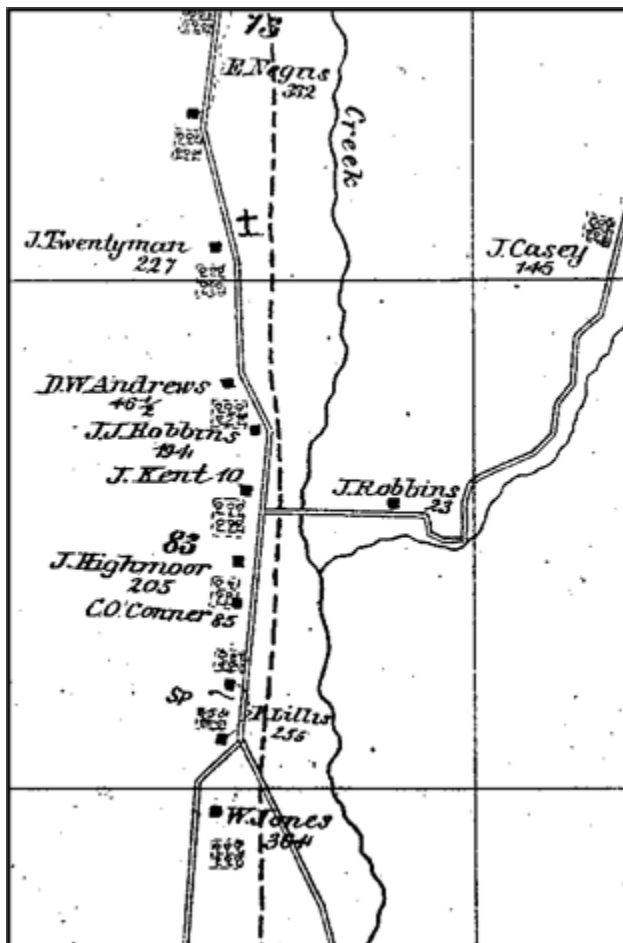
Year	John & Ellen Comerford Married in 1870	
1880	North Road (8) Next to John Comerford	
1883	Moved to the Village of Truxton (10) after the death of his wife and three children.	
1889 ⁸	West Road (11)	
1890 ⁹	West Road (11)	Married Mary Rooney on February 11, 1890
	JOHN McGRAW	MARY ROONEY McGRAW
1892	O'Brien farm (6d) On the State Road (Route 13)	Mary Rooney was living with the Elias Parker family in Truxton – They were living next to Anthony Nix who was on the North Road.
1900	John Miller Jr. farm (13)	Mary McGraw (Servant) living with the Roderick Daley family in the Town of Fabius.
1903		“About 1903, she (Mary Rooney McGraw) was a cook at a hotel in Tully.” – Doug Currie
1905	John was at the O'Connor Hotel (15)	Mary Rooney was living at the hotel run by Ephrem J. Bell in Tully Village. She was working as a “Servant” at the hotel
1907		“...in 1907 she (Mary Rooney McGraw) lived in Apulia Station.” – Doug Currie
1910	O'Connor Hotel (15)	Mary not using her married name. She was living and working as a “Servant” at a hotel on East St. in the village of Tully run by Ephrem Bell. No marital or children status.
1915	O'Connor Hotel (15)	Mary using her married name. She was working and living at the Hotel Kenney on Main St.
1920	John was boarding with William & Anna Ryan (16)	Living with the Patrick Comerford family on the State Road SW of the village of Truxton
1925	William and Anna Ryan (16)	Mary McGraw living with the Earnest Hoffman family on Main Street.
1927	John deceased - Nov 8, 1926	“...in 1927 [Mary] was living in Truxton with her sister Alice.” – Doug Currie.
1930		Mary living with sister Alice at Prospect & Main (18); Michael- d. 1923
1940		Prospect & Main (18) Mary – d. May 22, 1932 Alice - d. Jan. 20, 1940

The Michael McGraw Farm on the North Road

The Move to the North Road

Around November 1892, Michael McGraw sold the small farm (1-1/2 acre) on Shackham Road and then, around March 1893, he purchased the larger Arnold farm (10 acres) on Truxton's North Road. Those real estate transfers were confirmed by newspaper clippings and deeds recorded in the County Clerk's Office in the Cortland County Court House.^{10, 11, 12}

According to the 1900 Census, the Michael McGraw family was living on the North Road.¹³ At the time of the 1910 Census the family was still living on the North Road.



This is a portion of the town of Truxton map from the 1876 Cortland County Atlas. The Jerome Kent farm had been inherited by his daughter Jane Kent Arnold. Michael McGraw and his wife Alice bought this farm from Jane Arnold in early 1893.

At some time just prior to May 23, 1911, Michael McGraw moved into town. He moved into John O'Donnell's rental house on Prospect St. The story in the family was that the move from the farm on the North Road was made necessary by a fire that had destroyed the farm house. However, there was no mention in the article describing the move of a house fire being the cause of this change of residence. It is assumed that Alice and the younger children moved with him. In the article it said Alice went back out to the farm on the following Saturday (May 20, 1911) to milk the cow (big time dairy farmer). While there, she stepped into a posthole and broke her leg, just above the ankle. Overall, this was not a good week for the McGraw family. They

lived on Prospect Street for several years. In 1915 they purchased the house on the northwest corner of Prospect and Main Streets.¹⁴

The absence of any mention in this small news item that a fire had been the cause of the McGraw family's move into town led to an intensive search through a database containing Syracuse, Cortland and DeRuyter newspapers. This produced no evidence of a fire in the Michael McGraw house on the Truxton North Road. The local papers of that day would have reported on any fire, no matter how small. There is some doubt that a fire actually happened or perhaps it happened many years after the family left the farm.

Sometimes the manner in which the story is told can cause the reader to assume an ordering or sequence of events that didn't quite happen that way. For example, from Doug Currie: "At some unknown time, the farm house on the North Road burned to the ground and the family moved to a house in Truxton on the corner of Main and Prospect Streets."¹⁵ This description of the events makes it seem that the fire occurred first and then the family moved into town.

A letter from Mary Stoddard, postmarked Feb. 9, 1998, gives a slightly different interpretation - "I do know that place on North Road & it burned. Also I know the places in town where they lived besides the one that burned." Mary's telling of the story doesn't tie the events so tightly together and indicated that the family didn't go directly to the corner of Prospect and Main.

The following paragraphs are from an earlier paper on the McGraw land records in Cortland County.¹⁶

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 1915.¹⁷ 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, Agnes 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.

Note: Doug Currie was born in 1926 and if his "youngster" years extended to age 10 then his description of "a pile of rocks" would most likely describe something he had seen in the first half of the 1930s. This would seem to indicate that the old farm house had been burned or demolished prior to about 1936.

Agnes was the oldest person to provide information on the movement of the Michael McGraw family and she could have been part of the move since this was prior to her marriage. She agreed with Mary Stoddard, in that the family lived at multiple places after moving into the village. Now there is printed information that dates the Prospect Street move as less than a week prior to May 23, 1911.¹⁸ If it was assumed that the fire took place just prior to May 23, 1911, this would narrow the search for the exact date.

I found it useful to now and then, to go back and read the original letters that Lucy Sprague and Mary Stoddard had sent me over the years. An old sentence that I had earlier just passed over can suddenly jump off the page during a re-reading and take on a new meaning. The following one from a Lucy Sprague letter, dated 9-9-99, is an example of just such a sentence. "I vaguely remember the old house on North Road." Lucy Sprague attended the funeral of her grandfather, Michael McGraw, on Friday, April 13, 1923.¹⁹ Lucy was taken to the funeral by, her mother, Mayme McGraw Waters. Lucy was only two months old at the time. Lucy's phrase, "I vaguely remember..." would imply that the farmhouse had burned down when she was very young but still old enough to have some memory of it. This is already well past the 1911 date that had been described earlier in this paper. Based on Lucy's version it would have to be assumed that, an approximately five year-old, Lucy Waters Sprague formed her "vague" memory of Michael McGraw's farmhouse in about 1928. Lucy was the youngest of these three ladies and Agnes was actually living in the farmhouse at the time the family moved into the village of Truxton. Therefore the evidence is weighted toward Agnes's story.

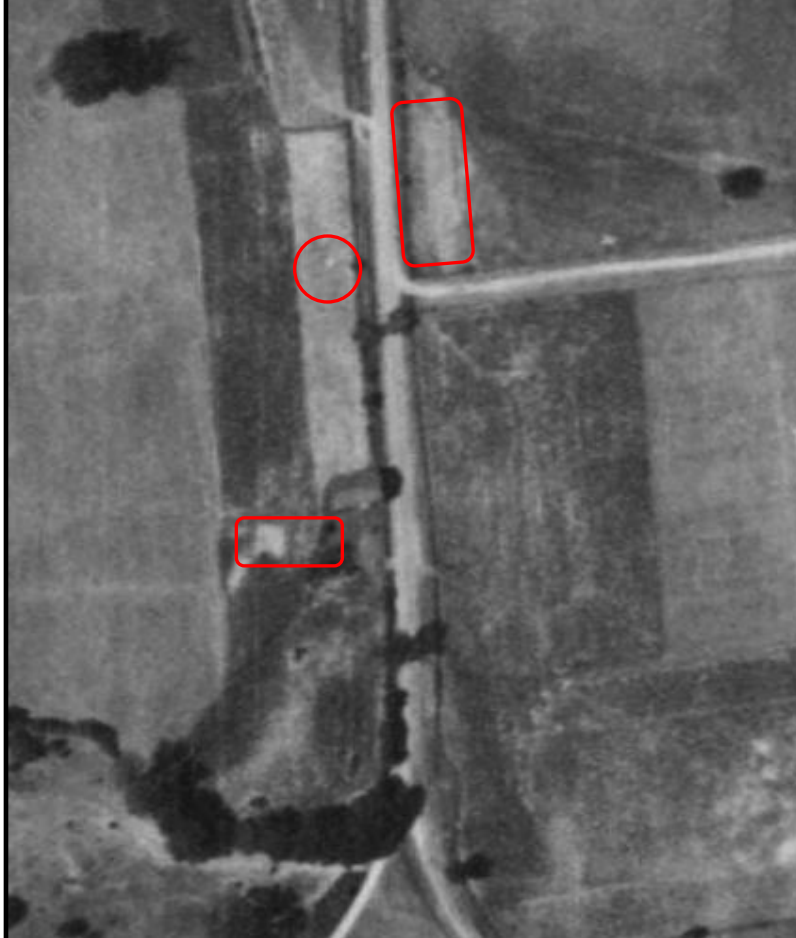
By linking William Cunningham's visit to John Rooney's funeral ²⁰ and knowing when the family moved to Prospect Street the date of the fire can be restricted to a period of a few months. John Rooney's funeral was Saturday, October 8, 1910. After Cunningham came to Truxton he stayed at the house on the North Road for a while and then moved to Montana. This moves the far part of the window to at least November 1910. At the other end of the window is May 23, 1911, which is close to the date of the actual move. However, given a family's need for shelter, the fire would seem to have occurred during the month of May 1911, if it occurred prior to the move into the village.

The DeRuyter Gleaner was an 8-page paper published every Thursday in DeRuyter, NY. Every page of the May 11th, May 18th and May 25th editions were searched one at a time. The May 25th edition, on page one, carried the story of Michael McGraw moving into John O'Donnell's house (rental) and Alice McGraw breaking her leg, but without the detail found in the Cortland Standard. However, there was no mention of a fire in any of the editions.

The Cortland Standard was also an 8-page newspaper published every day of the week except Sunday, in Cortland, NY. Every edition from Monday, May 15th to Tuesday, May 23rd was searched by hand. Only the Michael and Alice story that had previously been found in the edition on the 23rd was found. There were no stories concerning a house fire at the McGraw homestead.

It isn't known if the farmland on the North Road had been rented out to some other farmer after the family moved into town. However, there are aerial photos ²¹ of the North Road and Robbins Road area, from 7-28-1936, that show the farmhouse and barn are both gone and the area is under cultivation. On the east side of the road, at the NE corner of the intersection of North and Robbins Roads, where the barn had been located, there is a different coloration of the field as seen in the aerial photo below.

In 2014 the author traveled to Truxton and had lunch with Barb Ryan, Bob O'Donnell and his wife Lonnell and the Dwyer sisters, Pat and Margaret. Barb had set up this meeting for me so that we could meet with some of Truxton's oldest citizens who were interested in the history of the village and its families. We were supposed to be meeting in the newly refurbished Hiawatha Hotel on Main Street in the village of Truxton but the construction was behind schedule. Instead we met across the street at a small deli occupying the former Kenney grocery store. At that lunch Bob O'Donnell thought he remembered the old McGraw homestead on the North Road being burned down by the Truxton Fire Dept. for practice. Since Bob was born in about 1931 this would have been a memory from the late 1930's at the earliest.



The circle in this 1936 photo shows the former position of McGraw farm house. The large rectangle across the road shows the former position of the McGraw barn. The smaller rectangle to the south of the McGraw property appears to be a barn belonging to the neighboring Highmoor family. Just south of the barn the family homestead can be made out. The small light colored rectangle in the photo, marked by the circle, might be the root cellar of the McGraw homestead. The author was able to find the foundation of the below ground root cellar structure during a visit to the area in 1999 or 2001.

Doug Currie thought that the McGraw's barn was still standing in the 1960s. I can remember seeing a barn in that location during the same time period. The aerial photo shows that there was no barn on that location in 1936. Perhaps another barn was built on that site after 1935. There is no barn located there today (2025) and there wasn't any there in 2001.

The property remained in the family and some time prior to 1966 when "Don McGraw (Art McGraw's son) bought the McGraw property on North Road for taxes."²² He later sold it to the Labrador Development Corporation in 1982 and the land is now part of the Labrador Mountain Ski Lodge.²³

Another possibility is that the McGraw family moved to Prospect Street before the fire. This would be consistent with the lack of any mention of a fire in the newspaper articles that were found. Searches were made over the years 1911 to 1915 for a fire on the North Road, associated with the McGraw family, but nothing was found. Since there wasn't a target date, as in the case of a possible May 1911 fire, this multi-year search was not as intensive. One observation from

the intensive searches of this database is that it's not complete - there are missing pages and whole editions. There is no easy way to determine, ahead of time, which pages or editions are missing. And so for now, the exact date of the fire that destroyed the McGraw homestead on the North Road remains a mystery. However, the prime time for the fire is 1928-1936.

The O'Donnell Rental House



Michael and Alice Rooney McGraw in 1913. They are on the front porch of the O'Donnell rental house on Prospect Street in the village of Truxton.

More McGraw-Rooney Family Details From the Newspapers

The following come from the Cortland Standard and the DeRuyter Gleaner and the other earlier papers in DeRuyter. In the Standard there was a twice a month column called TRUXTON that was written by Charles W. Beattie of Truxton. He was the village postman so he got to visit with everyone and pick up the latest gossip.

In November 1888 Michael McGraw was suffering from typhoid fever. He recovered and opened "his school" again. It isn't known for certain where this "school" was located. However, this is probably when Michael and his family were living on the former Welch farm on Shackham Road and he would have conducted his school from that residence.

Note: Running your own school is very much an Irish tradition. There was another gentleman named, Alvarado Lansing, who was also running a school. Lansing's signature appears on a couple of the Truxton census records showing that he was the town census taker. After a while this school thing got more regulated. There were teacher training schools and of course Cortland Normal School - a college for teachers. Most, if not all the teachers assigned to the district school houses, in the early 1900s were females.

The March 24, 1893 Cortland Standard paper reported that "Michael McGraw purchased the Arnold place on the North Road."

Note: This Arnold was the daughter of Jerome Kent who was seen as the occupant of this property on the 1876 Truxton map.

In February of 1898 Michael McGraw was elected Inspector of Elections.

Feb 9, 1899 DeRuyter Gleaner - Michael McGraw suffered a serious injury to his leg while in the woods some time ago. This was probably in the wood lot up the hill behind his house on the North Road. A dance for his benefit was held in Woodard's Hall on Friday (Feb 10, 1899). It was feared that his leg might need to be amputated.

March 23, 1899 Cortland Standard - A benefit was held for Michael McGraw who was still suffering from his leg injury on St. Patrick's Day at Woodard's Hall. Ninety dollars was raised.

The obits for Edmond (d. May 14, 1899) and Mary Ryan McGraw (d. Nov. 30, 1899) were there. He was referred to as "N." This puzzled me for a while until I found Mary's obit. She was referred to as "Mrs. Ned McGraw" and 95 years old. Although Ned is a variation of Edmond, I had never heard of, or seen this used in connection with our Edmond. They both died at the home of their son, Michael McGraw. Despite his drinking problem Edmond appears to have kept a low profile. I haven't found any other mention of his name in the newspapers of the day.

During the period 1899-1903 Michael McGraw was the Justice of the Peace for the Village of Truxton. He was also the town assessor a couple times. Each year the Republicans and Democrats held caucuses and nominated their candidates. There were elections in February and the new officials were then sworn in. It seems that just about anyone in Truxton who wanted an elected position could get one, there were more than enough to go around - and they only lasted for a year.

In 1902 Michael was hired onto the village payroll to do some road work. Every Spring there was winter damage to the roads that needed repairing. In 1904 Michael was hired to replace some abutments on four of the area bridges. This is probably where the "stone mason" occupation found in a census came from. This also demonstrates the egalitarian nature of old Truxton. One day you're the Justice of the Peace and the next you're working on the roads.

August 4, 1910 - Mary McGraw married Orson Water, Jr. (Levi Waters)

Note: Mary was the oldest daughter of Michael McGraw and Alice Rooney. Orson was the son of Orson Waters and his 2nd wife Lucy Andrews.

The Death of John Rooney

John Rooney was the younger brother of Alice and Mary Rooney and he arrived in the Truxton area in March 1886. He never married. In September 1910 John Rooney was working for Henry & Young who ran a feed store, in East Homer, NY, just west of the village of Truxton. While unloading a wagon one day, in the last half of September, he was thrown from the wagon and landed on the ground and broke his back. He was taken to the Cortland Hospital where he stayed for a few weeks. I guess there is no recovering from a broken spine and John died on Friday,

October 7, 1910. He was buried the following day in the Truxton Catholic Cemetery in the McGraw family plot. From the comments in one of the articles, it seems that John was quite a character and was well known around town for his "unique personality." In the Cortland Standard of October 12, 1910 it said, "there were many about the town who will regret his tragic ending." At this point only Edmond, Mary and little George were buried in the McGraw plot. The other family plot in the cemetery was the McGrath (Michael McGraw's brother John) plot where Ellen Comerford McGrath was buried with three of her children — all having died during August - September 1883.

At some time prior to May 20, 1911 Michael McGraw had moved into the village. He moved into John O'Donnell's rental house on Prospect St. In the article it said Alice went back out to the farm on Saturday (May 20, 1911) to milk the cow (big time dairy farmer). While there, she stepped into a post hole and broke her leg, just above the ankle. Overall, it was not a good day for the McGraw family.

June 19, 1916 - "Mrs. Michael McGraw is quite seriously ill with stomach trouble."

April 17, 1924 - Thomas McGraw fell asleep while driving his car from Cortland. He hit a guardrail that went through the windshield striking his companion Delores Bongle in the forehead. Thomas lost several teeth when his face hit the steering wheel.

At the time of John McGraw's death (Nov. 8, 1926) he was living with the William Ryan family on the Main Road southwest of the village of Truxton. His obit, published in the Cortland Standard, stated that his wife, Mary Rooney McGraw, was also living there with him and had been for the last 7 years. This was news to the author. They were always living separately in the census records. John had "been an invalid and confined to his house for more than four years."

Note: The connection: Mrs. Ryan was an O'Brien and her mother was a Comerford, the sister of John McGraw's first wife Ellen Comerford. William Ryan was from Skaneateles and so far I have been unable to connect him to the Upperchurch Ryans. John and Mary were separated and had been [living separately since 1892](#) — Mary had not been living with John "for the last 7 years" as stated in the article above.

May 22, 1932 - Mary Rooney McGraw died on Sunday at the home of her sister Alice Rooney McGraw. She was 72 years old and in her obituary it was said that she had come to the US as a child.

Note: Alice was probably the person who gave this information to the newspaper but it is obviously wrong because it is known that Mary came to the US in 1881 with her sister Alice and neither were children at that time.

August 31, 1933 - William McGraw broke his left leg on Sunday Aug. 27 while sliding in a baseball game in Truxton.

John McGraw's Surviving Children

Census Year	John 1873-1934	Anna 1875- ~1953	Margaret 1879-1924	James 1881-1930	Nellie 1883-1978
1880	North Road	North Road	North Road	—	—
1892	O'Connor Hotel, Truxton	Cortlandville	Not found	Not found	Not found Not with M. McGraw
1896			Was a teacher		
1899			12 Tompkins St, Cortland		
1900		New Canaan CT Mar w/ 2 child	Not found G. Bowker is single	Not found	Not found. Not with D. Carr
1901			Margaret and Grenville Bowker married		
1903					Nellie visited uncle M. McGraw on the North Road
1905		—	Cortland WD02 Married. With G. Bowker fam	With D. Carr	Not found. Not with M. McGraw or D. Carr
1910		New Canaan CT	Auburn WD20 9 School St Bowker – Cost Acct	Not found	Camillus. James Donnelly, Hotel Keeper
1915		—	Auburn WD02 Bowker, Reporter Syr P-S	Not found	Camillus Donnelly, Hotel Proprietor
1920		New Canaan CT	Auburn WD02 9 School St Bowker sells musical instr	Cleveland, OH Clerk, Axle Co	Camillus
1925		—	Marg. d. 1924		
1930		Not found		James d. 1930	
1940	John d. 1934	New Canaan CT Widow			
1950		Not found			
		Anna d. abt 1953			Nellie d. 1978
1883 Ages	10	8	4	2	b. Aug 1883
Spouse	Minnie Doyle (1897) Blanche Sindall (1902)	Francis Gray (1895)	Grenville Bowker (1901)	—	James Donnelly (1909)
Child.	0	2	0	—	0

Note: 1892 – Truxton searched page by page. 1892 – Homer – ED03, ED04, and ED05 searched page by page. Dennis Carr family not found.

Possible Families to Take in John's Younger Children

Michael McGraw & Alice Rooney Married 1882		Dennis Carr & Ellen O'Brien Married 1881	
Child's Name	Birth Year	Child's Name	Birth Year
Mary E.	1887	Josephine	Aug 1884
James	1888	William	Jun 1887
Edmond	1890	Helen	Mar 1891
John Arthur	1891	Mary	Dec 1894
George	1893 (d. 1893)	Michael Thomas	Dec 1897
Thomas	1894	John (Jack)	1902
Alice	1896		
Agnes	1898		
William	1899		

Michael was John's older brother. Ellen O'Brien Carr was the daughter of Julia Comerford O'Brien who was the sister of Ellen Comerford, who was John's late wife. In 1883 each couple were recently married and each had no children. They would have been the obvious family members to taken in John's youngest children. According to family lore Nellie went to live with Michael and Alice. However, no evidence could be found that would back up this story.

US Census Records

1905 NY Cortland Cortland WD02 ED10

23 Orchard Street

Fred Bowker, Head, 47, US, Cit, Policeman

Julia Bowker, Wife, 48, US, Cit, Housework

Gussie Bowker, Dau, 20, US, Cit, Tel. Operator

Ethel Bowker, Dau, 6, US, Cit, At School

Gren. B. Bowker, Head, 26, US, Cit, Candy Maker

Margaret Bowker, 24, US, Cit, Housework

1920 NY Onondaga Camillus Dist 0040

School Street Res 173 Fam 203, Owns home free of a mortgage

James L. Donnelly, Head, 40, M, NY, IR, IR, Machinist, Automobile Shop

Nellie A. Donnelly, Wife, 36, M, NY, IR, NY

John Donnelly, Brother, 44, S, NY, IR, IR, Cutter, Cutlery Shop

Catherine J. Keating, Boarder, 27, S, NY, NY, NY, Teacher, High School

In The Newspapers

The newspapers were searched from 1883 to 1905 separately for Margaret, James, and Nellie (also Ellen and Helen). Shown below are the few items that were found.

INSTITUTE NOTES

Proceedings of the Gathering of Teachers at Homer

“Truxton — Maggie Connell, **Margaret A. McGraw**, Alice A. Casey, Fred J. Bierce, Martha E. VanHoesen, Mary E. Cooney, Katherine T. Lillis, Elizabeth G. Hannen, Katherine Hannen, Mary H. Wallace, Fred A. Woodward, Bertha M. Wiegand, Mary W. Freeman, Mrs. F. J. Bierce.”

May 7, 1896, Thursday, Cortland Evening Standard, Cortland, NY

Death of Mrs. John McGraw

“**Miss Margaret McGraw** of 12 Tompkins st., received a telegram Saturday from her brother, **John J. McGraw**, manager and third baseman of the Baltimore baseball team, announcing the death of his wife at Baltimore. Mrs. McGraw was formerly **Miss Minnie R. Doyle** of that city. Mr. McGraw is well known here and has the sympathy of a large circle of friends.”

September 5, 1899, Tuesday, Cortland Evening Standard, Cortland, NY

THE GROOM A MINSTREL

Miss Margaret A. McGraw Wedded to Greenville F. Bowker (sic) in Cortland

“CORTLAND, Sept. 14. — **Greenville F. Bowker** and **Miss Margaret A. McGraw** both of this city, were married this afternoon at the home of the groom’s parents, **Mr. and Mrs. Fred Bowker**, in Groton avenue. The ceremony was performed by City Judge **Rowland L. Davis** in the presence of only immediate friends of the contracting parties.

“Mr. Bowker, who is interlocutor in Barlow & Wilson’s Minstrel Company left this evening for New York to join the company.

“Mr. and Mrs. Bowker are among the best known and highly respected young people in this city and have the best wishes of a host of friends.”

September 15, 1901, Sunday Morning, The Post-Standard, Syracuse, NY

RECORD OF MARRIAGES

Performed in the City of Cortland During the Year 1901.

September 14

Grenville F. Bowker, Cortland

Margaret A. McGraw, Cortland

R L Davis

January 27, 1902, Monday, Cortland Evening Standard, Cortland, NY

“**Mr. James McGraw** of Baltimore, Md., is visiting his sister, **Mrs. Grenville Bowker**, and friends in Cortland.”

May 8, 1902, Thursday, Cortland Evening Standard, Cortland, NY

Truxton North Road

“Jan. 12. — **Miss Nellie McGraw** of Cortland, visited her uncle, **M. McGraw**, last week.”

January 15, 1903, Thursday, DeRuyter Gleaner, DeRuyter, NY

John McGraw and Two of his Daughters



August 8, 1913 – The NY Giant's played the home team in Truxton, NY. In the back of the car are Mrs. Nellie Donnelly of Camillus and her father John McGraw, the father of John J. McGraw. Seated in the front seat of the car is another daughter, Mrs. Margaret Bowker of Auburn, NY.

Obituaries

Mrs. Margaret Bowker Dies

“**Mrs. Margaret Bowker**, 44, died last night at the family home, 35 Logan Street, from bronchial pneumonia. The deceased had been ill for several weeks.

“The survivors are her father, **John McGraw**, Truxton; two brothers, **John J. McGraw** of New York and **James McGraw** of Toledo, Ohio; two sisters, **Mrs. James Donnelly** of Camillus and **Mrs. Francis Gray** of New Canaan, Conn.

“The funeral will be held Wednesday morning at 9:30 at Holy Family Church.”

February 11, 1924, Monday, The Auburn Citizen, Auburn, NY

MRS. MARGARET A. BOWKER

Sister of John J. McGraw Dies at Auburn

“**Mrs. Margaret A. Bowker**, 44, died Sunday night, Feb 10, at her home 35 Logan-st., in Auburn. Bronchial pneumonia caused death. Mrs. Bowker had been ill for several weeks. She is survived by her father **John McGraw**, of Truxton, N.Y., two brothers, **John J. McGraw** of New York city and **James McGraw** of Toledo, Ohio; two sisters, **Mrs. James Donnelly** of Camillus and **Mrs. Francis Gray** of New Canaan, Conn. **John J. McGraw** is the famous manager and part owner of the New York National league baseball club.

“The funeral of Mrs. Bowker will be held from her home at 9 o’clock Wednesday morning with services at the Holy Family church in Auburn at 9:30 o’clock.”

February 12, 1924, Tuesday, Cortland Standard, Cortland, NY

Death of Mrs. Bowker, John McGraw’s Sister

“**Mrs. Margaret Bowker**, 44, died at her home in Auburn Sunday night. The funeral was held Wednesday morning. She was the daughter of **John McGraw** of Truxton and a sister of **John J. McGraw**, manager of the New York Giants. Another brother is **James McGraw** of Toledo, and her two sisters are **Mrs. James Donnelly** of Camillus and **Mrs. Francis Gray** of New Canaan, Conn.”

February 15, 1924, Friday, The Cortland Democrat, Cortland, NY

Syracuse Post-Standard,
Syracuse, NY
July 13, 1978, Thursday

Mrs. Helen Donnelly

Mrs. Helen A. Donnelly, 94, of 215 E. Jefferson St., died Wednesday morning at Community Hospital’s Memorial Skilled Nursing Facility in Hamilton.

There are no known survivors.

Private services will be conducted Friday morning. Burial will be in Loomis Hill Cemetery.

Calling hours will be 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday at the Buranich Funeral Home, 5432 W. Genesee St., Camillus.

McGraw Family Time Line - 1889 - 1894

Date	Event
1889	The Cortland County Directory has John McGraw residing on a 6-acre farm. He was probably renting the property prior to his late 1890 purchase.
Feb. 11, 1890	John McGraw and Mary Rooney married. John's daughter Anna was Mary's bride's maid.
Nov. 26, 1890	John and Mary McGraw purchase 6-acre farm on West Hill Road from John O'Connor. The date is the day it was recorded in the Cortland County Clerk's Office.
Jul 22, 1891	Mary Alice McGraw was born to John and Mary McGraw ²⁴
Jul 31, 1891 (Note 1)	Mary Alice McGraw baptized at Truxton, NY (possibly at the McGraw home.). This was initially conveyed to me as May 31, 1891 but I suspect that it should be July 31, 1891. ²⁵
Aug. 1, 1891	Mary Alice McGraw died of bronchitis. ²⁶
Jan. 14, 1892 ²⁷	John J. McGraw returns home. "Jack McGraw, who for the past two months has been playing baseball with the "All-American" club on the island of Cuba and points in the Gulf states, returned home Monday. Jack shows the effects of exposure to a tropical sun."
Feb. 16, 1892	The 1892 NYS census showed that Michael, Alice and family were living with his parents, Edmond and Mary McGraw, at the farm on Shackham Road. John J. was staying at the O'Connor Hotel. He was back in town after a southern baseball tour had broken up. John McGraw, John J.'s father, and brother of Michael, was living on the Michael O'Brien farm that was on the State Road (Route 13), southwest of the village of Truxton.
Aug. 16, 1892	Edmond McGraw was admitted to the Cortland County Poor House due to his drinking problem. ²⁸
Sept. 7, 1892	Edmond McGraw was released from the Poor House.
Oct. 28, 1892	John Rooney, brother of Alice Rooney McGraw and Mary Rooney McGraw, was naturalized
Oct. 24, 1892	Shackham Road farm changed hands. John to Michael. The date is the day it was recorded in the Cortland County Clerk's Office.
Nov. 1, 1892	Shackham Road farm changed hands: Michael to James Neff. The date is the day it was recorded in the Cortland County Clerk's Office.
Jan. 15, 1893	Edmond McGraw was admitted again to the Cortland County Poor House due to his drinking problem.

Date	Event
Jan 19, 1893	“Mr. Jack McGraw will play with the Baltimore baseball nine again next year at a <i>large increase in salary</i> . The Baltimore club appreciates the work done by Mr. McGraw and were unwilling to have him sign with any other club. He leaves for his work about March 1.” ²⁹
Jan. 21, 1893	George McGraw born to Michael and Alice.
Apr. 4, 1893	Michael and Alice purchase the farm on the North Road from Mary Jane Arnold (daughter of Jerome Kent). It was recorded in the Cortland County Clerk’s Office on this date.
July 16, 1893 (Note 2)	“S. M. Benjamin has erected during this week a very fine monument in the Catholic cemetery at Truxton for the family of Mr. John McGrath.” The Cortland Evening Standard, Cortland, NY, Saturday, July 22, 1893.
Sept. 1, 1893	Edmond McGraw was released from the Poor House.
Sept. 15, 1893	Young George McGraw died, not quite eight months old. He was buried in St. Patrick’s cemetery, Truxton, NY.
Oct. 10, 1893	“Mr. John McGraw has completed his season of ball playing and returned home for the winter.” ³⁰
Oct. 21, 1893	“Mr. John McGraw who has been playing ball with the Baltimore baseball club the last season has returned. Jack has played great ball this year and is without doubt one of the best players in the business. He will spend winter here. Jack is a fine fellow and his many friends are glad to see him back.” ³¹
June 5, 1894	“Mr. John McGraw, formerly of Truxton, who is playing third base on the Baltimore team, while playing with (against?) the Cleveland nine, caught three liners in a game one day last week and was presented with a diamond ring for his plays.” ³²

Note 1 - The church record for Mary Alice McGraw’s baptism was May 31, 1891. This didn’t fit with the birth and death records. There seems to be an error in the church record. July 31 was selected as the correct baptism date since it fit well with the sequence of events found in the death record.

Note 2 - John J. McGraw probably paid for the monument. The Truxton Clerk’s records indicated that Mary Alice McGraw was buried in St. Patrick’s Catholic Cemetery in Truxton. Exactly where in the cemetery she was buried is not known at present. She died almost 2 years before the “very fine monument” was erected. Logically Mary Alice should have been buried in John McGraw’s family plot. Mary Alice’s name didn’t appear in the inscriptions on the monument. In a private conversation with the author, Carol Potter (Truxton Cemetery contact) said that in the early years (1890s) the practice was to bury children who died in infancy in a common area in the cemetery. Potter said that no records have survived from that early period and the inscriptions on the gravestones are the only documentation that survives.

John and Mary McGraw Census Appearances

1892 NY Cortland Truxton ED01

Elias Parker, 42, US, C, Farmer

Mary Parker, 25, US, C

Walter Parker, 8, US, C

Minnie Parker, 3, US, C

Mary Rooney, 29, Ireland, C

Billey Collins, 32, Ireland, Alien

Note: The adjacent farm was that of **Anthony** and **Margaret Nix**.

1892 NY Cortland Truxton ED01

Michael O'Brien, 56, Ireland, C, Farmer

Julia O'Brien, 47, US, C

John O'Brien, 16, US, C

Catharine O'Brien, 14, US, C

Mary O'Brien, 12, US, C

John McGraw, 47, Ireland, C

1900 NY Onondaga Fabius Dist 0048

Res 62 Fam 65, Owns Farm No. 48 with a mortgage

Roderic H. Daley, Head, Dec 1854, 46, M, 27 yrs, NY, CT, NY, Farmer

Kate E. Daley, Wife, Aug 1855, 44, M, 27 yrs, Children: 3/2, NY, NY, NY

Stephen G. Daley, Son, Dec 1876, 23, S, Iowa, NY, NY, Student (9)

Cherrie W. Daley, Dau, Sept 1884, 15, S, NY, NY, NY, At School (9)

Susan E. Daley, Mother, Jan 1826, 74, Wd, Children: 3/2, NY, NY, CT

Mary McGraw, Servant, May 1864, 36, M, 10 yrs, **Children: 1/0**, IR, IR, IR, 1882, 18 yrs, Servant, Can R and W

Michael Dunley, Servant, Nov 1850, 49, M, 18 yrs, At Sea, IR, IR, 1851, 49, Na, Farm Laborer

James Gorman, Servant, Jan 1883, 17, S, NY, IR, IR, Farm Laborer

Note: This census entry was the first evidence that this **McGraw-Rooney** marriage had given birth to a child.

1900 NY Cortland Truxton Dist 0105

Res 143 Fam 146 (North Road)

John Miller, Jr., Head, Sept 1868, 41, M, 12 yrs, NY, ENG

Ella Miller, Wife, Apr 1868, 32, M, 12 yrs, Children: 1/1, NY, IR

Frank Miller, Son, Feb 1889, 11, S, NY, NY, NY

John McGraw, Boarder, June 1845, 54, Wd, IR, IR, IR

Note: Neighbors Thomas Twentyman (139, 140); George Waters (141, 142); Cornelius O'Connor (142, 144); John Miller (143, 146); Dennis (David) O'Connor (148, 151)

1905 NY Onondaga Tully Tully Village ED01

North Street

Ephrem J. Bell, Head, 54US, Cit Hotel Keeper, OA

Clarissa Bell, Wife, 50, US, Cit, Homework

Jasper F. Bell, Son, 13, US, Cit, At school (10/12)

Robert S. Vanbergen, Boarder, 38, US, Cit, Lumber Dealer, OA

James Lahon, Clerk, 37, US, Cit, Clerk at Hotel, W

G. Bartle Mason, Boarder, 24, US, Cit, Illegible, OA

Mary Rooney, Servant, 48, IR, **18 yrs**, Al(ien), Servant a Hotel, W

Mary Kenedy, Servant, 27, US, Cit, House work

Mamie McGraw, Servant, 19, US, Cit, Kitchen Girl, W
Annie Sahon, Cook, 34, Canada, 12 yrs, Al(ien), Cook at Hotel, W

1905 NY Cortland Truxton ED01

John O'Connor, Head, 49, US, Cit, Hotel Keeper
Margaret O'Connor, Wife, 41, US, Cit, Housework
Patracia O'Connor, Dau, 12, US, Cit, At School (8)
Leonard O'Connor, Son, 11, US, Cit, At School (8)
Marcella O'Connor, 8, US, Cit, At School (8)
John D. O'Connor, Jr., Son, 6, US, Cit, At School (8)
John McGraw, Boarder, 61, Ireland, 55 yrs, Cit, X
Patrick McGraw, Boarder, 40, US, Cit, Day Laborer

1910 NY Onondaga Tully Dist 0196

East Street Res 55 Fam 58

Ephrim Bell, Head, 59, M2, 3 yrs, NY, NY, NY, Prop. Hotel, Emp
Ida Von C. Bell, Wife, 58, M2, 3 yrs, Children: 0/0, NY, NY, NY, None

—
Mary Rooney, Servant, 42, IR, X, X, Servant, Hotel, W

1910 NY Cortland Truxton Dist 0137

Main Street, Truxton Village, Res 266 Fam 280, Owns Farm No. 166 free of a mortgage

John O'Connor, Head, 54, M1, 19 yrs, NY, IR, IR, Keeper, Hotel
Margaret H. O'Connor, Wife, 45, M1, 19 yrs, Children: 5/4, NY, IR, IR, Land Lady, Hotel
Patrica O'Connor, Dau, 17, S, NY, NY, NY, None
Cornelius L. O'Connor, Son, 16, S, NY, NY, NY, None
Elizabeth M. O'Connor, Dau, 13, S, NY, NY, NY, None
John D. O'Connor, Son, 11, S, NY, NY, NY, None
Frank Daley, Boarder, 64, Wd, NY, NY, NY, Manager, Milk Station
John McGraw, Boarder, 64, Wd, IR, IR, IR, 1852, Na, Own income
Reuben R. Stewart, Boarder, 45, Wd, NY, NY, NY, Cattle Buyer, OA
Patrick McGraw, Servant, 44, S, IR, IR, IR, 1881, Na, Horselier, Hotel Barn

1915 NY Cortland Truxton AD01 ED01

Main Street – Hotel Kenney

Albert F. Kenney, Head, 54, US, Hotel proprietor OA, Emp
James Galvin, Lodger, 40, US, Bartender, W
William D. Carr, Lodger, 39, US, Stationery Engineer, W
Mary G. McGraw, Lodger, 51, Ireland, 30 yrs, C, Cook-hotel, W
Frank F. Poole, Lodger, 69, US, Blacksmith

1915 NY Cortland, Truxton AD01 ED01

O'Connor Hotel

John O'Connor, Head, 59, US, hotel Proprietor
Margaret E. O'Connor, Wife, 50, US, Land lady
Patricia O'Connor, Dau, 22, US, Student
Leonard O'Connor, Son, 21, US, Student
Marcella E. O'Connor, Dau, 18, US, Student
John D. O'Connor, Son, 16, US, Student
Daniel P. Hartnett, Father-in-law, 88, Ireland, 65 yrs, C, None
Mary Hennessy, Aunt, 77, Ireland, 65 yrs, C, None
John McGraw, Lodger, 72, Ireland, 68 yrs, C, None
Patrick McGraw, Lodger, 52, US, Laborer, General

1920 NY Cortland Truxton Dist 0035

Truxton State Road Farm Res 18 Fam 18, Owns Farm No. 14 with a mortgage

Patrick Comerford, Head, 70, M, 1850, Na, 1856, IR, IR, IR, Farmer, Dairy Farm, Emp

Elizabeth Comerford, wife, 68, M, 1868, Na 1877, IR, IR, IR, None

Annie Comerford, Dau, 31, S, NY, IR, IR, Telephone Operator, Telephone Co.

Patrick Comerford, Jr., Son, 29, S, NY, IR, IR, Laborer, Home Farm

Marry McGraw, Servant, 54, M, 1888, Na, 1895, IR, IR, IR, Servant, Private Family

1920 NY Cortland Truxton Dist 0035

Truxton - Cuyler State Road Farm Res 63 Fam 64, Owns Farm No. 52 with a mortgage

William Ryan, Head, 56, M, NY, IR, IR, Farmer, Dairy Farm

Anna Ryan, Wife, 49, M, NY, IR, IR, None

William Ryan, Jr., Son, 20, S, NY, NY, NY, Laborer, Home Farm

John Ryan, Son, 11, S, NY, NY, NY, None

Harry Boland, Hired Man, 34, S, NY, NY, NY, Laborer, Farm

Patrick McGraw, Hired Man, 36, S, 1900, Na, 1910, IR, **NY, NY**, Laborer, Dairy Farm

John McGraw, Border, 76, M, 1850, Na, IR, IR, IR, None

Note: It seems odd that Patrick McGraw was born in Ireland of parents who had been born in NY.

1925 NY Cortland Truxton AD01 ED01

Cortland-Truxton Road

William Ryan, Head, 61, US, Cit, Farmer, Emp

Anna Ryan, Wife, 54, US, Cit, Houseworker

John Ryan, Son, 16, US, Cit, School

Anthony Nix, Lodger, 81, US, Cit, X

John McGraw, Lodger, 81, US, Cit, X

Note: **John McGraw** was born in Ireland and probably so was **Anthony Nix**

1925 NY Cortland Truxton AD01 ED01

Main Street

Alice McGraw, Head, 64, Ireland 44 yrs, Cit, Housewife

Thomas McGraw, Son, 29, US, Cit, Laborer M(ilk) Station

William McGraw, Son, 24, US, Cit, Laborer M(ilk) Station

1925 NY Cortland Truxton AD01 ED01

Main Street

Earnest Hoffman, Head, 49, US, Cit, Merchant, Emp

Ida B. Hoffman, Wife, 49, US, Cit, Housework

Edmund Hoffman, Son, 26, US, Cit, College

Walter Hoffman, Son, 20, US, Cit, College

Wilfred Hoffman, Son, 18, US, Cit, Hoffman, College

Leo Hoffman, Son, 16, US, Cit, School

Francis Hoffman, 13, US, Cit, School

Mary McGraw, 59, Ireland, 45 yrs, Cit, Servant

1930 NY Cortland Truxton Dist 0031

Main Street Res 145 Fam 145, Owns home - \$2000

Alice McGraw, Head, 67, Wd, Mar @ 21, IR, IR, IR, 1885, Na, None

Thomas McGraw, Son, 35, S, NY, IR, IR, Milk Handler, Sheffield Milk Station

Mary McGraw, Sister, 66, Wd, Mar @ 25, IR, IR, IR, 1886, Na, None

Some Rooney Info - The Rooney Sisters Arrived Together.

A quote from Mary Stoddard, postmarked Feb. 9, 1998:

“Gram did tell me that Gramp and John went to Albany to meet the boat that she and Aunt Mary came on.”

Note: Gram was Alice Rooney McGraw, Gramp was Michael McGraw, John was Michael’s brother John McGraw, Aunt Mary was Mary Rooney, sister of Alice. Mary Rooney later married John McGraw (February 11, 1890) and became his 2nd wife. This trip to Albany took place in 1881. Mary Stoddard was the daughter of John Arthur McGraw and Marie Connors. John Arthur was the son of Michael McGraw and 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 perhaps the relatives were the Miles family who owned the farm where Michael was working in 1880. 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.”

Source: The McGrath Family of Truxton, NY, p. 90.

A later detailed analysis of the James Miles family showed that they were Protestants and had no connections to Northern Ireland. The questions about the Rooney sisters’ connection to the Fabius and Tully area remain unanswered.

The Orson Waters above was Orson Waters, Sr. This Orson married first Margaret Comerford and secondly Lucy Andrews. In the 1860s Orson was living on Morgan Hill and would have known Michael McGraw who was also living there with his parents, Edmund and Mary and his younger brother John. Orson and Lucy had a son Orson (Levi) Waters, Jr. who later married Mary Isobelle McGraw. Mary was the oldest child of Michael McGraw and Alice Rooney.

Mary Alice McGraw

This mystery began when I was trying to track down two family records that are described in detail below. I was looking for the record of Michael's marriage and also the marriage of Michael's brother John to Alice's sister, Mary.

Michael (W.) McGraw married **Alice Rooney** on April 7, 1882

Michael's middle initial, as well as his brother John's below, are in parentheses since these initials only appear on their death certificates and are not found in any other records created during their lifetimes.

Alice and her sister Mary came to the US in 1881 and Michael and Alice were married on April 7, 1882 and had their first child, Mary Isabelle, in 1888. Why two single girls from Co. Down in Northern Ireland would come to the Fabius-Tully area is still a family mystery (See [Rooney paper](#))

John (W.) McGraw married **Mary Rooney** (sister of Alice Rooney)
Feb. 11, 1890 at St. Patrick's in Truxton. (This is known)

This was John's second marriage and the relatives said that the marriage "just didn't take." At the time of the 1892 NYS census John and Mary were living apart and there was no evidence of any children from this second marriage.

In the 1900 census John and Mary were living apart but Mary's census record indicated that she had given birth to one child but at the time of the census that child was no longer living. Family folklore says that Mary had some miscarriages but there was no recollection of any children being born. There are also no extra graves in the family plots in the Catholic cemetery in Truxton that could account for death and burial of this child.

Miscarriage is defined as the "spontaneous expulsion of a human fetus before it is viable and especially between the 12th and 28th weeks of gestation." I am assuming that a child who died shortly after birth would not be labeled a miscarriage. I am equally confident that the census was not counting miscarriages — only live births. Hence the 1900 census record indicates that Mary Rooney McGraw had a child who was born alive but who then subsequently died. If the child were born sickly, then they would have wanted to have the baby baptized as soon as possible. The priest might have gone to the family farm on West Hill Road to administer the sacrament instead of waiting for a formal baptism, at a later date, in the church. Now, in Ireland this is referred to as a private baptism and for some reason these private baptisms are not recorded in the Irish church records. I did not know if this custom was or is followed in the U.S.

The table below shows the baptism and death records for a Mary Alice McGraw, who was born and died in the summer of 1891. However, there were some discrepancies which needed to be explained.

Baptismal Record Name: Mary Alice McGraw Baptized May 31, 1891 Father: John McGraw Mother: Mary Rooney Date of Birth: -not given Sponsors: - not given Location: St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Truxton, NY	Death Record Name: Mary A. McGraw Born: July 22, 1891 Died: August 1, 1891 Cause: Bronchitis Father: John McGraw Mother: Mary Shaw McGraw Source: Truxton Town Clerk Kimberley Reakes 607-842-6984 Sat 9-12 EST
Questions (1) Sponsors? (2) Could May really be July?	Questions (1) Who provided the information? (2) Could a child be buried in an already occupied grave of a family member? (3) Burial info? (4) Could "Shaw" really be "Sloan"? (5) Was the age "9 days old" actually on the death certificate? YES

It is assumed that Mary Alice McGraw and Mary A. McGraw are one and the same person. There are two problem areas with the records that make the above assertion difficult. (1) Mother's maiden name in the death record; (2) Baptismal date for Mary Alice is prior to the birth date of Mary A.

The Mother's Maiden Name

I don't know if Mary Rooney had a middle name but none was ever found in any record concerning her. Sometimes women will use their maiden name as a middle name. In the case of the death record, it would have required the mother's maiden. That is what the name "Shaw" represents in the death record. I think that when examined closely the name Shaw could actually turn out to be "Sloan." Mary Rooney McGraw was a first-time mother, whose 9-day old child had just died. She was grieving and probably not paying full attention to what people were saying to her or asking her. In filling out the death record someone would have asked for the "mother's maiden name." For someone who had only been a mother for nine days the phrase "mother's maiden name" would have automatically made her to think of her own mother, whose maiden name was Sloan. In her state of grief over the loss of her child, Mary wouldn't have wondered why her mother's maiden name was needed to complete the death record.

The Baptismal Date

Initially many explanations were explored to rationalize this situation of a pre-birth baptism. In the end it seemed most likely that someone had made a mistake in recording or in transcribing the date of the baptism.

Two John McGraw Families?

If these two records belong to different persons then it is necessary to examine the implications of the existence of two John McGraw families. It is also necessary to examine the records to see if there is sufficient evidential support for the existence of two such families.

Implications

If the Baptismal record and the Death Certificate belong to two different individuals, then we have two John McGraw families living in the town of Truxton in 1891 — two John McGraws who had both married ladies named Mary and two Mary McGraws that both gave birth to baby girls in the middle of 1891. Two John and Mary McGraw families that named their daughters Mary A. And sadly, two John and Mary McGraw families whose infant daughters died in 1891. That was too many coincidences.

If these records represent two different persons, then the parents of Mary A. never had their daughter baptized before she died. A good Catholic family would have never let that happen. Mary Alice died prior to the 1892 NYS census that was conducted in Truxton on February 16, 1892. In that census her parents were living apart and Mary Alice was nowhere to be found. She was not living with either of her parents nor was she living with any of the relatives in the town of Truxton. So, if these are two different persons then Mary Alice had a baptismal record but there was no record of her death. It would seem that Mary Alice has exactly the records that Mary A. lacks and vice versa. Their documents complement one another very nicely.

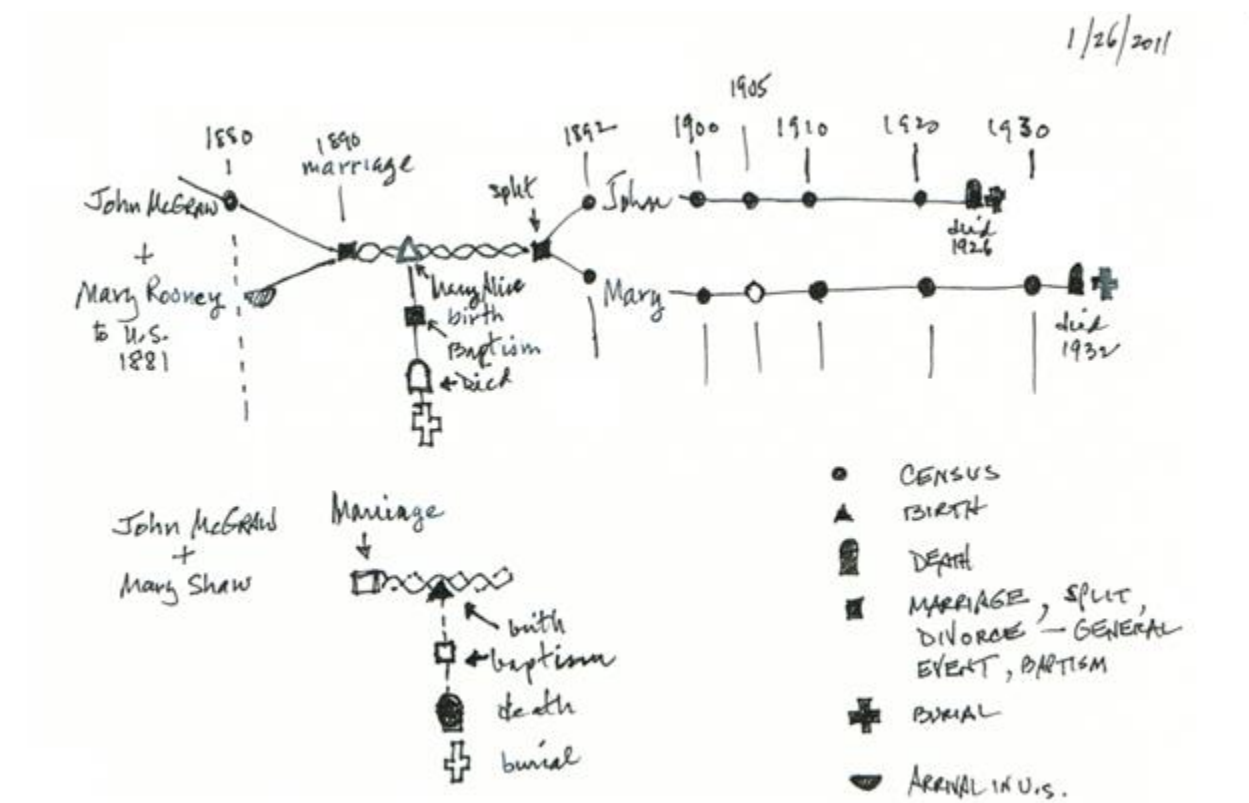
The Records Trail

John McGraw and Mary Rooney have left a well-documented trail in the census records from the time they came to the U.S. (John - 1850; Mary -1881) until they died and were buried in St. Patrick's Cemetery in Truxton. In the case of John McGraw and Mary Shaw, they have left no trail what so ever. The only record of their existence is the death certificate described above.

The diagram below graphically depicts the evidential records for the two John McGraw family hypothesis. The different shaped symbols represent various records or events. The solid symbols indicate that the particular record or event exists for that person. The empty symbols represent expected records or events that were not found. The top figure is for the John McGraw and Mary Rooney family (Mary Alice). The bottom figure represents the John McGraw and Mary Shaw family (Mary A.). The only record supporting the existence of the second John McGraw family is this single death certificate.

Searching old records for ancestors is like shaking out an old rug. You think you have already shaken everything out of it, but each time you shake it again, something new comes out.

Records for the Two John McGraw Families



The Final Solution

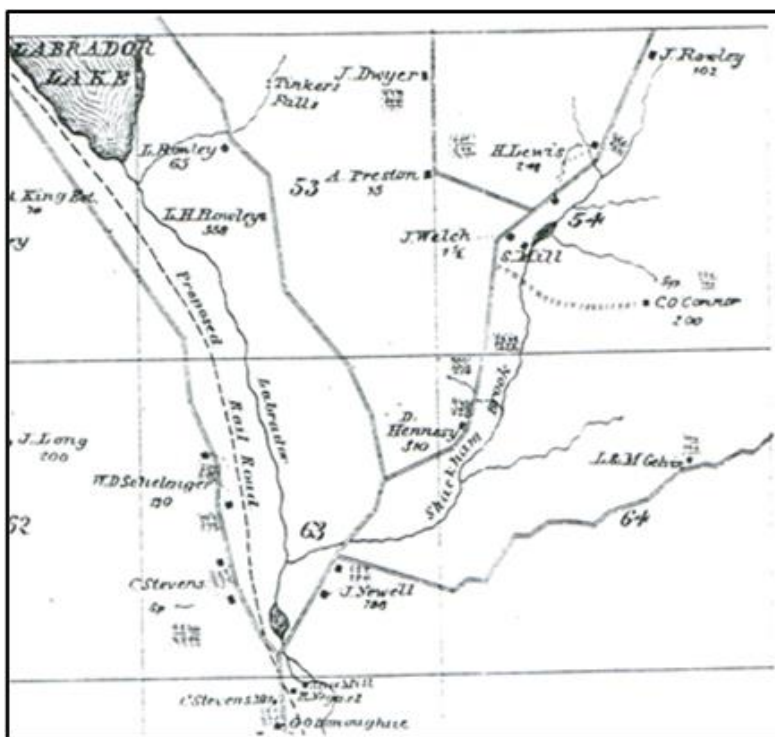
Original Records	
Baptismal Record Name: Mary Alice McGraw Baptized May 31, 1891 Father: John McGraw Mother: Mary Rooney Date of Birth: -not given Sponsors: - not given Location: St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Truxton, NY	Death Record Name: Mary A. McGraw Born: July 22, 1891 Died: August 1, 1891 Cause: Bronchitis Father: John McGraw Mother: Mary Shaw McGraw Source: Truxton Town Clerk Kimberley Reakes
Birth Record – 8/11/21 Name: Mary A. F(emale) Truxton Born: July 22, 1891 Mother: Mary <u>Rooney</u> McGraw Father: John McGraw, Laborer, Ireland J. C. Nelson, # 212, Reg. Aug 21, 1891 Source: Truxton Town Clerk Records	Death Record – 8/11/21 Name: Mary A. McGraw, 9 days Died: August 1, 1891 b. Truxton Father: John McGraw, Ireland Mother: Mary <u>Rooney</u> , Ireland J. C. Nelson #157 Source: Truxton Town Clerk Records

All the confusion described in this paper was caused by two mistakes. The date of the baptism was in error. Instead of May 31, 1891 it was probably July 31, 1891 because pre-birth baptisms don't actually occur. The second mistake was caused by the Truxton Town Clerk. She had somehow given me the mother's name as "Shaw" rather than the correct name: "Rooney." On August 11, 2021, I visited the old train terminal building in the Village of Truxton which now functions as the office of the Town Clerk. I got to see the dusty old ledgers where the records were written by hand. I was surprised to find that there was also a birth record for Mary Alice in addition to her death record. In both records her mother's name was Mary Rooney; I don't know where the name Shaw came from, the name that had started all this confusion.

1998 - How It All Started

“Years ago my mother took us up on Shackham Rd. (just above where the Flaherty farm was) & there were stone slabs with markings of all the John McGraw’s mother and four children who had died of diphtheria. I believe that area of Shackham was in the town of Cuyler as some of that area also went into Fabius. If you are ever up here I’d be glad to take you to the place.”

2001 - First Visit to the Shackham Road Site



Truxton McGraw Family Stories 04-21-26-A

In the summer of 2001, I visited Shackham Road at the site of the former Welch Farm.

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 a phone conversation with Mary McGraw Stoddard's daughter Karen. She 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 grave stones that her mother had described as having seen as a child, in a letter to me back in 1998. When Karen saw the grave stones 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 old Welch farm was 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 approximately the 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 farm house. 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 might help make the case that these gravestones that Karen saw were on the property that was occupied by Edmond and Mary McGraw in 1880. However, it turned out that the man-made lake that Karen was referencing was further upstream and was of a later construction.

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 seems to have been firmly established. There was a problem in their descriptions however. Karen and the logger were speaking of an existing pond and the pond that had been used in conjunction with the old saw mill was long gone.

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. 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 Fords and the telephones would have to be removed but much of the remaining experiences were probably the same despite the intervening 30-40 years.

In the end the gravestones that Karen and her logger friend were describing were in the small Hodgson Cemetery further up Shackham Road in the town of Fabius.

HODGSON CEMETERY

On Shackham Rd., Lot 44 Near the Cortland Co. Border
Town of Fabius, New York



HODGSON CEMETERY, On Shackham Rd., Lot 44 Near the Cortland Co. Border, Town of Fabius, New York. Hodgson, Ira d. 7/29/1819, ae. 39; Hodgson, James d. 1843, ae. 42; Hodgson, Lydia d. 1828. Lydia was the mother of James.

John HODGSON married Lydia REVIL, daughter of Joshua REVIL and Hannah GARFIT, on 22 FEB 1791 in England. Lydia was born on 4 JUL 1765 in Eckington, Derbyshire, England, died on 8 DEC 1828 in Fabius, Onondaga Co., NY, and was buried in Shackham Pond Cem., Fabius, NY.

Noted events in her life were: She was baptized on 7 JUL 1765 in Eckington, Derbyshire, England.

Her son - James HODGSON was born on 27 MAR 1801 in Poss Washington Co., NY, died on 12 MAR 1843 in Fabius, Onondaga Co., NY, and was buried in Shackham Pond Cem., Fabius, NY.

Views From the Old Welch Property



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.

2007 - Status in August 2007

The information from the 1892 NYS census breathed new life into the gravestone story. In 1892 John J. McGraw was back in town and staying in the O'Connor Hotel in the village of Truxton. Michael and Alice McGraw and their children, along with Michael's parents, Edmund and Mary were living on the farm on Shackham Road — the former Welch farm in 1876.

John signed with the Baltimore Orioles baseball team (\$200/month) in August 1891. It is assumed that it was John who paid for the new monument for his mother's and siblings' grave in St. Patrick's Cemetery. It is also assumed that before the new monument was placed in the cemetery the old stones were placed on the Shackham Road property.

Conflicting Factors

The Hodgson gravestones are located on Shackham Road just north of the Fabius - Truxton town line. They are located on the east side of the road as was the McGraw Shackham Road property. The Hodgson gravestones are just south of a manmade lake called Shackham Pond but it is unknown how long that pond has been there. At the time of the 1876 map, there was a saw mill on the same stream which ran behind the McGraw property. The saw mill was most likely owned by someone other than the McGraw family. The existence of the mill implies the existence of a dammed-up pond that would have provided the water power to run the mill. This second pond near the former McGraw property provides another occurrence of a set of gravestones near a man-made pond.

McGraw Stones

Mary Stoddard said the gravestones that she had seen were inscribed with the names of John McGraw's children and wife Ellen. Mary's daughter, Karen Dropp, remembered seeing the gravestones as lying down and not standing upright. In August 2007, when Karen took us to see what turned out to be the Hodgson gravestones, she said they weren't the same ones she remembered seeing before.

2011 - McGrath Monument Delivery to St. Patrick's Cemetery

This is a partial repeat of an earlier table

Date	Event
Jan. 14, 1892 ³³	John J. McGraw returns home. "Jack McGraw, who for the past two months has been playing baseball with the "All-American" club on the island of Cuba and points in the Gulf states, returned home Monday. Jack shows the effects of exposure to a tropical sun."
Feb. 16, 1892	The 1892 NYS census showed that Michael, Alice and family were living with his parents, Edmond and Mary McGraw, at the farm on Shackham Road. John J. was staying at the O'Connor Hotel. He was back in town after a southern baseball tour had broken up. John McGraw, John J.'s father and brother of Michael, was living on the Michael O'Brien farm that was on the Cheningo Road, south of the village of Truxton.
Aug. 16, 1892	Edmond McGraw was admitted to the Cortland County Poor House due to his drinking problem. ³⁴
Sept. 7, 1892	Edmond McGraw was released from the Poor House.
Oct. 24, 1892	<u>Shackham Road farm</u> changed hands. John to Michael . The date is the day it was recorded in the Cortland County Clerk's Office.
Nov. 1, 1892	<u>Shackham Road</u> farm changed hands: Michael to James Neff . The date is the day it was recorded in the Cortland County Clerk's Office.
Jan. 15, 1893	Edmond McGraw was admitted again to the Cortland County Poor House due to his drinking problem.
Jan 19, 1893	"Mr. Jack McGraw will play with the Baltimore baseball nine again next year at a <u>large increase in salary</u> . The Baltimore club appreciates the work done by Mr. McGraw and were unwilling to have him sign with any other club. He leaves for his work about March 1." ³⁵
Jan. 21, 1893	George McGraw born to Michael and Alice.
Apr. 4, 1893	Michael and Alice purchased the farm on the North Road from Mary Jane Arnold (daughter of Jerome Kent). <u>Purchased prior to March 24, 1893</u> . Recorded at Cortland County Clerk's Office April 4, 1893. On North Road. In 1893 Michael and Alice purchased the former Kent farm on the North Road across from Robbins Road. The whole crew from the farm on Shackham Road moved into this farm on the North Road. Deed Book 58, p. 357, Cortland County Courthouse, Cortland, NY
July 16, 1893	"S. M. Benjamin has erected during this week a <u>very fine monument</u> in the Catholic cemetery at Truxton for the family of Mr. John McGrath." The Cortland Evening Standard, Cortland, NY, Saturday, July 22, 1893.

Date	Event
Sept. 1, 1893	Edmond McGraw was released from the Poor House.
Sept. 15, 1893	Young George McGraw died, not quite eight months old. He was buried in St. Patrick's cemetery, Truxton, NY.
Oct. 10, 1893	"Mr. John McGraw has completed his season of ball playing and returned home for the winter." ³⁶
Oct. 21, 1893	"Mr. John McGraw who has been playing ball with the Baltimore baseball club the last season has returned. Jack has played great ball this year and is without doubt one of the best players in the business. He will spend winter here. Jack is a fine fellow and his many friends are glad to see him back." ³⁷
June 5, 1894	"Mr. John McGraw, formerly of Truxton, who is playing third base on the Baltimore team, while playing with (against?) the Cleveland nine, caught three liners in a game one day last week and was presented with a diamond ring for his plays." ³⁸

John McGraw, the father, had recently remarried and was trying to rebuild a normal family life on his newly purchased farm out on the West Road. However, by the time of the 1892 census this marriage had broken up after the death of the couple's 9-day-old daughter, Mary Alice, and they were living apart off the farm.

In February of 1892 Edmond and Mary McGraw were living with their son Michael and his growing family on Shackham Road. In August of 1892 Edmond was admitted to the Cortland County Poor House and released three weeks later. In October John McGraw sold the Shackham Road property to his brother Michael who in turn sold it to James Neff the next week. It couldn't be determined when Neff took possession of the property.

In January 1893 Edmond McGraw was admitted once again to the County Poor House. John J. was back in Truxton after having signed a contract with the Baltimore baseball club at a large increase in salary. This was probably when John J. decided to purchase the large monument that is now on his family's plot.

By the spring of 1893 Michael McGraw, John's brother, was living with his growing family and his parents on his newly purchased 10-acre farm on the North Road across from Robbins Road. He might have been asked by John or John J. to take custody of the old gravestones. Since they wound up on the Shackham Road property perhaps this decision would have been made earlier while Michael still owned and was residing on the Shackham Road farm.

When the new monument was ready, in July 1893, something would have to be done with the old gravestones that the monument was meant to replace — if they hadn't already been removed to Shackham Road.

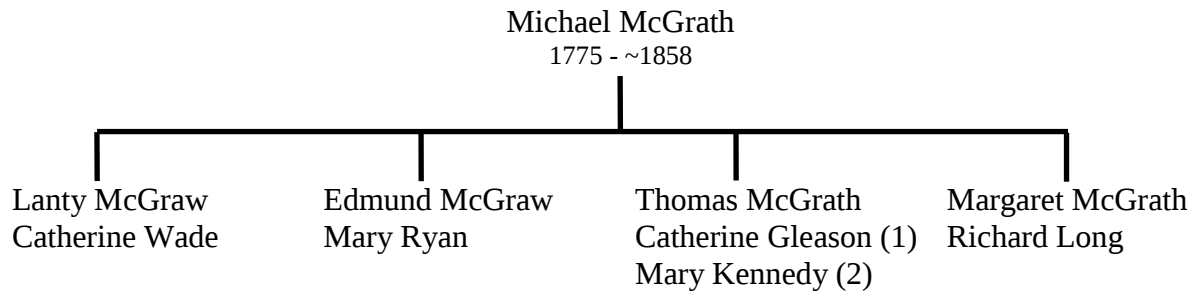
The time period between December 1892 and January 1893 must have been a very busy period for Michael and Alice Rooney. They were living with Michael's parents, his father, Edmond, had just been admitted to the poor house, his wife gave birth to son George and, in the middle of all this, they had to move from Shackham Road to the North Road. It would be understandable that

they forgot and left the gravestones behind. And of course they would have always intended to go back someday to retrieve them.

Of course, the gravestones were not totally forgotten 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. And then Mary shared that story with me in her 1998 letter. This sequence of events provides an explanation of how the gravestones might have made their way to Shackham Road but that has been replaced by another mystery — what happened to those gravestones; where are they now?

Appendix

The Descendants of Michael McGrath



Names	Papers
Michael McGrath 1785 - ~1858	The McGrath – Long Trilogy – Web site ... Finding Michael McGrath of Moyaliff The McGrath Family From Moyaliff
Lanty McGraw 1807 - 1893 Catherine Wade 1821 - 1891	Alanson McGraw Family – Web site ...
Edmund McGraw 1813 - 1899 Mary Ryan 1810 - 1899	The McGraw Family of Truxton – Web site ... The McGrath Family of Truxton, New York
Thomas McGrath 1822 - 1883 Catherine Gleason (1) 1823 - 1859 Mary Kennedy (2) 1832 - 1900	Thomas McGrath Family to Maple Ridge – Web site ... Thomas McGrath of Moyaliff
Margaret McGrath 1830 - 1894 Richard Long 1828 - 1876	The Long Families – Web site ... The McGrath – Long Trilogy – Web site ...

Residence Descriptions

The table below contains the detailed description of the various residences. Also included are any available references to legal documents or stories and family lore involved with the residence or its location. In this list are all the known residences where some of the various McGraw family members were living at one time. These residences were not always owned or rented by one of the McGraws. In some cases the person(s) were boarding with family or friends. Since this paper was started Edmond McGraw's father, Michael, and three of his siblings have been found in the Pompey area.³⁹ This paper just discusses Edmond and his descendants.

Res.	Description
1	Fabius - McGraw residence We don't know much about the McGraw family in the period from their arrivals [1848 and 1850] until 1855. The 1855 census indicated that the McGraw family had been in Cuyler (town of Truxton) for only 3 months. Since it is known that Edmond's son Michael (and most likely his younger son John) attended the Bardeen Road School we can assume that they lived somewhere in the area just north of the Fabius-Truxton border. They probably worked and lived on someone else's farm or rented a small farm of their own. A person needed to declare their intention to become a citizen before that person could own property. Since his Declaration of Intent was dated December 1854, Edmond couldn't have owned any property prior to that date. This is the farm that is believed to have been destroyed by a tornado.
1a	Cuyler - West Kenney Settlement Road At the time of the 1855 census Edmund McGraw and his family had been in the Town of Cuyler for three months. He was occupying a farm on the West Kenney Settlement Road and was most likely renting it.
2	Cuyler - Edmond McGraw & family. Recorded November 10, 1855 at Cortland County Clerk's Office. This was the first recorded land owned by Edmond McGraw. It was described as Lot 76, <u>subdivision 1</u>. The entire family lived here at the same time from late 1855 until February 1867. John left briefly to serve in the army during the Civil War. Deed Book 26, p. 107, Cortland County Courthouse, Cortland, NY. Edmund and Mary sold this lot to Sheldon H. Angell for \$1734.75 on February 1, 1867. Deed Book 46, page 372.
2a	Cuyler - Edmond McGraw & family. Recorded February 27, 1867 at Cortland County Clerk's Office. For some reason Edmond moved to a different section in the same Lot on Morgan Hill in Cuyler. This parcel of land was described as Lot 76, <u>subdivision 2</u>. Deed Book 43, p. 431, Cortland County Courthouse, Cortland, NY
3	Kettlebail Road Edmond McGraw & family. Recorded January 6, 1868 at the Cortland County Clerk's Office. A few years after John's return from the Civil War Edmond, Michael and John went in together bought 255 acres of land on Kettlebail Road for \$10,000 with a mortgage from Edward Miller. Deed Book 47, p. 162, Cortland County Courthouse, Cortland, NY

4	West Road, Just Outside Truxton - Edmond and Mary McGraw - 1875 Edmond and Mary McGraw were living here at the time of the 1875 census. They had lost the Kettlebail property to foreclosure in August, 1874. No transaction concerning this property was found in the land records in the Cortland County Courthouse so they were probably renting the property.
5	Morgan Hill - John McGraw & family - 1875 John McGraw was living on a farm near Patrick Gleason and Jerry Burke at the time of the 1875 census. He was probably renting the property.
6	Michael O'Brien farm. Both Michael and John lived with the O'Briens at different times at different locations. 6a.) In 1870 the Michael O'Brien farm was on Morgan Hill next to his father-in-law Patrick Comerford. 6b.) Between August 1874 and June 1875 the O'Brien family moved to a farm on the North Road, Truxton. The Comerfords moved also and were living close by the O'Briens at the time of the 1875 census. 6c.) At the time of the 1880 census the Michael O'Brien family was living on the West Road next to Daniel Hartnett and near James Long. 6d.) In the 1892 census the O'Brien farm appears to be on the State Road (Route 13) located southwest of the village. A deed for the property was found that places the residence on the west side of that road.
7	Shackham Road - All the McGraws John McGraw purchased this property between June 1875 and June 1880, but the deed appears to never have been recorded. Family lore has it that all the McGraws lived on this farm on Shackham Road at one time or another. John had a deed for the farm in his name and he subsequently sold the farm to his brother Michael. For a while John and his family probably lived there with Edmond and Mary before moving to the North Road. After Michael married Alice Rooney on April 7, 1882 he probably moved to the Shackham Road farm. At the time of the 1892 census Michael and Alice and their growing family were living at the farm on Shackham Road with Michael's parents Edmond and Mary. <u>Oct. 24, 1892</u> - John => Michael: Recorded in Deed Book 88, p. 197, Cortland County Courthouse, Cortland, NY <u>Nov. 1, 1892</u> - Michael => James Neff: Recorded in Deed Book 88, p. 329, Cortland County Courthouse, Cortland, NY
8	North Road - John McGraw John was living on a farm next to his brother-in-law John Comerford at the time of the 1880 census. There was no record that John McGraw had purchased this farm so he might have been renting it. This is where the family was living when Ellen, Mary, Catherine and Patrick died between late August and September 1883.
9	Sky High Road, Tully - James Miles farm Michael McGraw was working and living on the James Miles farm at the time of the 1880 census.

10	Village of Truxton - John McGraw Move in: Fall 1883 - 1884 A rental house in the Village of Truxton across the road from the Truxton House Hotel. According to the book <i>The Real McGraw</i>, by Blanche McGraw, after the death of his wife Ellen and three of their children John McGraw moved the rest of his family from the farm into the village of Truxton. In the fall of 1885 young John J. McGraw moved into the Truxton House hotel across the street from his father's house.
11	West Road - John McGraw The deed was made and recorded on November 26, 1890 in the Cortland County Clerk's Office. In 1889 John McGraw was listed in the Truxton directory as occupying 6 acres of land. His was occupying this farm before he purchased it in 1890 from Jeremiah O'Connors (Deed Book 84, p. 412, Cortland County Courthouse, Cortland, NY). There was no record of John selling this property.
12	North Road - Michael McGraw farm Purchased prior to March 24, 1893. Recorded at Cortland County Clerk's Office April 4, 1893. On North Road. In 1893 Michael and Alice purchased the former Kent farm on the North Road across from Robbins Road. The whole crew from the farm on Shackham Road moved into this farm on the North Road. Deed Book 58, p. 357, Cortland County Courthouse, Cortland, NY
13	Truxton - John Miller Jr. farm. John McGraw boarded with the John Miller family for a while. As far as can be determined John Miller was not any kind of relation to the McGraws. The Miller farm was on the North Road close to where John had been living in 1883 at the time of his family's tragedy.
14	North Road - Cornelius O'Connor farm The O'Connors were neighbors to the Michael McGraw family on the North Road. This Cornelius O'Connor was the brother of Jeremiah (Jerry) and John. At the end of the research it was determined that none of the McGraws had ever resided at the O'Connor farm.
15	Village of Truxton - John O'Connor Hotel This was formerly known as the Truxton House Hotel in the village of Truxton. The hotel was operated by the widow, Mary Twentyman Goddard, under that former name. She took in young John J. McGraw when he ran away from his father's house in the fall of 1885. Mary's family (Twentyman) had suffered the loss of multiple family members in a very short period of time in the 1860's.⁴⁰ She probably related to what young John J. was going through with the loss of his mother and three siblings better than anyone else.
16	Village of Truxton - William & Anna Ryan This home was in the village of Truxton. Anna Ryan was the former Anna O'Brien whose mother was Julia Comerford, sister of Ellen Comerford, John McGraw's first wife. William Ryan was from Skaneateles and has not been linked to the Upperchurch Ryan families. The location was on the south side of the State road (Route 13), three residences from the Catholic Church going toward the village.

17	Village of Truxton - John O'Donnell house - Prospect Street. The family left the farmhouse on the North Road and moved into the village of Truxton in May 1911. Agnes McGraw Currie claimed that the family lived briefly on "Upper Prospect" (the part of Prospect St. that runs parallel to Main St.) right after the fire, before purchasing the house on the corner of Prospect and Main.
18	Village of Truxton - Prospect & Main - 3721 Route 13, Main St., Truxton, NY In 1915 Alice McGraw purchased the house at the corner of Prospect and Main. Deed Book 128, p. 86, Cortland County Courthouse, Cortland, NY



The picture above is the Michael McGraw homestead on the NW corner of Prospect and Main Streets in the village of Truxton (Residence 18). The date of the picture is about 1984. The family moved here from their rental house further up on Prospect Street in 1915. Michael died in 1923. Mary Rooney McGraw moved in with her sister Alice in 1927; she died in 1932. Alice sold the house to her sons William and Thomas in 1938 and all three continued to live there. Alice died in January 1940. When William married Thomas moved out and both brothers died in 1959.

Residence Analysis

There was an anomaly that turned up in the data. It was the location of the Michael O'Brien and Patrick Comerford farms that brought that anomaly to light. In 1870 John Comerford and his son in law Michael O'Brien were living on nearby farms on Morgan Hill in the western edge of the Town of Cuyler. In the 1875 census they were again living on nearby farms but this time they were on the North Road out of the Village of Truxton. In the 1876 Cortland County Atlas the map of Cuyler shows the Comerford and O'Brien farms back up on Morgan Hill. It is difficult to believe that they would have moved back up on Morgan Hill. The bottomland, on the North Road, was better land for farming and they would have stayed there. Barring the fact that they might have run into financial difficulties, and had to move back to Morgan Hill, there is another possibility. The census records are exact in time, they record who was living where on a particular date. The atlas is a more leisurely project that doesn't gather all its data referenced to a particular date. The 1876 map data could have been gathered prior to the 1875 census date. On Kettlebail Road, Miller is shown at the old McGraw farm on the Truxton map. Miller was the man who had held the mortgage on the McGraw farm and he bought the property at the foreclosure sale in August 1874. Therefore, the map information had to have been gathered after August 1874 to be able to place Miller on the former McGraw farm. The 1875 census had June 1, 1875 as its enumeration date. Hence the 1876 atlas map information was gathered between August 1874 and June 1875. Now I don't know the actual publication date of the 1876 Cortland County Atlas, but if it was something like a calendar it might have been available a month or two prior to the year with which it was dated. That would put the publication date around November 1875 and that seems reasonable, given the assumed period for data gathering.

The McGraw families are not recorded in the set of 1876 Cortland County Atlas maps. With the insight provided by this time analysis it would appear that during the August 1874 and June 1875 time period the McGraw families were living with relatives or friends. The 1876 maps recorded head of household residents - it did not distinguish between renters and owners/mortgagees. So, if any of the McGraws had owned (unlikely right after a foreclosure) or had been renting property during that time period they would have been captured in the atlas data. However, all the McGraw families showed up in the 1875 census. Edmund and Mary were on the West Road just outside the village of Truxton; John and Ellen were living on Morgan Hill next to Patrick Gleason; Michael was living on the O'Brien farm on the North Road - see residence 6b. in the table below.

6	Michael O'Brien farm. Both Michael and John lived with the O'Briens at different times at different locations. 6a.) In 1870 the Michael O'Brien farm was on Morgan Hill next to his father-in-law Patrick Comerford. 6b.) Between August 1874 and June 1875 the O'Brien family moved to a farm on the North Road, Truxton. The Comerfords moved also and were living close by the O'Briens at the time of the 1875 census. 6c.) At the time of the 1880 census the Michael O'Brien family was living on the West Road next to Daniel Hartnett and near James Long. 6d.) In the 1892 census the O'Brien farm appears to be on the State Road (Route 13) located southwest of the village. A deed for the property was found that places the residence on the west side of that road.
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Present Status of Old Residences

Res.	Description	Present Status
1	Fabius - McGraw residence We don't know much about the McGraw family in the period from their arrivals [1848 and 1850] until 1855.	Exact location was never known but it has been determined to have been in the southeast corner of the town of Fabius.
1a	Cuyler - Edmond McGraw	At the time of the 1855 census Edmond was living on w. Kenney Settlement Road. He has been in the town of Cuyler for 3 months
2	Cuyler - Edmond McGraw & family. Recorded November 10, 1855. It was described as Lot 76, subdivision 1.	The area is now part of a reforestation project thanks to the CCC's in the 1930s. Any root cellar or building foundations might still be found. Hikers on Morgan Hill have told of finding such structures.
2a	Cuyler - Edmond McGraw & family. Recorded February 27, 1867. Lot 76, subdivision 2 on Morgan Hill in Cuyler.	Same as above.
3	Kettlebail Road Edmond McGraw & family. Recorded January 6, 1868.	There were buildings still standing here in 1936. Today the area is part of a reforestation program. The area was totally overgrown in 2001. Some foundations might still be found.
4	West Road, just outside village-Edmond and Mary McGraw -1875	The exact location was never known. It was most likely a rental. See Note 1
5	Morgan Hill - John McGraw & family - 1875 John McGraw was living on a farm near Patrick Gleason and Jerry Burke at the time of the 1875 census. He was probably renting the property.	These farms are gone now but finding the foundations of these old structures is still a possibility.

Res.	Description	Present Status
6	Michael O'Brien farms. Both Michael and John McGraw lived with the O'Briens at different times at different locations. 6a.) In 1870 the Michael O'Brien farm was on Morgan Hill next to his father-in-law Patrick Comerford. 6b.) Between August 1874 and June 1875 the O'Brien family moved to a farm on the North Road, Truxton. The Comerfords moved also and were living close by the O'Briens at the time of the 1875 census. 6c.) At the time of the 1880 census the Michael O'Brien family was living on the West Road next to Daniel Hartnett and near James Long. 6d.) In the 1892 census the O'Brien farm appears to be on the State Road (Route 13) located southwest of the village.	6a.) All the Morgan Hill buildings are gone due to the reforestation projects of the 1930s. 6b.) The history of this North Road structure has not been followed in detail. 6c.) A review of the deeds in the Cortland County Clerk's Office shows that no Comerford purchased land on the West Road in the 1880s. The farm was most likely rented. 6d.) When Michael O'Brien sold the family farm it was located on the State Road (Route 13). The approximate location of this property has been found.
7	Shackham Road - All the McGraws John McGraw purchased this property between June 1875 and June 1880. Family lore has it that all the McGraws lived on this farm on Shackham Road at one time or another.	Nothing was left here in 2001 and no foundations were found in the vicinity of where the old homestead should have been. Possible connection of this area with the McGrath gravestones on Shackham Road.
8	North Road - John McGraw John was living on a farm next to his brother-in-law John Comerford at the time of the 1880 census.	This is where the family was living when John's wife, the former Ellen Comerford, and three of their children died over a five-week period. This farm was on the east side of the North Road next to his brother-in-law John Comerford. It has probably been replaced or demolished.
9	Sky High Road, Tully - James Miles farm Michael McGraw was working and living on the James Miles farm at the time of the 1880 census.	The Miles family farm has been researched in detail and it has been determined that they were not connected to the Rooney sisters. The Miles family was of the Protestant faith, not Catholic as were the Rooneys.

Res.	Description	Present Status
10	Village of Truxton - John McGraw Move in: Fall 1883 - 1884 A rental house in the Village of Truxton across the road from the Truxton House Hotel.	This was a rental house across Main Street from the Truxton House hotel that was run by the widow Mary Goddard.
11	West Road - John McGraw Recorded November 6, 1890 in the Cortland County Clerk's Office. In 1889 John McGraw was listed in the Truxton directory as occupying 6 acres of land. His was occupying this farm before he purchased in it 1890.	By 1892 John and Mary had split up and neither were living on the farm anymore. There are newer buildings on the property today.
12	North Road - Michael McGraw farm Purchased prior to March 24, 1893. Recorded at Cortland County Clerk's Office April 4, 1893.	Family lore claims the homestead burned to the ground 1911-1915. Evidence indicates that the structure lasted into the 1930s. The barn was gone by the 1960s. The foundation of a root cellar found in 2001.
13	Truxton - John Miller Jr. farm. John McGraw boarded with the John Miller family.	This farm had been located on the North Road and it is no longer standing.
14	North Road - Cornelius O'Connor farm On North Road.	This farm was on the west side of the North Road and was two farms closer to the village than Michael McGraw's farm. It has been determined that none of the McGraw family ever resided there.
15	Village of Truxton - John O'Connor Hotel This was formerly known as the Truxton House Hotel in the village of Truxton. The hotel was operated by the widow, Mary Twentyman Goddard, at that former time.	This was located right at the center of town on the SE side of where Main St curved south.
16	Village of Truxton - William & Anna Ryan This home was in the village of Truxton. Anna Ryan was the former Anna O'Brien whose mother was Julia Comerford, sister of Ellen Comerford, John McGraw's first wife.	Location was on the south side of the State road (Route 13), three residences from the Catholic Church going toward the village. It was the Ransford property in the 1874 village map. There are all modern structures along that section of the road now.

Res.	Description	Present Status
17	Village of Truxton - John O'Donnell house - Prospect Street. The family left the farm house on the North Road and moved into the village of Truxton in May 1911. See Note 2	On the north side of Prospect Street. It was only one block long and the first houses were on the north side of the street. It is still be in existence and is occupied by Bob O'Donnell who is a 1 st cousin, once removed from John O'Donnell.
18	Village of Truxton - Prospect & Main 3721 Route 13, Main St., Truxton, NY In 1915	This property was abandoned for quite a while and got run down. The village took it over for back taxes in 1983. In about 1991 the house was demolished and the corner was turned into a memorial for Andy Tei, a local sportsman.

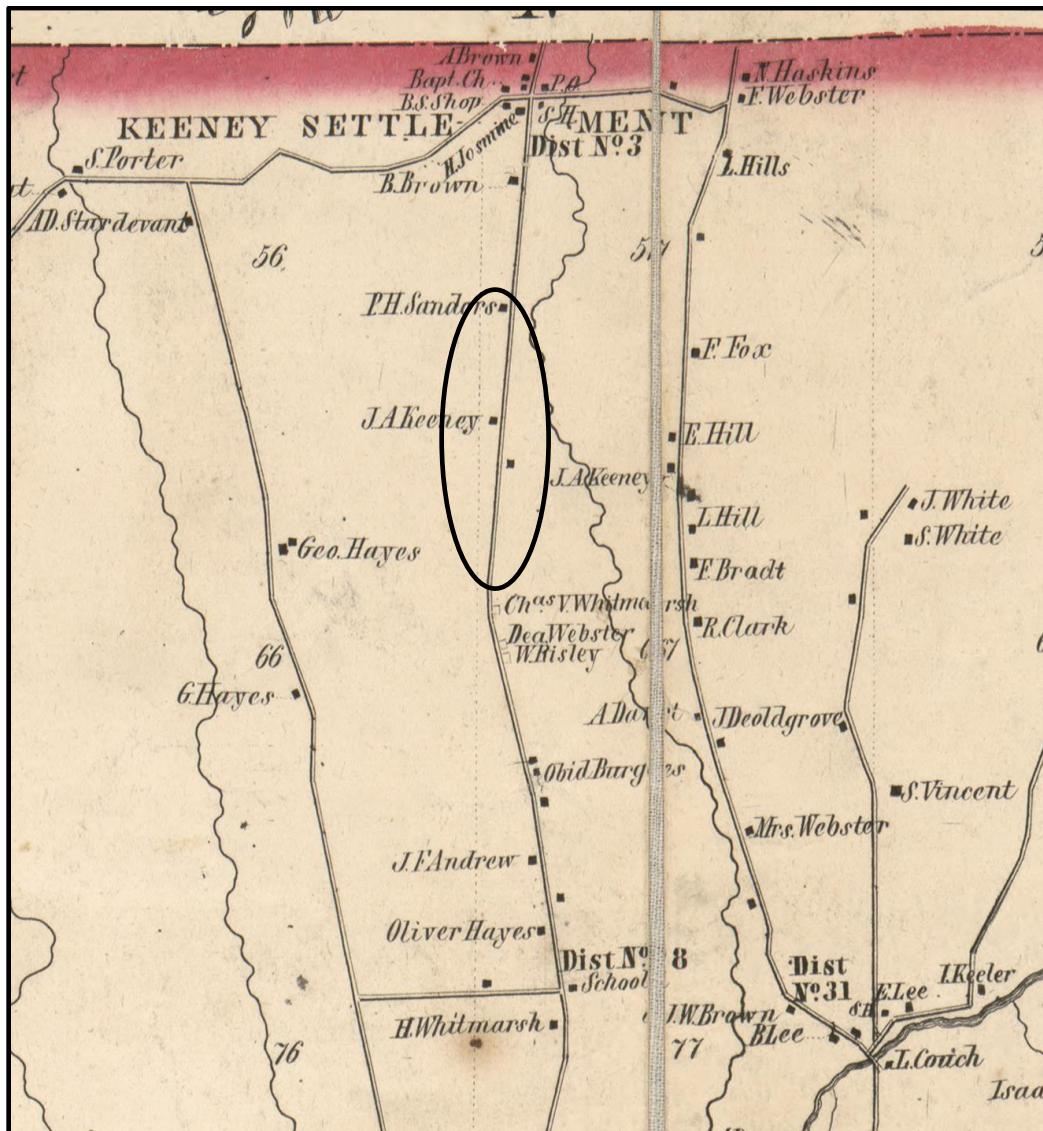
Note 1 - After comparing the 1875 Truxton census to the 1876 Truxton map it could be seen that the census taker was working his way down the West Road heading into the village when he encountered Edmond and Mary McGraw. They were living on the West Road probably less than a mile outside the village.

Note 2 - This John O'Donnell was the son of Emmett O'Donnell who was the brother of the older John O'Donnell - Refer to [The O'Donnell Families](#) document.



This circa 1983 photo shows the former Michael and Alice McGraw residence (#18) at the northwest corner of Prospect and Main Streets in the village of Truxton. In 1915 the family moved here from John O'Donnell's rent house on Prospect Street.

Residence 1a - Cuyler - Edmond McGraw



Source: Map of Cortland County, New York. Published Eneas Smith, Cortland, NY, 1855

1855 - Northeastern part of the Town of Truxton which later became the Town of Cuyler. The oval indicates approximately where on the West Kenney Road that Edmond McGraw was renting a farm at the time of the 1855 census.

1855 NY Cortland Truxton ED01

Enumerator - Kenny Patrick

Pg 5 - June 5, 1855

Res 37, Log, \$15, Fam 37 (This portion of Truxton became the Town of Cuyler in 1857)

Edmond McGraw, 36, Ireland, 2/12, Farmer, Naturalized, Owns land

Mary McGraw, 41, Wife, Ireland, 2/12, Alien

Michael McGraw, 11, Son, Ireland, Alien

John McGraw, 10, Son, Ireland, Alien

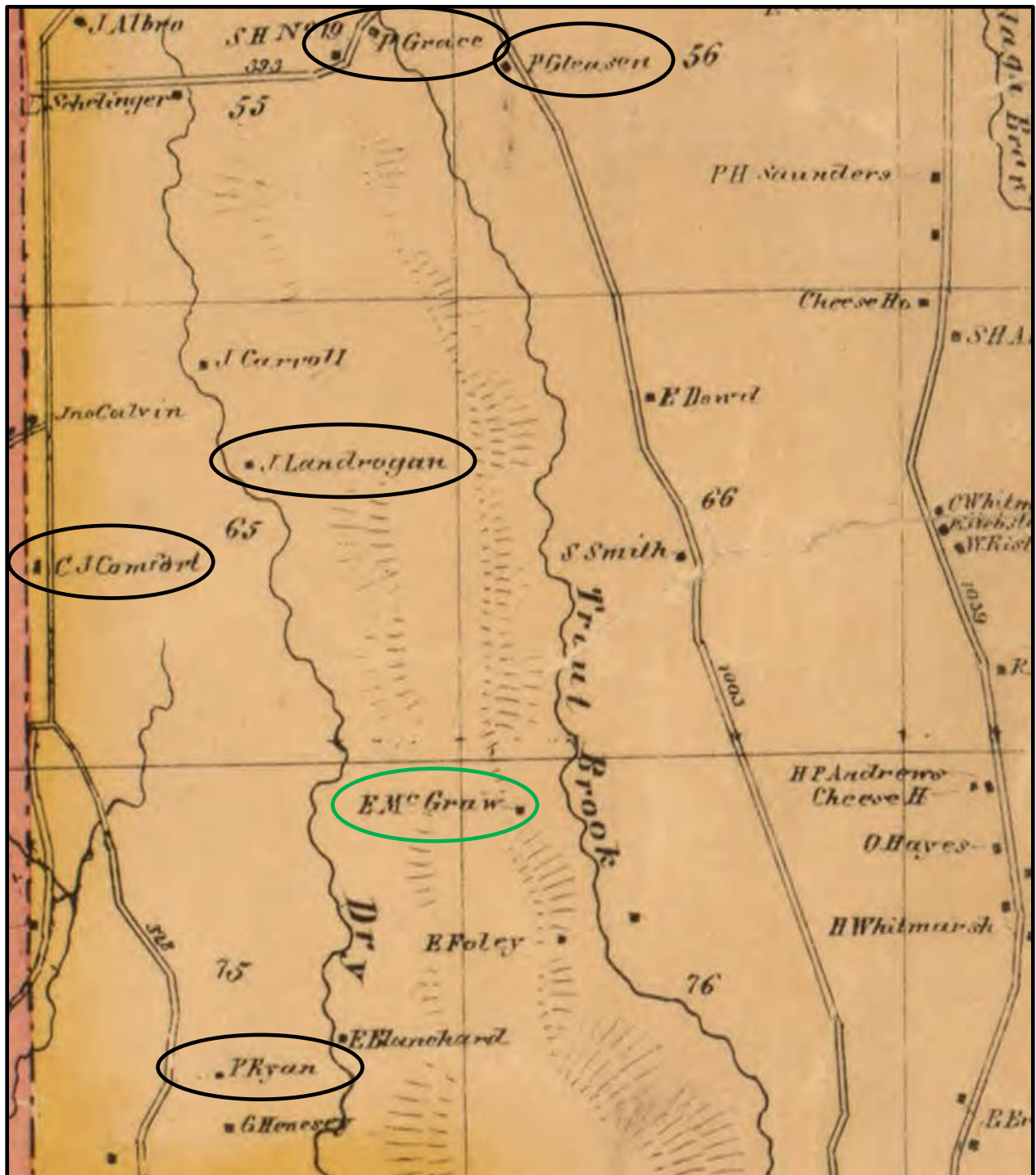
The 1855 agricultural census records for the town of Truxton are not on the Ancestry site or the FamilySearch site. A search of the Onondaga and Cortland County land records showed that Edmond had not purchased any land in either county prior to 1855. Perhaps he confused “owning land” with “renting land.”

Res No.	1855 “Cuyler” Census	1855 Map	1863 Map
30	Benjamin Brown	✓	
31	Simon Morse		
32	Clarissa Webster		
33	Joseph Keith		
34	Perry H. Saunders	✓	✓
35	J. Alonzo Keeney	✓	
36	Enoch Rood		
37	Edmond McGraw	No	Note 1
38	George Hays	✓	
39	A. O. Studevant	✓	
40	Charles H. Whitmarsh	✓	✓
41	Eli Webster		

These individuals were living on West Keeney Road. The list runs north to south, starting at Kenney Settlement.

Note 1: Edmond McGraw was on the 1863 map but his farm was no longer on the West Kenney Road. It was on Lot 76, on Morgan Hill, but still in the town of Cuyler.

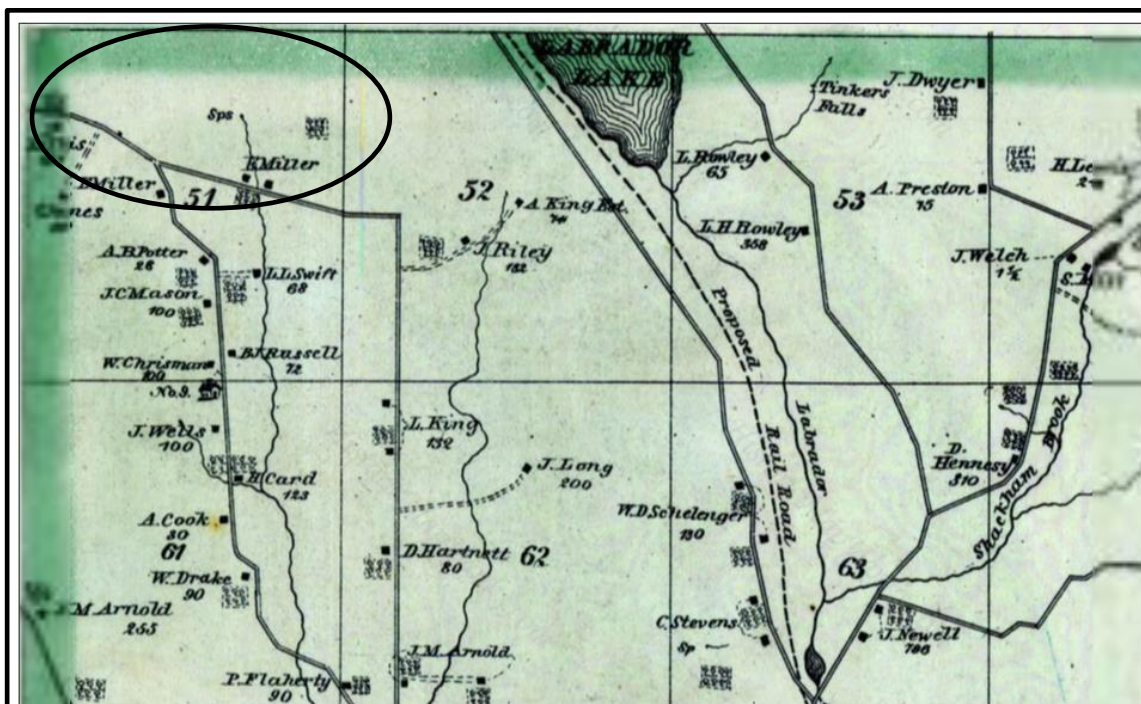
Residence 2 - Edmond McGraw & Family



Source: Map of the counties of Chenango and Cortland, New York. Published by A. Pomeroy & S. W. Treat, Philadelphia, 1863.

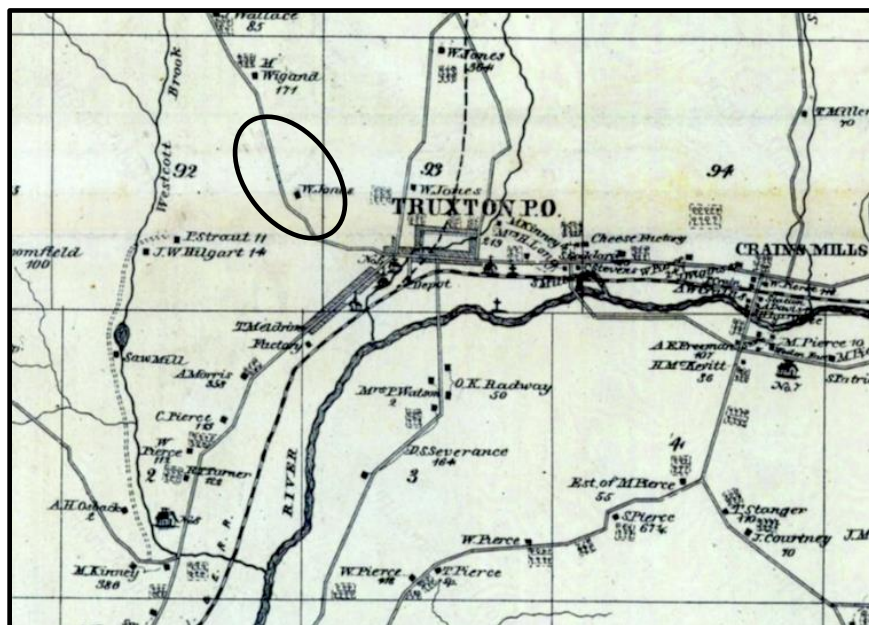
Edmond McGraw's farm (Residence 2) on Subdivision 1 on Lot 76 is shown by the green oval. The other Morgan Hill residents that have been described in other papers are indicated by black ovals. Residence 2a is Subdivision 2 also in lot 76 was located just to the east of Subdivision 1.

Residence 3 - Kettlebail Road - Edmond McGraw & Family



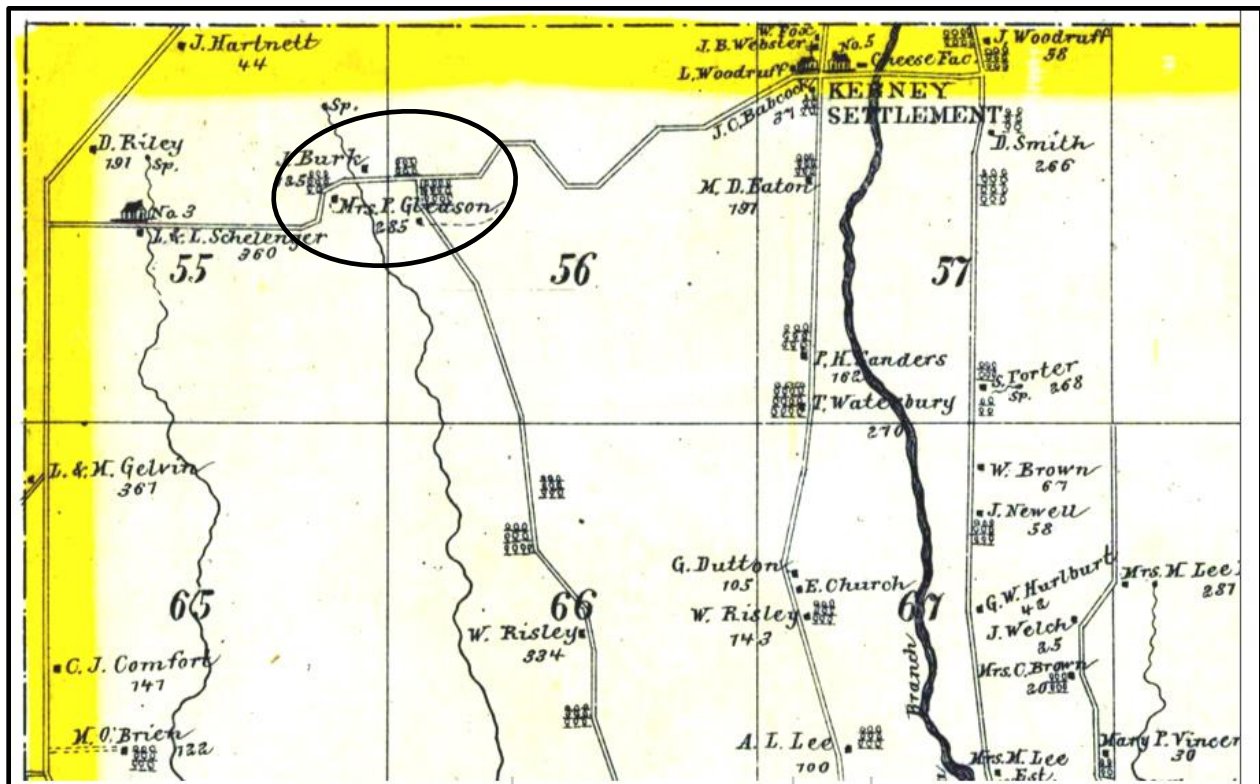
The above 1876 map shows the northwestern corner of the Town of Truxton. The 255 acres owned by Edmond and his sons Michael and John and nephew Thomas Sheahan had gone through foreclosure in 1874. E. Miller who had held the McGraw's mortgage purchased the property at the foreclosure sale.

Residence 4 West Road - Edmond and Mary McGraw - 1875



Edmond and Mary were mostly renting a place to live. The exact location isn't known but the sequence of names in the 1875 census gave its location as the West Road just outside Truxton.

Residence 5 - John McGraw & Family - 1875



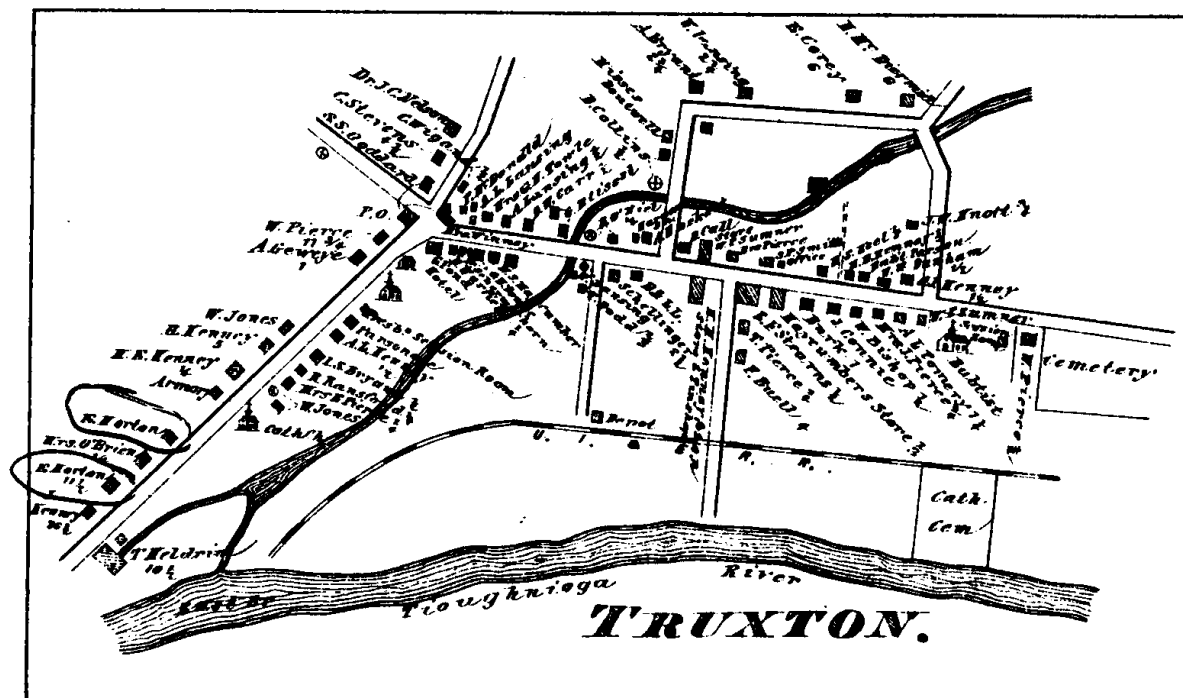
This is a 1876 map showing a portion of Morgan Hill in the northwestern corner of the town of Cuyler. The fact that John McGraw was residing next to Patrick Gleason (black oval) came from the 1875 census. At the time of the 1875 census Comfort (Comerford) and O'Brien (lower left hand corner) were residing on the North Road out of the village of Truxton and were no longer on Morgan Hill as depicted in this 1876 map.

Residence 6 - Michael O'Brien

The property described below is not any of the properties associated with Michael O'Brien earlier in this paper. Residence 6a can be seen in the lower left hand corner of the map for Residence 5 above.

Date	Grantor	Grantee	Bk, Pg (IMG)	Location
1872	Kirtland Arnold	Michael O'Brien	53, 554	Truxton Lot 93
Date of Indenture:		April 1, 1872		
Grantor:		Kirtland C. Arnold of the Town of Truxton in Cortland County and State of New York		
Grantee:		Michael O'Brien of the town of Cuyler in said County		
Amount:		\$800		
Description:		All that Tract or Parcel of Land situate in the town of Truxton, aforesaid, on <u>Lot number ninty - three</u> and bounded as follows to wit: On the south easterly side by the Turnpike Road, on the west, north and east by the lands of Edward Morton , and known as the "Old School House Lot," being the same land deeded to John M. Coats by Leonard Bliss and wife on the 20 th day of February, 1867, and containing about forty-five rods of land, more or less."		
45 sq rods = 0.281 acres				
Date Recorded:		April 1, 1872		

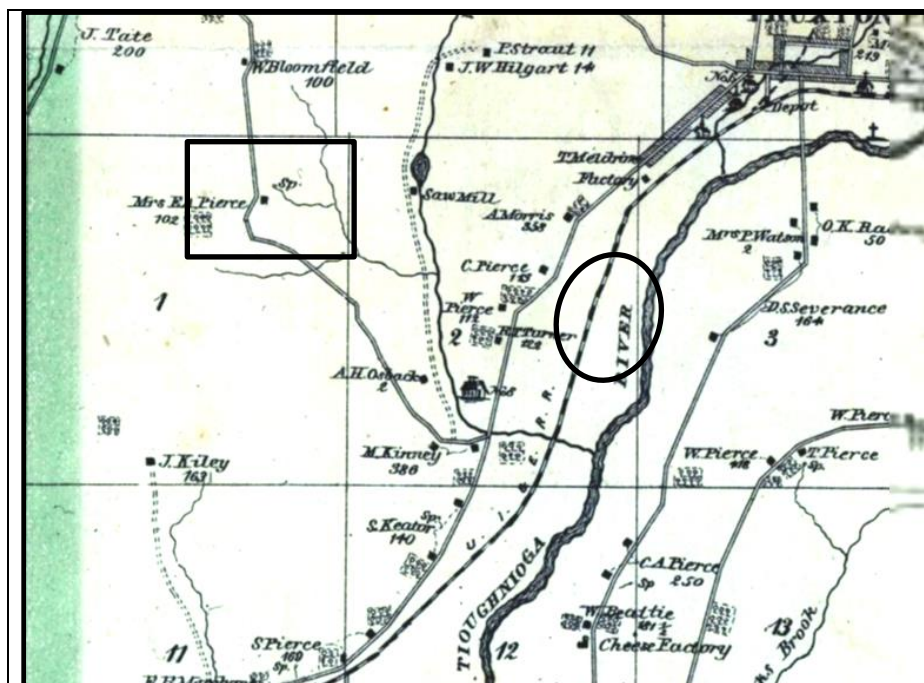
Truxton Village - 1876



The above map shows the individuals residing in the village of Truxton in 1876. In the lower left hand corner of the map the "Old School House Lot," owned by Mrs. O'Brien, is shown surrounded by the land owned by E. Morton as described in the deed above. At this time the O'Briens still owned land on Morgan Hill and would continue to hold it for some years to come. At the time of the 1875 census Michael O'Brien also had a farm on the North Road.

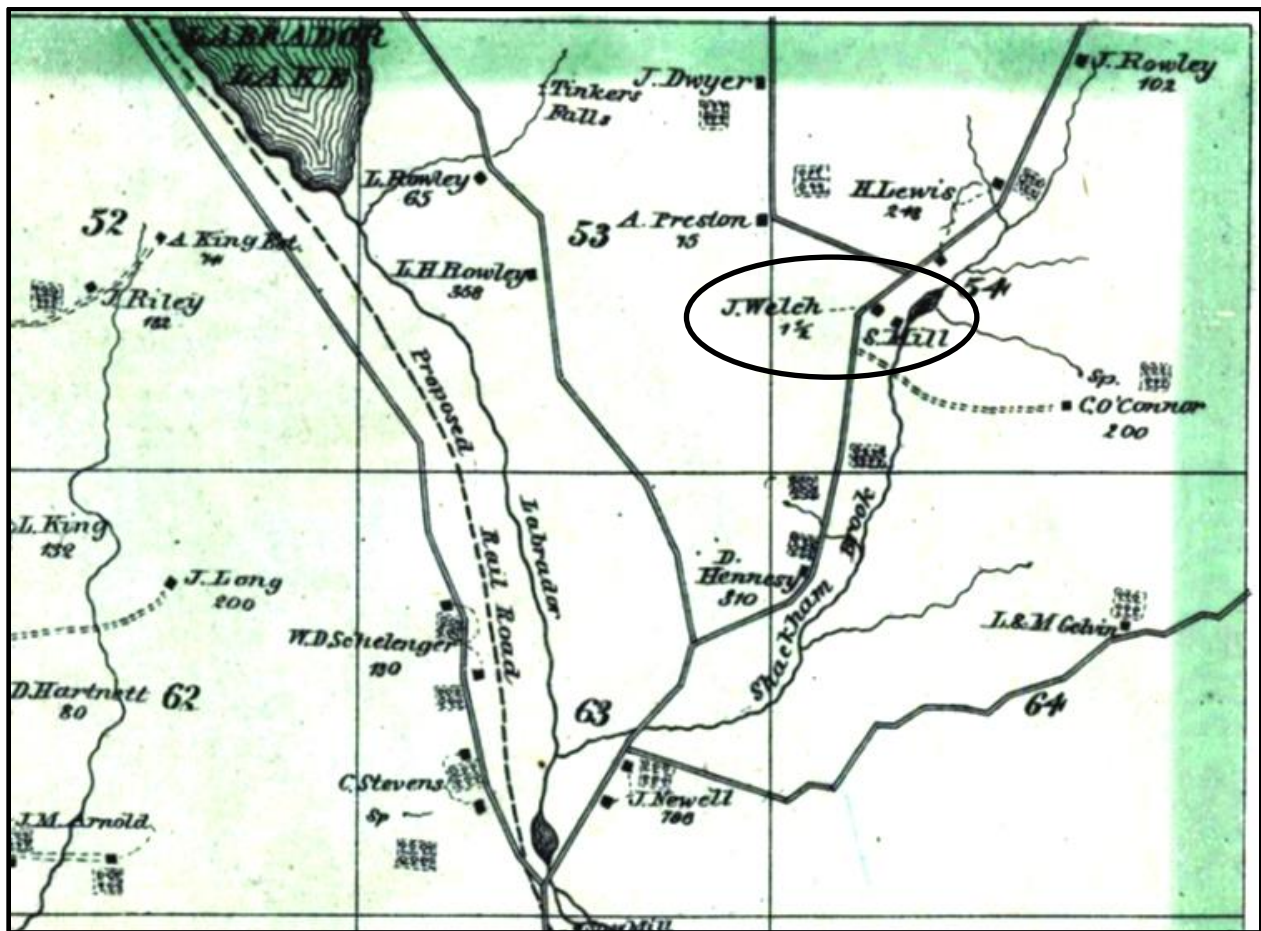
Residence 6d - O'Brien Farm

Date	Grantor	Grantee	Bk, Pg (IMG)	Location
1909	Robert T. Turner	Julia O'Brien	117, 130	Truxton Lots 1 & 2 225 acres
Date of Indenture:		November 1, 1909		
Grantor:		Robert T. Turner and Helen B. Turner his wife of the City of Elmira, Chemung County, New York		
Grantee:		Julia O'Brien of the Town of Truxton, County of Cortland and State of New York.		
Amount:		\$4,000		
Description:		All that Tract of Parcel of Land situate on Lot Number two in the Town of Truxton, County of Cortland and State New York, bounded as follows, viz: On the north by land formerly belonging to Alonzo McKnight, on the east by lands formerly owned by John Severance, on the south and west by lands formerly belonging to one Kinney, containing about <u>one hundred and twenty five acres of land</u>, more or less, excepting and reserving therefrom the right of way running across said farm, now owned or used by the Lehigh Valley Railroad Company. Also all That Certain Piece of Land on Lot number one in the Town of Truxton, aforesaid, bounded as follows, to wit: Beginning at the north-east corner of said lot and running <u>thence south</u> twenty seven chains and fifty links, <u>thence west</u> thirty-six chains and thirty-seven and one-half links; <u>thence north</u> twenty-seven chains and fifty links; <u>thence east</u> thirty-six chains and thirty-seven and a half links to the place of beginning, containing <u>one hundred acres of land</u> more or less; And being the same premises occupied by the said party of the second part for many years last past, under a contract.		
Date Recorded:		November 4, 1909		



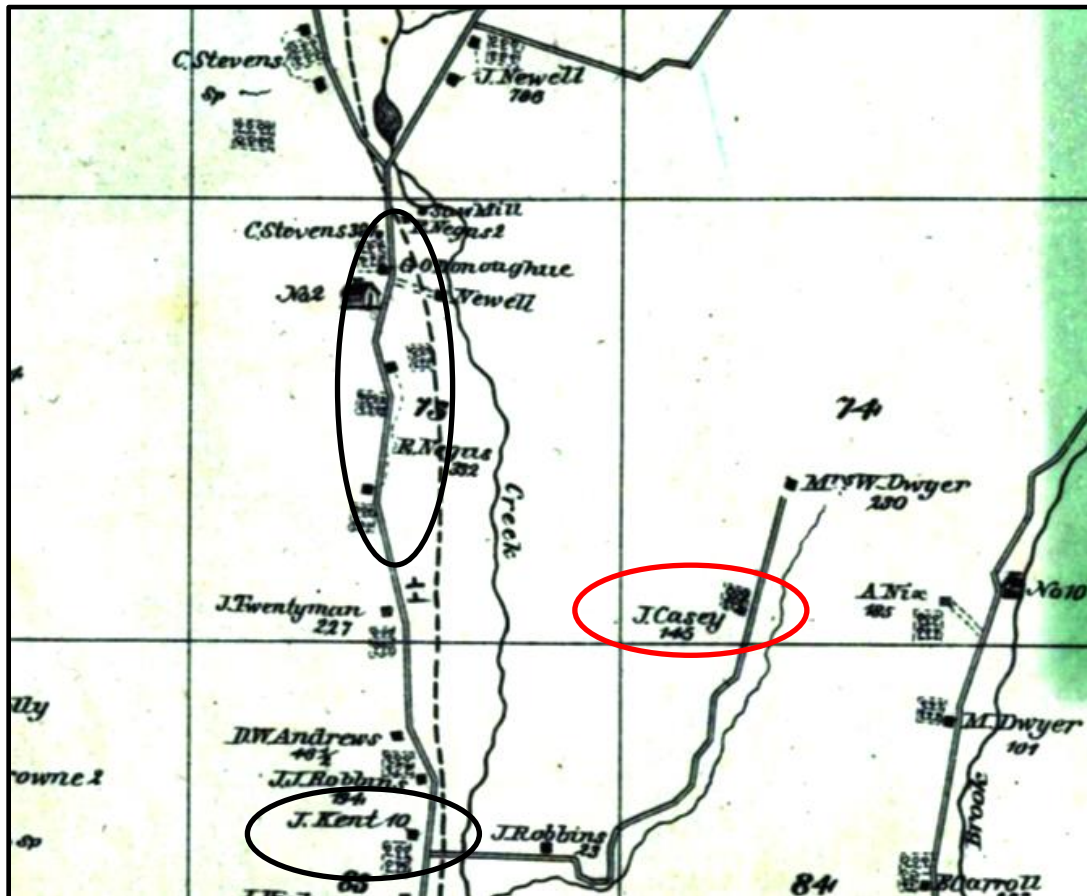
In this 1876 map the rectangle in Lot 1 is accurate in location and size. The oval representing the land in Lot 2 is approximate in size and location.

Residence 7 - Shackham Road - All the McGraws



This 1876 map shows the northeast corner of the Town of Truxton. The black oval greatly over emphasizes the actual property which is only 1.5 acres in size. It was the former J. Welch farm — if 1.5 acres can be described as a farm.

Residence 8 - North Road - John McGraw



This 1876 map shows a central portion of the Town of Truxton with the North Road running north and south across the map. It isn't known for certain where the John McGraw's farm in the early 1880s was located but it is believed to have been with the vertical black oval. School House No. 2 was purchased and moved north to Berry Road in Apulia in the Town of Fabius in the late 1940. It became the home of John Casey and his family. Casey's wife, the former Evelyn Stack was the sister of the author's mother. John Casey's grandfather was the J. Casey in the red oval. In addition the author's grandfather, Edward McGraw (John McGraw's nephew) taught school in the old school house before it was moved.

Residence 12 - North Road - Michael McGraw Farm

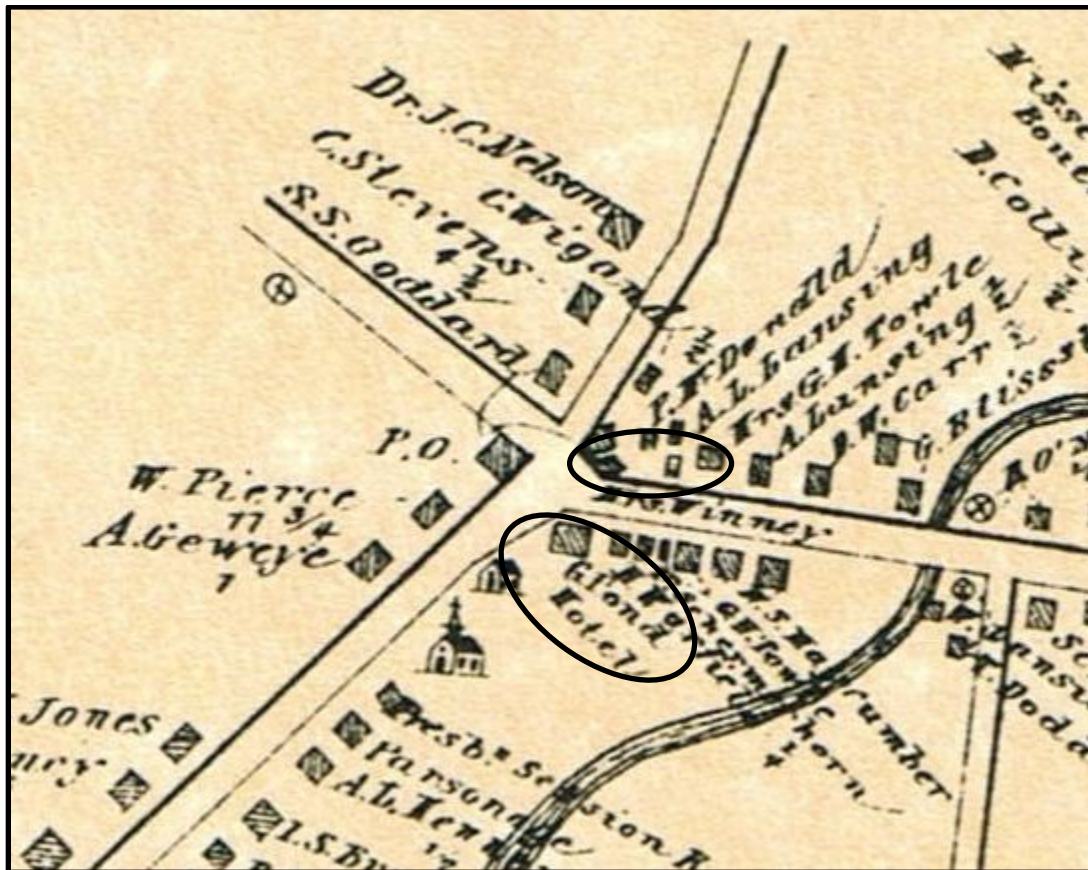
The horizontal black oval on the above map belong to J. Kent in 1876. In 1893 Michael McGraw purchased the former Kent farm and moved his family and his parents on to the 10 acre farm.

Residence 9 - Sky High Road, Tully - James Miles Farm



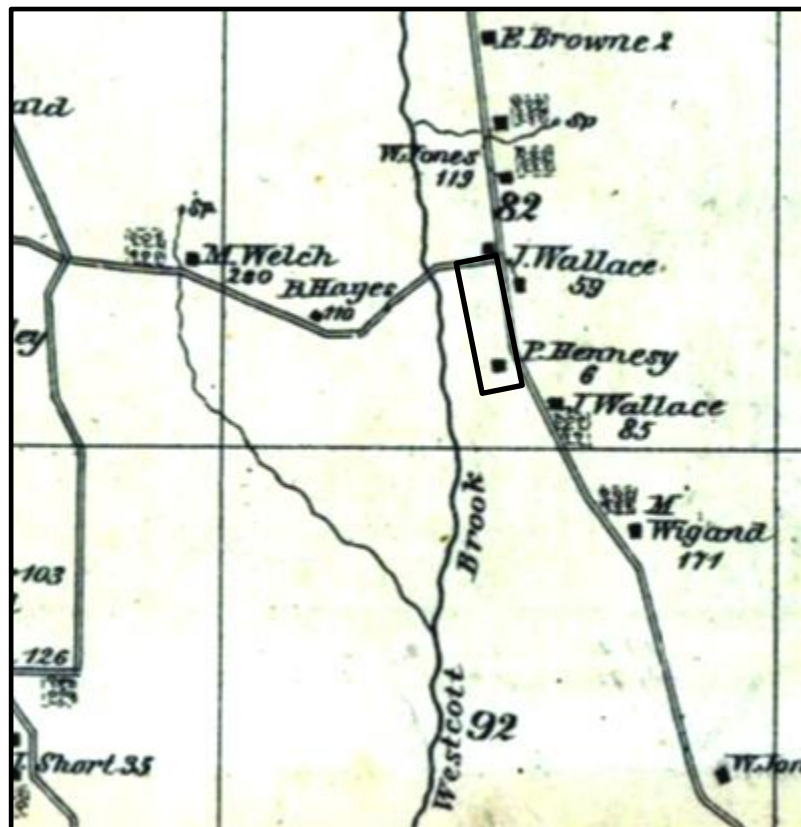
Residence 10 - Village of Truxton - John McGraw

The black oval on the north side of the main street shows the approximate location of the rental house John McGraw and his remaining children were occupying by 1884 after they moved into the village. The most precise location of this house was that it was “right across from mrs. Goddard’s hotel.”⁴¹



Residence 11 West Road - John McGraw

Date	Grantor	Grantee	Bk, Pg (IMG)	Location
1890	Jeremiah O'Connor	John McGraw	84, 412	Truxton lot 82
Date of Indenture:		November 26, 1890		
Grantor:		Jeremiah O'Connor of the Town of Truxton, Cortland Co., NY		
Grantee:		John McGraw of the same place		
Amount:		\$350		
Description:		All that Tract or Parcel of Land, situate in the Town of Truxton County of Cortland and State of New York being a part of lot No. 82 & bounded & described as follows viz: Beginning in the center of the highway leading from Truxton to Tully (West Road) at a point where the north line between lands formerly owned by J. M. Coates and John Rorapaugh intersects said road and running thence <u>north</u> along the center of the said road to the center of the highway which leads westerly past said J. M. Coates sawmill. Thence <u>westerly</u> along the center of such highway far enough so that a line parallel with said first mentioned line to intersect the north line between said Coates and said Rorapaugh & from thence to the place of beginning. Containing <u>six and one half acres</u> of land more or less.		
Date Recorded:		November 26, 1890		

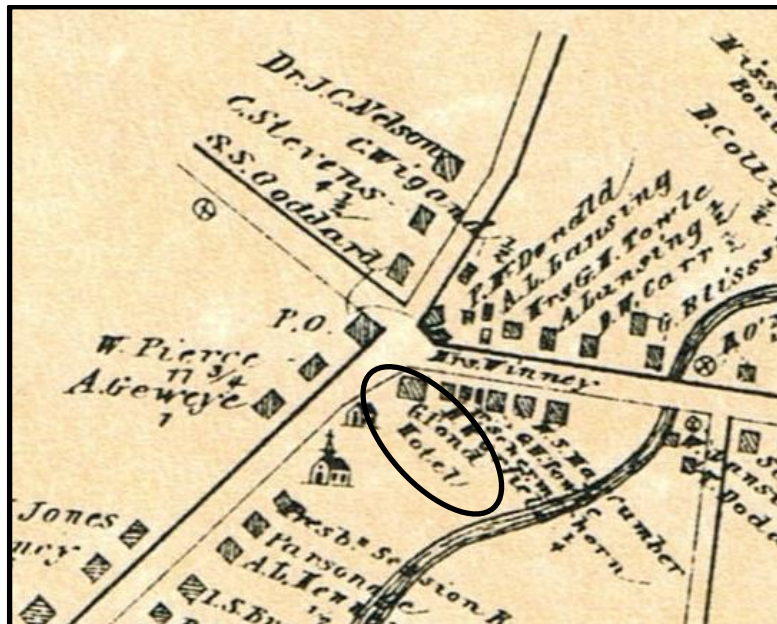


The 1876 map shows a portion of the West Road just a short ways out of the village of Truxton. The property John McGraw purchased in 1890 was the 6 acres owned by P. Hennesy in 1876. The black rectangle shows the approximate extension of this property.

Residence 15 - John O'Connor Hotel

The hotel on the southeast corner of the main crossroads in the Village of Truxton had gone through [a number of proprietors](#). In this 1876 map the hotel is seen to be the Pond Hotel. Later it would be called The Truxton House when the widow Mrs. Goddard was running it. John O'Connor would later take over the hotel and it became the O'Connor Hotel. In 1904 the hotel was destroyed by fire but O'Connor had it rebuilt.

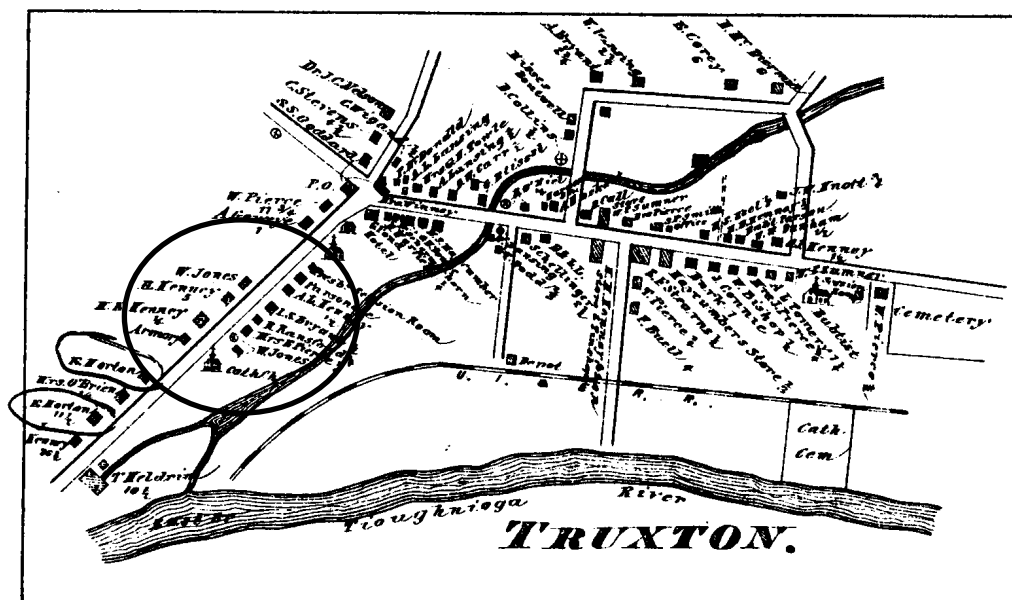
Not long after John's father moved the family into the village John J. ran away from their small house across from the hotel and sought refuge at the hotel. Mrs. Goddard, the proprietor, took John in and let him work there. Later, after it had become the O'Connor Hotel John McGraw, the father would be found residing there and John J. would sometimes stay at the hotel when he was back in town during the baseball off-season.



The rebuilt O'Connor Hotel after the 1904 fire destroyed the old hotel (The Truxton House)

Residence 16 - Village of Truxton - William & Anna Ryan

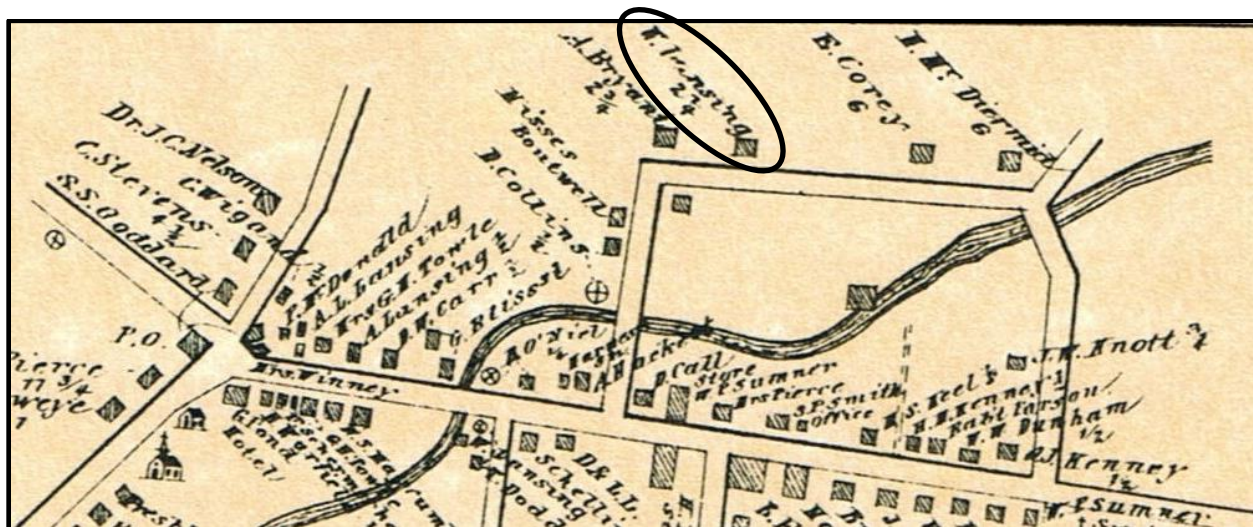
Date	Grantor	Grantee	Bk, Pg (IMG)	Location
1905	Jane E. Hellganz	William Ryan	107, 471	Truxton Lot 93
Date of Indenture:		January 20, 1905		
Grantor:		Jane E. Hellganz of Marcellus, N.Y.		
Grantee:		William Ryan of Truxton, NY		
Amount:		None given		
Description:		All That Tract or Parcel of Land situate in the Town of Truxton, County of Cortland and State of New York, on Lot number ninty-three (93) and described as follows, to wit: Beginning in the south east bounds of the old turnpike road at the north corner of a village lot lately occupied by Mrs. Eliazer Pierce and running thence <u>northeasterly</u> along the southeast bounds said road forty eight feet, thence <u>southeasterly</u> in a straight line to the southwest side of the body of the northwest Northern Spy Apple tree, and thence <u>in a straight line in the same direction</u> to the center of the Labrador creek thence <u>southwesterly</u> down the center of said creek to the east corner of said lot so lately occupied by said Mrs. Pierce; thence <u>northwesterly</u> along the line of said village lot to the place of beginning, containing more or less — blank Subject to a reservation of a right to enter for the purpose of repairing cellar drain, as contained in a deed from Isaac S. Bryan and wife to Lorina Ransford, dated October 14th, 1871, recorded in Cortland County Clerk's Office, October 17, 1871, in Book No. 53 of Deeds at page 257. Being the same premises conveyed by Wm. H. Foster to Jane E. Hillganz by deed bearing date the Twentieth day of January, 1905.		
Date Recorded:		January 20, 1905		



1874 Map of the Village of Truxton. Inside the black oval can be seen names that were mentioned in the legal description above: Mrs. E. Pierce, R. Ransford and I. S. Bryan. The old turnpike is the road running in front of these properties and Labrador Creek is the stream running behind these properties.

Residence 17 - Village of Truxton - John O'Donnell House - Prospect St

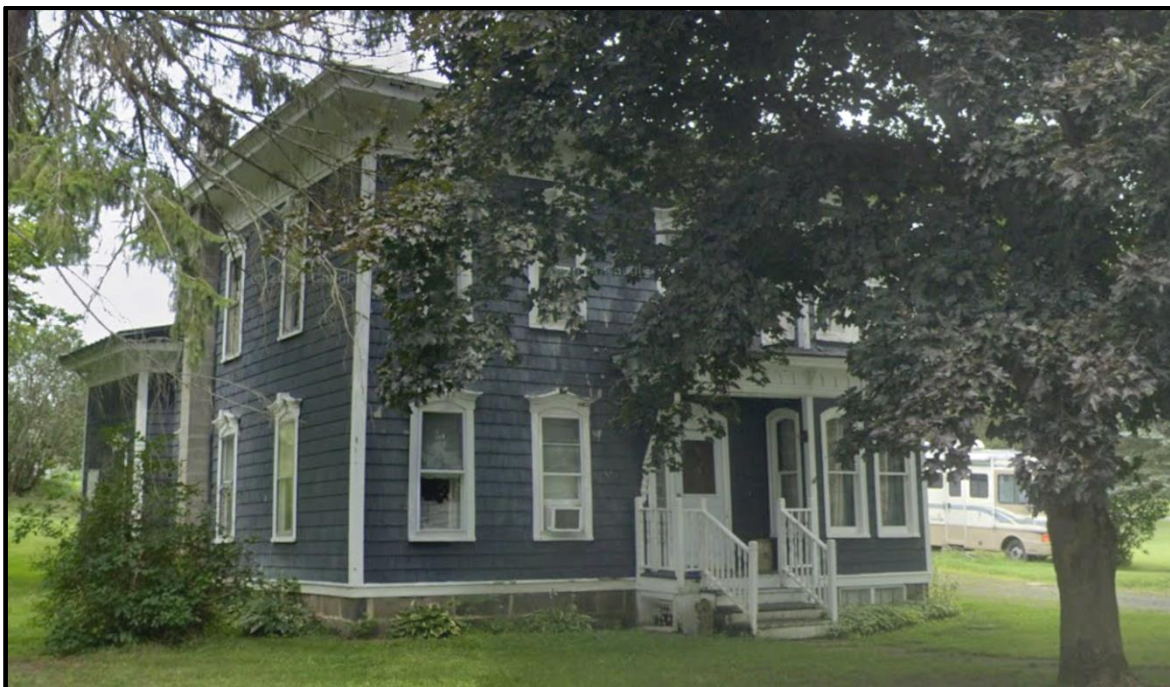
Main Street runs from the cross roads on the left of the map and runs diagonally across the map. Prospect Street (originally called Maiden Lane) runs north, perpendicular to Main Street in the center of the map. It then makes a 90° right turn and intersects the North Road (now Route 91). John O'Donnell bought his house on Prospect Street from John Connic in 1883. Connic had purchased the same property from the Lansings in 1879. The property can be seen as the 2nd property from the corner (in the black oval) where Prospect makes a 90-degree turn to the east.



1876 Map of the central portion of the Village of Truxton.

Date	Grantor	Grantee	Bk, Pg (IMG)	Location
1884	John H. Connic	John O'Donnell	76, 174	Truxton Lot 93
Date of Indenture:		April 16, 1884		
Grantor:		John Connic and Celestia B. Connic his wife both of Truxton, Cortland, NY		
Grantee:		John O'Donnell of the same place		
Amount:		\$500		
Description:		All that tract or parcel of land, situate in the Town of Truxton, County of Cortland and State of New York on <u>lot no. 93</u> and bounded and described as follows to wit: Beginning in the <u>north bounds of the highway</u> at the southeast corner of the Village lot formerly owned by Almeda Gage and now owned by Ruth E. Curtis and running <u>Thence east</u> in the north bounds of the highway to lands formerly owned by Milo Pierce and now owned by Frances Smith. <u>Thence north</u> along the west line of said Smith land and of the lands of Abigail Corey to the south line of lands of Wm. A. Jones. <u>Thence west</u> along said south line of said Jones land to a right angle corner in said Jones land. <u>Thence south</u> along said Jones east line to the north line of said Curtis land. <u>Thence east</u> on said Curtis north line to her northeast corner. <u>Thence south</u> along the east line of said Curtis land to the place of beginning. Containing <u>two acres and forty eight rods of land</u> more or less. And being the same lands conveyed by a deed executed by Edward		

	Hicks to party of the 1st part Jan 18, 1883 & recorded in the Cortland County Clerk's Office Jan 19, 1883 in Lib 71 of deeds at page 167. By this deed it is intended to convey an undivided one half of a well situate on the line between the premises above described & the village lot aforesaid belonging to Ruth E. Curtis together with the undivided one half of the pump now in said well.
Date Recorded:	April 17, 1884



House at 3749 Prospect Street, Truxton, NY - August 2023

Could these be the same house?



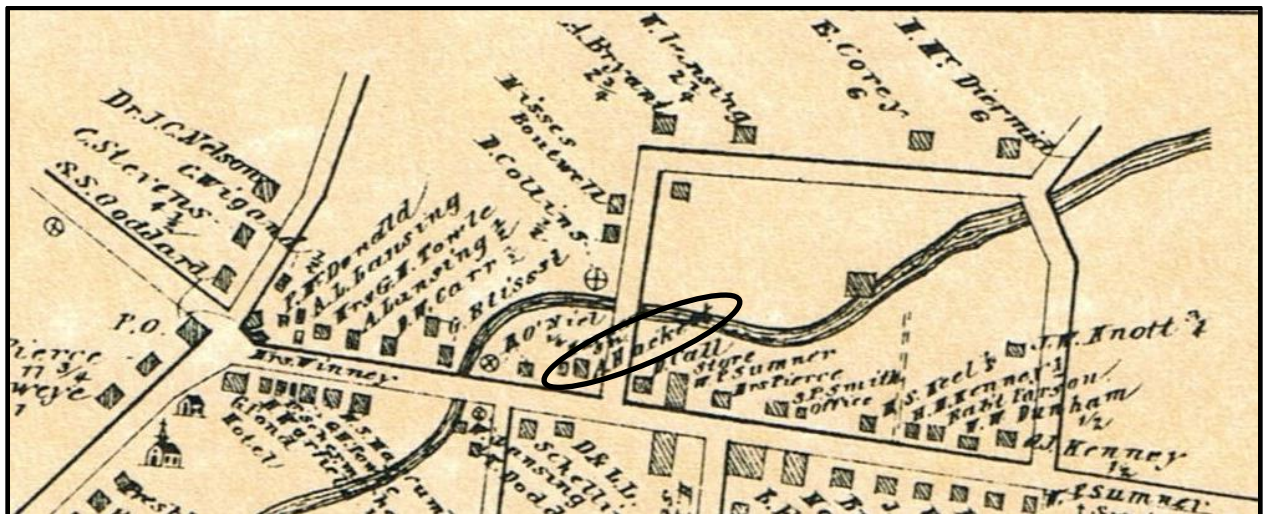
Michael and Alice McGraw on the front porch of the O'Donnell rent house in 1913.



August - 2023. House at the approximate location of the O'Donnell rent house. 3749 Prospect Street

Residence 18 - Village of Truxton - Michael McGraw - Prospect & Main

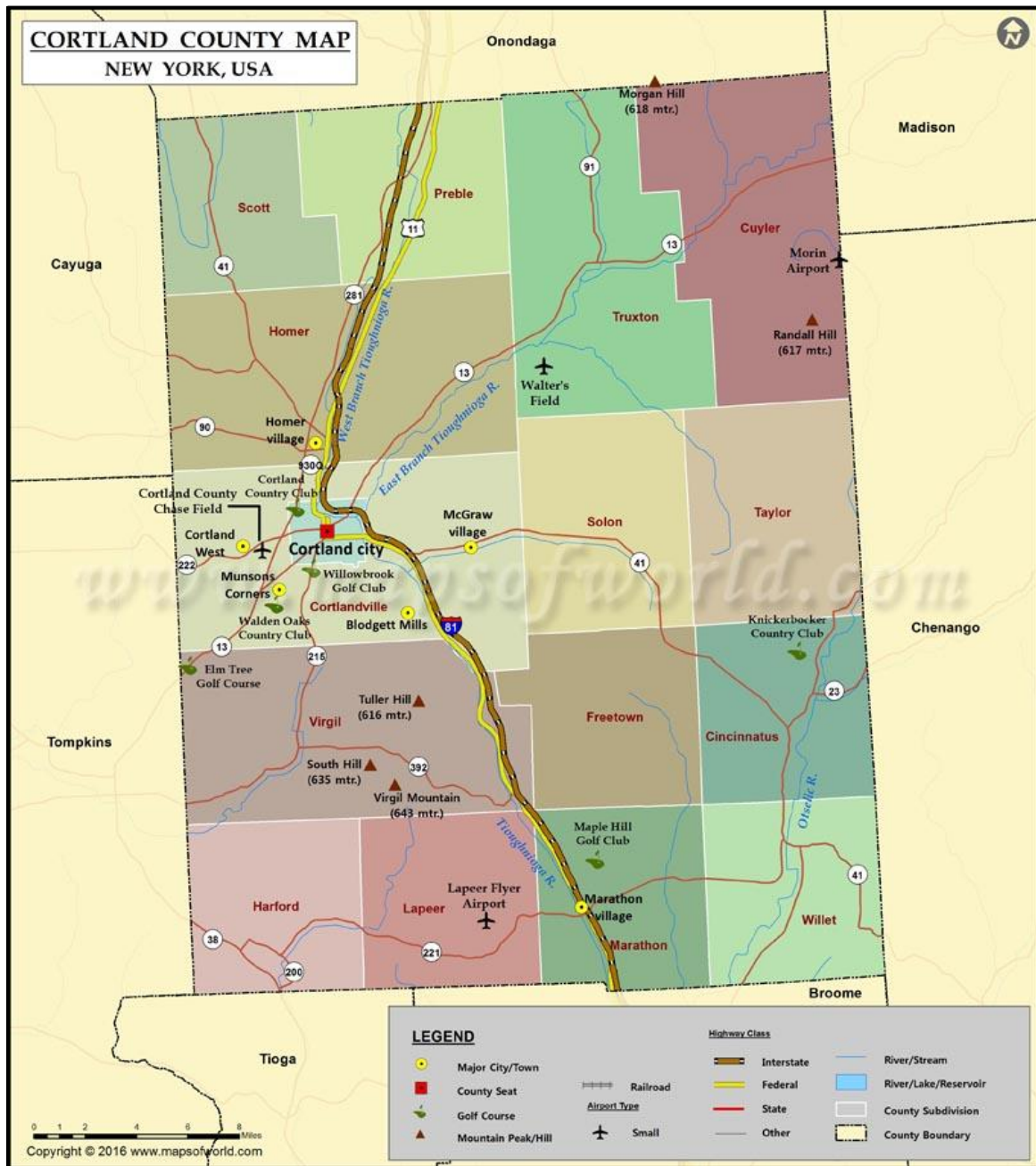
The McGraw property was on the northwest corner of Main and Prospect Streets, in a black oval. In the 1876 map that property was owned by A. Hackett.



1876 Map of the central portion of the Village of Truxton.

All the 1876 maps in this section came from: Combination Atlas Map of Cortland County, New York, Published by Everts, Ensign and Everts, 714 & 716 Filbert St., Philadelphia, PA, 1876

Map of Cortland County



Source: [Maps of the World](http://www.mapsofworld.com)

1870 Agricultural Census - Reduced

		10. James Long	11. Edmund McGraw	22. Patrick Flaherty	27. Patrick McDonald	10. John Twentymen	17. John Casey	18. Cornelius O'Connor
Improved Land (acres)	2	60	200	70	210	170	100	150
Woodland (acres)	3	140	62	10	50	60	40	50
Other Unimproved (acres)	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Value of Farm (\$)	5	4000	9500	2500	21360	11500	5320	10300
Value of Farm Impl & Machinery (\$)	6	200	200	100	300	200	—	200
Wages and Board Paid	7	—	135	—	301	600	150	365
Horses	8	2	2	—	4	3	2	4
Mules and Asses	9	—	—	2 mules	—	—	—	—
Milch Cows	10	10	32	14	40	33	20	30
Working Oxen	11	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Other Cattle	12	—	10	3	6	12	7	9
Sheep	13	—	—	—	9	2	—	7
Swine	14	3	1	3	7	8	2	8
Value of all livestock	15	945	2570	1575	3050	2560	2150	2404
Indian Corn (bushels)	19	—	—	—	—	75	—	—
Oats (bushels)	20	100	—	70	300	50	—	100
Wool (lbs.)	26	—	—	—	30	50	50	—
Irish Potatoes (bushels)	28	200	150	60	300	150	250	50
Orchard Products (\$)	30	—	—	10	35	15	50	15
Butter (lbs.)	33	900	1500	1700	6000	4000	6500	300
Cheese (lbs.)	34	—	6000	—	—	—	—	5300
Milk Sold (gallons)	35	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hays (tons)	36	9	90	40	100	100	108	50
Maple Syrup (lbs.)	44	—	—	—	—	200	200	700
Forest Products (\$)	49	—	180	—	—	60	—	100
Value of Home Mfg (\$)	50	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Value of animals slaughtered or sold to be slaughtered (\$)	51	126	291	160	499	213	240	179
Est value of all farm production	52	677	2902	1280	3846	2378	2484	1961

Another Nellie McGraw

US Census Records

1910 NY Cortland Cortland WD04 Dist 0116

29 North Church Street, Res 49 Fam 65, Owns home free of a mortgage

Lemuel H. McGraw, Head, 66, M1, 42 yrs, NY, Unknown, Unknown, Own Income

Zena McGraw, Wife, 67, M1, 42 yrs, Children: 0/0, Mass, Mass, Mass, None

Amelia Barker, Sister-in-law, 73, W, Children: 1/1, Mass, Mass, Mass, None

1905 NY Cortland Cortland WD04 ED01

29 North Church Street

Lemuel McGraw, Head, 62, US, Cit, Farmer, OA

Xennie M. McGraw, 62, US, Cit, Dressmaker, OA

Amelia Barker, Sister-in-law, 68, US, Cit

Perl J. Peckham, Head, Male, 40, US, Cit, Barber, Emp

Nellie Peckham, Wife, 38, US, Cit, Housework

Lloyd Peckham, Son, 7, US, Cit, School (9 mo)

1900 NY Cortland Cortland WD04 Dist 0092

29 North Church Street Res 251 Fam 349, Owns home free of a mortgage

Lem McGraw, Head, Apr 1843, 57, M, 31 yrs, NY, NY, NY, Day Laborer

Zena McGraw, Wife, Aug 1843, 56, M, 31 yrs, **Children: 0/0**, MA, MA, MA

Amelia Barker, Sister-in-law, Jun 1836, 64, Wd, Children: 1/1, MA, MA, MA

Harriett Cady, Sister-in-law, July 1832, 67, Wd, Children: 0/0, MA, MA, MA

Note: Lem and Zena are the parents of **Nellie Dorothy McGraw** but **Zena** claimed that she never gave birth to any children. Her actual name is **Zenia**. Nellie should have appeared in this census.

1892 NY Cortland Cortlandville ED04

Lemuel H. McGraw, 49, US, Cit

Jennie McGraw, 49, US, C, Dress maker

Nellie McGraw, 15, US, C

1880 NY Cortland Cortlandville Dist 118

Res 104 Fam 136

Lemuel H. McGraw, 37, M, Clerk in Boot & Shoe Store, NY, NY, NY

Jennie McGraw, 36, Wife, M, Keeping House, MA, MA, MA

Olive Cady, 77, Mother-in-law, Wd, At home, MA, MA, MA

Sophia Wright, 19, Domestic, S, Domestic Servant, NY, NY, NY

Celia Smith, 51, Sister-in-law, Wd, At home, MA, MA, MA

Note: Nellie could have appeared in this census, however it isn't known when she was adopted.

1870 NY Cortland Cortland

Res 268 Fam 300

Lemuel McGraw, 27, Clerk in Store, Real Est \$800, Per Est \$300, NY

Jennie M. McGraw, 27, Housekeeping, **NY**

Note: In 1880 and 1900 census Jennie was born in MA. **Lemuel** and **Jennie** were married in 1869.

1865 NY Cortland Cortlandville

Res 274 Framed \$1200 Fam 305

Hiram McGraw, 65, Herkimer, Mar twice, Mar now, Druggist, Native, Owner of land

Martha McGraw, 48, Wife, Cortland, Children: 6, Mar twice, Mar now

Lemuel McGraw, 22, Child, Cortland, S, Student, Native

1860 – Hiram McGraw not found

1855 NY Cortland Cortlandville ED02

Res 159 Framed \$1000 Fam 171

Hiram McGraw, 53, Herkimer, M, 53 yrs, Merchant, Native, Owner of land

Martha E. McGraw, 38, Wife, Cortland, M, 6 yrs

Henrietta A. McGraw, 22, Dau, Cortland, 22 yrs

Marcus McGraw, 20, Son, Cortland, 20 yrs, Clerk

John Studevaut, 17, Wife's Son, Cortland, 17 yrs, Student

Rachel Studevaut, 15, Wife's Dau, Cortland, 15 yrs

Lemuel H. McGraw, 12, Son, Cortland, 12 yrs

Malina Studevaut, 11, Wife's Dau, Cortland, 11 yrs

1850 NY Cortland Cortlandville

Res 760 Fam 781

Hiram McGraw, 50, Miller, Real Est \$3000, NY

Henrietta McGraw, 17, NY, Attended school

Marcus McGraw, 15, Student, NY, Attended school

Lemuel McGraw, 7, NY, Attended school

Nellie Betts

1905 NY Essex Moriah ED01

College Street

Walter Betts, Head, 23, US, Cit, Clerk, Grocery Store

Dorothy Betts, Wife, 26, US, Cit, Housework

Doris Betts, Dau, 1, US, Cit

Walter Betts, Son, 1/12, US, Cit

1910 NY Essex Port Henry WD01 Dist 0051

Brook Street, Rents home

Walter Betts, Head, 27, M1, 8 yrs, NY, NY, NY, Clerk, Retail Groceries

Dorothy Betts, Wife, 29, M1, 8 yrs, Children: 3/3, Arkansas, NY, NY, None

Dorris Betts, Dau, 6, S, NY, NY, Arkansas

Walter Betts, Son, 4, S, NY, NY, Arkansas

Lucille Betts, Dau, 3, S, NY, NY, Arkansas

1915 NY Essex Moriah AD01 ED01

Church Street

Walter H. Betts, Head, 32, US, 32 yrs, Cit, Merchant

Dorothy M. Betts, Wife, 36, US, 36 yrs, Cit, House Wife

Doris M. Betts, Dau, 11, US, 11 yrs, Cit, School

Walter H. Betts, Son, 10, US, 10 yrs, Cit, School

Lucille C. Betts, Dau, 8, US, Cit, 8 yrs, School

Barbara L. Betts, Dau, 3, US, 3 yrs, Cit, No occupation

Mary X. Betts, Dau, 2, US, 2 yrs, Cit, No occupation

1920 – Betts family not found

1925 NY Franklin Altamont AD01 ED02 – Tupper Lake

Walter Betts, Head, 41, US, Cit, Judge
Dorothy Betts, Wife, 43, US, C, Housewife
Lucille Betts, D, 18, US, Cit, School
Barbara Betts, D, 13, US, C, School
Mary Betts, D, 12, US, C, School
Elwyn Betts, S, 9, US, C, School

1930 NY Franklin Tupper Lake Dist 0002

Main Street Res 124 Fam 137, Owns home \$5000, Radio

Walter H. Betts, Head, 47, M, Mar @ 20, NY, NY, NY, Retail Merchant, Grocery & Meats
Dorothy M. Betts, Wife, 47, M, Mar @ 20, NY, NY, NY
Lucille C. Betts, Dau, 23, S, NY, NY, NY, Secretary, Vet Hospital #96
Barbara L. Betts, Dau, 18, S, NY, NY, NY
Mary Betts, Dau, 16, S, NY, NY, NY
Elwyn Betts, Son, 14, S, NY, NY, NY

1940 NY Franklin Brighton Dist 17-16 (Gabriela)

20 (Street Name unknown) Res 19, Rents \$50/mo

Walter H. Betts, Head, 56, M, H-2, NY, Tupper Lake, NY, Merchant, Retail Grocery, 52 wks, \$1500
Dorothy Betts, Wife, 59, M, C-3, Kansas, Tupper Lake, NY, House Wife

1950 – Walter is in a Trudeau Sanatorium in St. Armand, Essex County, NY and Dorothy is living with her daughter Barbara Betts Nolette, in Malone, Franklin Co, NY

1880 – Searched for first name Nellie, born 1877±1, parents both born in NY. There were about 150 possibles but none with both parents born in NY. There were no 3-year-old, Arkansas born Nellies living in NY.

In The Newspapers

Elm Stump

“Elm Stump. March 23. — The school in the Reynolds district, will commence the spring term Monday, March 30, with **Miss Nellie McGraw** of Cortland as teacher.”

March 26, 1896, Thursday, The Cortland County Sentinel, Cortland, NY

Homer

Gleanings of News from Our Twin Village

“Homer, Sept, 16. — **Miss Nellie McGraw** of Cortland is spending the day with her friend, **Miss Edith Cowles**.”

September 21, 1899, Thursday, The Cortland County Sentinel, Cortland, NY

Date	Cortland Nellie (born about 1878)	Teacher Nellie
June 18, 1886	Children’s Day at the <u>Baptist Church</u> . Exercise included Nellie McGraw, Bertha Birdlebough and 11 others.	
Feb 6, 1891	Nellie McGraw in a vocal trio performance at <u>Schermerhorn School</u>	
May 15, 1891	Nellie McGraw in a performance at <u>Schermerhorn School</u>	
May 5, 1892	At <u>Pomeroy School</u> . Nellie McGraw and others read a scripture selection. Note: This might have been the end of her freshman year in high school. She would have graduated in June 1895 in time to be teaching in Elm Stump in the 1895-96 school year.	
Mar 23, 1896		“ <u>Elm Stump</u> — The school in the <u>Reynolds district</u> , will commence the spring term Monday, March 30, with Miss Nellie McGraw of <u>Cortland</u> as teacher.”
June 2, 1896		“ <u>Elm Stump</u> – Arbor Day exercises were held in the <u>Wood District</u> Friday May 22. Miss Nellie McGraw is the teacher.”
Dec 7, 1899	Miss Nellie McGraw of the <u>Normal Class of January 1900</u> , was last night elected by her classmates as the poet to represent the class at the class day exercises in June 1900.	
Feb 9, 1900	<u>Normal School Graduation</u> . English Course – Nellie D. McGraw	
Jul 9, 1902	Miss Nellie Dorothy McGraw married Walter H. Betts in Crown point.	

Is it possible that both of the above Nellies are the same person. She completed high school and started teaching. Then later she enrolled in the Cortland Normal School and graduated in January 1900.

BETTS-McGRAW

Cortland Young Lady Claimed by a Resident of Crown Point

“**Miss Nellie Dorothy McGraw**, a graduate of the Cortland Normal school in 1900, and a teacher in the Union school of Crown Point the past year, was married to **Mr. Walter H. Betts** of that place, last Wednesday (July 9th) evening, July 9, at the home of the groom’s parents. The bride looked charming in a lovely gown of white organdy and lace. The ceremony was performed by the pastor, **Rev. N. S. Moore**, with the beautiful and impressive Episcopal service. The rooms were tastefully decorated with maiden hair ferns and roses. After the ceremony a delicious lunch was served. The happy couple received a number of valuable and useful presents. Mrs. Betts has been a great help to Crown Point society during the year she has been there and the people are glad that both are to remain in the place.”

July 12, 1902, Saturday, Cortland Evening Standard, Cortland, NY

“**Mrs. Walter H. Betts** of Crown Point on Lake Champlain arrived in Cortland Tuesday and will spend a few days visiting her parents, **Mr. and Mrs. L. H. McGraw**, 29 North Church-st.”

August 27, 1902, Wednesday, Cortland Evening Standard, Cortland, NY

PERSONALS

“**Walter H. Betts**, with his son **Walter Henry, Jr.**, of Port Henry has joined **Mrs. Betts** and children in a visit with **Mr. and Mrs. L. H. McGraw**.”

October 20, 1910, Thursday Evening, Cortland Standard, Cortland, NY

PERSONALS

“**Mr. and Mrs. Walter H. Betts** of Port Henry-on-Lake Champlain were called to this city Thursday by the death of Mrs. Betts’ adopted father, **L. H. McGraw**.”

April 25, 1914, Saturday Evening, Cortland Standard, Cortland, NY

PERSONALS

“**Mrs. Walter H. Betts** of Port Henry-on-Lake Champlain, with two of her children, **Doris McGraw** and **Mary Xennia**, are visiting **Mrs. Amelia Barker** at her former home, 39 North Church -st. Mrs. Betts will be remembered as Nellie d. M. McGraw, Normal ’00.”

June 25, 1914, Thursday Evening, Cortland Standard, Cortland, NY

Obituaries

Obituary.

Died, at his residence in Cortland, April 5th, Mr. Hiram McGraw, in the 78th year of his age.

“In the death of **Mr. McGraw** we have lost one of our best and most valued citizens. He was a man of singular purity of character, quiet and unobtrusive, diligent in every duty and faithful in all the responsibilities of his life. He was born in Herkimer county Jan. 24th, 1800. While a child his parents removed to this county, and here he grew to manhood. In March, 1826, he united with the Presbyterian church of Cortland, and when the church in McGrawville was organized a few years afterward he gave himself to that enterprise and for many years was its heart and life. It was in McGrawville that he spent the most of his years. His soul was in every good work. His purse, his home and his heart were alike open to forward the cause of religion. Those who knew his best, who were the most intimately associated with him in business and church relations, bear the strongest testimony to his unblemished integrity. For over fifty years he walked before the people of two communities as a Christian, and for the most of the time as a church officer - an example without reproach of the virtues commended in the Gospel.

“The funeral services at his residence were attended by a large concourse of his friends. The body was then taken to McGrawville where services were held in the Presbyterian church, which was filled with citizens of McGrawville and Cortland, who had known and loved him in life and who came to honor him in death. The services were conducted by his pastor, **Rev. Mr. Sweet**, assisted by **Rev. Geo. Bayless**, pastor of the church in McGrawville. Besides the immediate members of his family there were present his brother, **Mr. Samuel McGraw**, of New York, and his nephew, **Hon. Deloss McGraw**, our representative in the Legislature.

April 11, 1877, Wednesday, The Cortland Standard and Journal, Cortland, N.Y.

LEMUEL H. MCGRAW

Passed Away from Exhaustion Following Attack of Pneumonia

“**Lemuel H. McGraw**, of 39 North Church-st., died at the hospital at 6 o'clock this morning following a severe attack of pneumonia. He had been ill for several weeks, but had recovered from the pneumonia itself. He had become so weakened, however, by that disease that he lacked the recuperative power to rally, and he has been steadily falling for a number of days past.

“The deceased was born in McGrawville seventy-one years ago last Sunday, on April 19, 1843. His early years were passed in that town, but he came to Cortland in the late sixties to be associated with his brother, **Marcus H. McGraw**, as a salesman in the shoe firm of Dickinson & McGraw. He continued with them and their successors, McGraw & Son, till the latter firm sold out. Since then he has acted as salesman occasionally for different mercantile houses in this city, devoting the balance of his time to gardening.

“His wife, to whom he had been married for many years, died in June 1912 and since that time he had been very lonely, as no children were ever born to them. He had been a member of the First Presbyterian church in this city since 1870 and was a constant attendant upon its services. He is survived by one brother, **Marcus H. McGraw**.

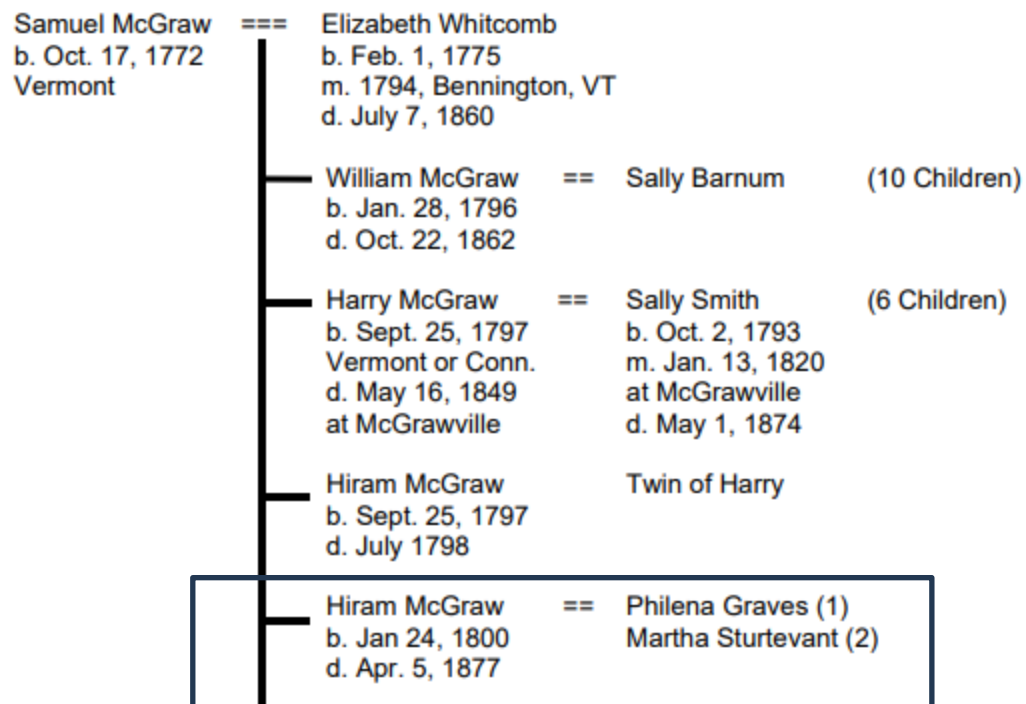
“The funeral will be held at the house, 39 North Church-st., on Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock.”

April 23, 1914, Thursday Evening, Cortland Standard, Cortland, NY

Find A Grave

Husband	Wife
Hiram McGraw Birth: 24 Jan 1800, Herkimer County, NY Death: 5 Apr 1877 (aged 77), Cortland, NY Burial: McGraw Rural Cemetery, McGraw, NY Memorial ID: 18006825 Martha's 1 st marriage was to a Sturdevant	Philena Graves McGraw Birth: 12 Apr 1802, Chazy, Clinton County, NY Death: 13 May 1850 (aged 48), McGraw, Cortland County, NY Burial: McGraw Rural Cemetery, McGraw, NY Memorial ID: 18006843 Married 1822
	Martha Elizabeth Calvert McGraw Birth: 4 Nov 1816 Death: 16 Apr 1894 (aged 77), Cortland, NY Burial: Cortland Rural Cemetery, Cortland, NY Plot: Sect J Lot 22 Memorial ID: 99171504
Children	
Marcus Hiram McGraw Birth: 1835 Death: 24 Dec 1917 (aged 81–82) Burial: Cortland Rural Cemetery, Cortland, NY Plot: Sect F Memorial ID: 152537877	Martha Melina Sturtevant McGraw Birth: 1844 Death: 12 Oct 1889 (aged 44–45), Cortland, NY Burial: Cortland Rural Cemetery, Cortland, NY Plot: Sect F Memorial ID: 152537892 Married 1862
	Mary Emma Lampman McGraw Birth: 1850, Coxsackie, Greene County, NY Death: 15 Apr 1930 (aged 79–80) Burial: Cortland Rural Cemetery, Cortland, NY Plot: Sect F Memorial ID: 152519190 Married 1896
	Julia Luella McGraw Birth: 1852 Death: 4 Aug 1894 (aged 41–42) Burial: Cortland Rural Cemetery, Cortland, NY Plot: Sect F Memorial ID: 152537911
Lemuel H. McGraw Birth: 1844 Death: 23 Apr 1914 (aged 69–70) Burial: Cortland Rural Cemetery, Cortland, NY Plot: Sect F Memorial ID: 152538008	Xennia M. Cady McGraw Birth: 1842 Death: 24 Jun 1912 (aged 69–70) Burial: Cortland Rural Cemetery, Cortland, NY Plot: Sect F Memorial ID: 152538030

Samuel McGraw of McGraw, New York



Source: The McGrath Family of Truxton, New York, p. 254

The following 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.”

ENDNOTES

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- ¹ The Old Fulton NY Post Card Site
http://www.fultonhistory.com/flash_ok.html
The Post Standard Archives
<http://poststandard.newspaperarchive.com/>
- ² The McGraw family recorded the purchase of the Kettlebail Road property on January 6, 1868.
- ³ McGraw family was foreclosed from Kettlebail Road in August 1874. Beginning of time period for gathering information for the 1876 Cortland County Atlas.
- ⁴ Cortland County directory - 1889.
- ⁵ Land purchase deed. Federal Census for 1890 destroyed by fire.
- ⁶ John McGraw land purchase deed.
- ⁷ In May 1911 the family moved to John O'Donnell's house on Prospect Street. No indication of a fire has been found in the weeks preceding this move. However, everyone is in agreement that the house on the North Road was destroyed by a fire.
- ⁸ Cortland County directory - 1889.
- ⁹ Land purchase deed. Federal Census for 1890 destroyed by fire.
- ¹⁰ *Truxton*, The Cortland Evening Standard, Cortland, NY, March 24, 1893, p. 4. On the same page, in this edition of the paper, both the McGraw purchase and sale were recorded.
- ¹¹ Michael McGraw purchased a parcel of land in Truxton Lot 83 from Mary Jane Arnold, of the town of Tully, Onondaga County. The purchase price was nominally \$1.00 but the deed describes a series of payments required of Michael McGraw to be paid to Mary Jane Arnold totaling \$600 dollars plus interest. The size of the parcel in Lot 83 was 10 acres. Deed Book 94, Page 406. Recorded April 4, 1893, Cortland County Clerk's Office.
- ¹² Michael McGraw and his wife Alice McGraw sold the above parcel in Truxton Lot 54 to James Neff of the Town of Fabius, Onondaga County. The sale price was \$250 and the size was 1-1/2 acres. Deed Book 88, Page 329. Recorded November 1, 1892, Cortland County Clerk's Office.
- ¹³ 1900 NY Cortland Truxton - Michael McGraw - T623-1020-257B. Michael (57), Alice (43), Mayme (13), James (12), Edward (10), James A.(Art) (8), Thomas (5), Alice (3), Agnes (2) and Michael (8/12).
- ¹⁴ Mrs. Alice McGraw purchased a parcel of land in Truxton Lot 93 from Cornelius Dobbins and his wife in 1915. The purchase price is unknown because the actual document was not copied. Deed Book 128, Page 86. Cortland County Clerk's Office.
- ¹⁵ "A Genealogy of the McGraw's of Truxton, New York," by Doug Currie, January 10, 1994.
- ¹⁶ "The McGraths and Their Land Holdings in Cortland County," Michael F. McGraw, unpublished.
- ¹⁷ The year 1915 was picked when it had been assumed that the family moved to Prospect and Main right after the fire. The land records show that the Prospect & Main property was purchased in that year.
- ¹⁸ *Truxton*, The Cortland Standard, Cortland, NY, May 23, 1911.

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- ¹⁹ Letter from Lucy Waters Sprague to Shirley McGraw Maloney - 12-21-80.
- ²⁰ Mayme McGraw, daughter of Michael and Alice McGraw, married Orson Waters, Jr., on August 4, 1910. Willie Cunningham, who was thought to be living in Albany, NY at the time, might have come to Truxton for this family event. At that point he might have stayed on for a visit or returned to Albany. (The Cortland Standard, Cortland, NY, August 8, 1910.)
- ²¹ New York Aerial Photographs, Cornell University. Photo: AJ-3-11, 7-28-1936.
<http://aerial-ny.library.cornell.edu/photos/cortland/1936-1937/AJ-3-11>
- ²² Letter from Lucy Waters Sprague to the author - 9-11-99. The tax sale was sometime prior to 1966.
- ²³ Donald T. McGraw, RR1 – Box 59, Lerna, Illinois 62440, conveyed this property to the Labrador Development Co. for \$1.00. Deed Book 372, Page 374. Recorded March 17, 1982, Cortland County Clerk's Office.
- ²⁴ Private communication with Truxton Town Clerk.
- ²⁵ Baptismal record. Private communication, clerk at St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Truxton, NY.
- ²⁶ Private communication with Truxton Town Clerk.
- ²⁷ *Truxton Truths*, The Weekly Gleaner, DeRuyter, NY, January 14, 1892.
- ²⁸ All the Poor House dates came from the same document. Record of Inmates Cortland County Poor House, under Act Chap. 140, Laws of 1875. Cortland County Historical Society.
- ²⁹ *Truxton*, The Cortland Standard, Cortland, NY, January 19, 1893.
- ³⁰ *Truxton*, The Cortland Evening Standard, Cortland, NY, October 10, 1893.
- ³¹ *Truxton*, The Cortland Evening Standard, Cortland, NY, October 21, 1893.
- ³² *Truxton*, The Cortland Standard, Cortland, NY, June 5, 1894.
- ³³ *Truxton Truths*, The Weekly Gleaner, DeRuyter, NY, January 14, 1892.
- ³⁴ All the Poor House dates came from the same document. Record of Inmates Cortland County Poor House, under Act Chap. 140, Laws of 1875. Cortland County Historical Society.
- ³⁵ *Truxton*, The Cortland Standard, Cortland, NY, January 19, 1893.
- ³⁶ *Truxton*, The Cortland Evening Standard, Cortland, NY, October 10, 1893.
- ³⁷ *Truxton*, The Cortland Evening Standard, Cortland, NY, October 21, 1893.
- ³⁸ *Truxton*, The Cortland Standard, Cortland, NY, June 5, 1894.
- ³⁹ Finding Michael McGrath from Moyaliff, Country Tipperary, Ireland
<http://mcgrathsearch.com/files/The%20Story%201-15-08.pdf>
The McGrath Family from Moyaliff Parish, County Tipperary
<http://mcgrathsearch.com/files/Bold%20Hypothesis%201-19-08.pdf>
The Long and McGrath Families, Neighbors on Both Sides of the Ocean
<http://mcgrathsearch.com/files/The%20Long%20and%20McGrath%20Families%2010-27-11.pdf>
- ⁴⁰ The 1870 census finds the John Twentyman family living on the North Road out of Truxton with 7 of their 11 children. Five children have died since the last census in 1860. Sarah died on June 7, 1862. Four more children were lost in one short 6 week period in Nov.-Dec.

1864. Otis, who didn't live long enough to show up on any census, was the first to die on Nov. 5, 1864 about 2 weeks before his 2nd birthday. Dinah died on Nov. 18, 1864 followed by her older brother Joseph the following day on Nov. 19th. Finally, on Dec. 17th, less than a month later, their eldest son Thomas D. died. These deaths probably took place while the family was living at the farm on lot 91 on Kenney Brook Road. [The Twentyman and Goddard Families, p. 2.](#)

- ⁴¹ *The Real McGraw*, By Mrs. John J. McGraw, Edited by Arthur Mann, David McKay Company, Inc, NY, 1953. Pg. 29. The family encouraged John to move his family into the Village of Truxton so that he would be closer to family members who could help him with the children.

“And so he and little Jack and littler Mike packed a few belongings into a borrowed farm wagon and moved from tragic *West Hill* into a small frame house on Main Street, right across from Mrs. Goddard's hotel.”

This reference from Mrs. McGraw is taken with a measure of caution since much of her writing about John J. McGraw's early years in Truxton are [filled with errors](#) and sadly subsequent authors of John J. McGraw's lengthy career relied on her as the authority on John's early years. For instance, the family wasn't living on West Hill when Ellen and the children died in August-September 1883; they were living on the North Road. It wasn't until 1890 that John bought a small 6-acre farm on the West Hill.