

CHAPTER SIX –

Album of American Portraits

CONTINUED

THE AMERICAN PORTRAITS

IRISH FAMILY LINES

PATHS TO AMERICA

Before our family became part of the American story, generations lived in communities across Ireland. During the nineteenth century, members of the Connelly, Kerrigan, Walsh, and McGinty families crossed the Atlantic and established new lives in and around Philadelphia. Their separate paths gradually came together through marriage, family, and the communities they helped build.

The portraits that follow trace those paths from Ireland to America—and through the generations that ultimately joined in the marriage of John Henry Connelly and Alice Josephine Kerrigan.

Kerrigan Family



Kerrigan Family Monument

Patrick and Sarah rest together at St. Denis Cemetery. Although the monument contains date discrepancies, it remains a lasting symbol of the partnership that carried one immigrant family from Ireland to firmly established American roots.

Patrick H. Kerrigan & Sarah Flanagan Kerrigan

PATRICK: REPORTEDLY NOVEMBER 20, 1812 – OCTOBER 10, 1908
SARAH: APRIL 1831 – JANUARY 19, 1919

Second Great Grandparents

THE BEGINNING OF THE AMERICAN KERRIGAN FAMILY

Patrick H. Kerrigan was born reportedly on November 20, about 1812, in Ireland, the son of John Kerrigan and Mary McCormack. Little is known about his early life, but like countless Irishmen of his generation, he was raised in a farming community where hard work, perseverance, and faith shaped everyday life.

Patrick appears to have immigrated about 1840, the year reported in the 1900 census. Arriving several years before the Great Irish Famine, Patrick belonged to an earlier generation of Irish immigrants who came to America seeking opportunity long before famine forced millions from their homeland.

Sarah Flanagan was born in April 1831 in Ireland, the daughter of Owen Flanagan and Mary. In the spring of 1849, at approximately eighteen years old, she left Liverpool aboard the *Saranak*. On May 30, after crossing the Atlantic, she arrived at the Port of Philadelphia. More than sixty years later, the 1910 census continued to record her immigration year as 1849.

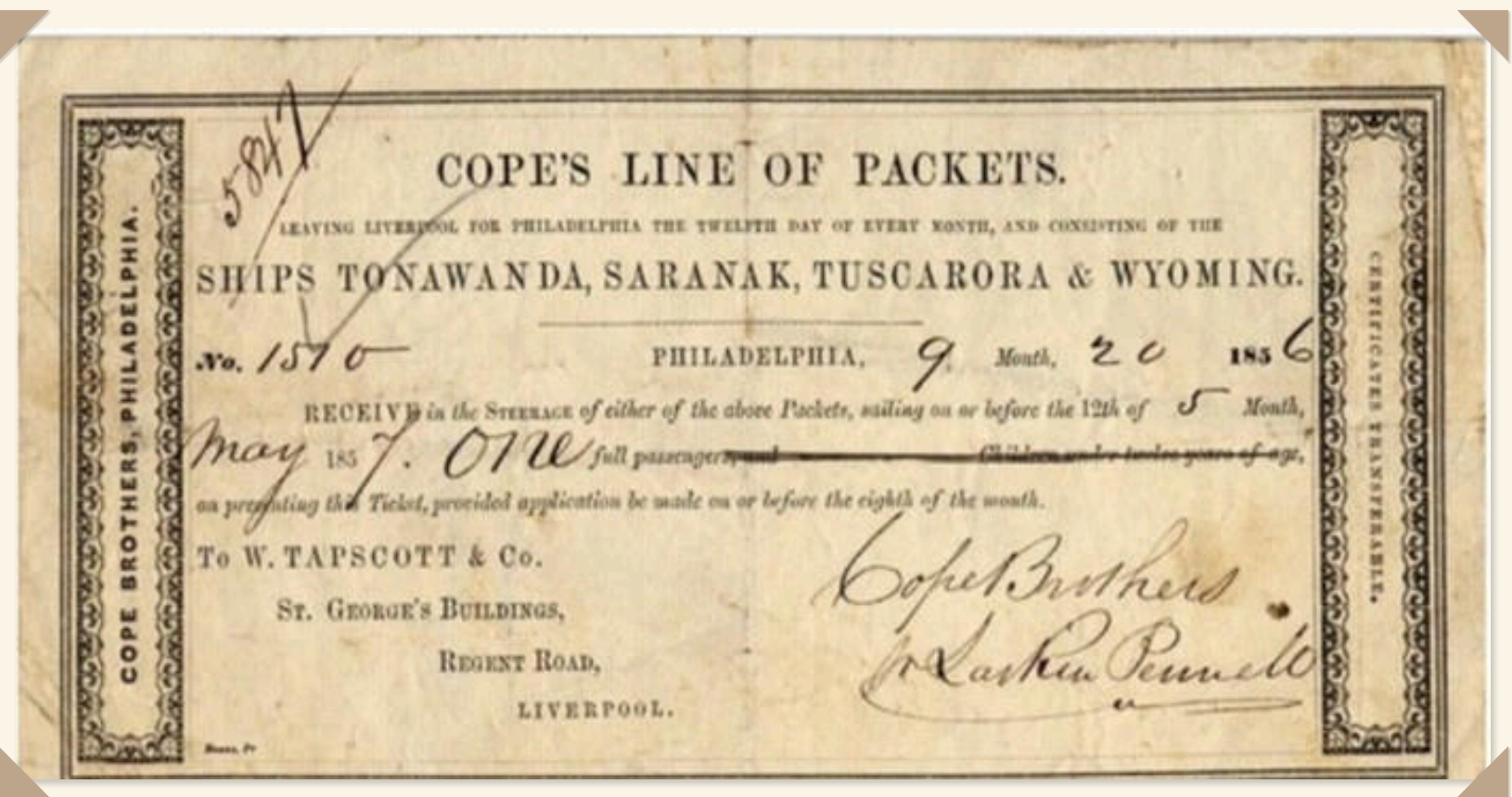
Patrick and Sarah crossed the ocean separately, each leaving Ireland to begin an uncertain new life in America. Their paths eventually came together in Lower Merion Township, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.

In 1854, they married at the newly established St. Thomas of Villanova Parish in Rosemont. Their union was the first marriage recorded in the parish, placing the Kerrigan family at the beginning of its documented history. It also marked the beginning of a partnership that would endure for more than half a century.

Patrick’s naturalization petition records that he arrived through the Port of Philadelphia. The date and ship have not yet been identified; the 1900 census places his immigration around 1840.

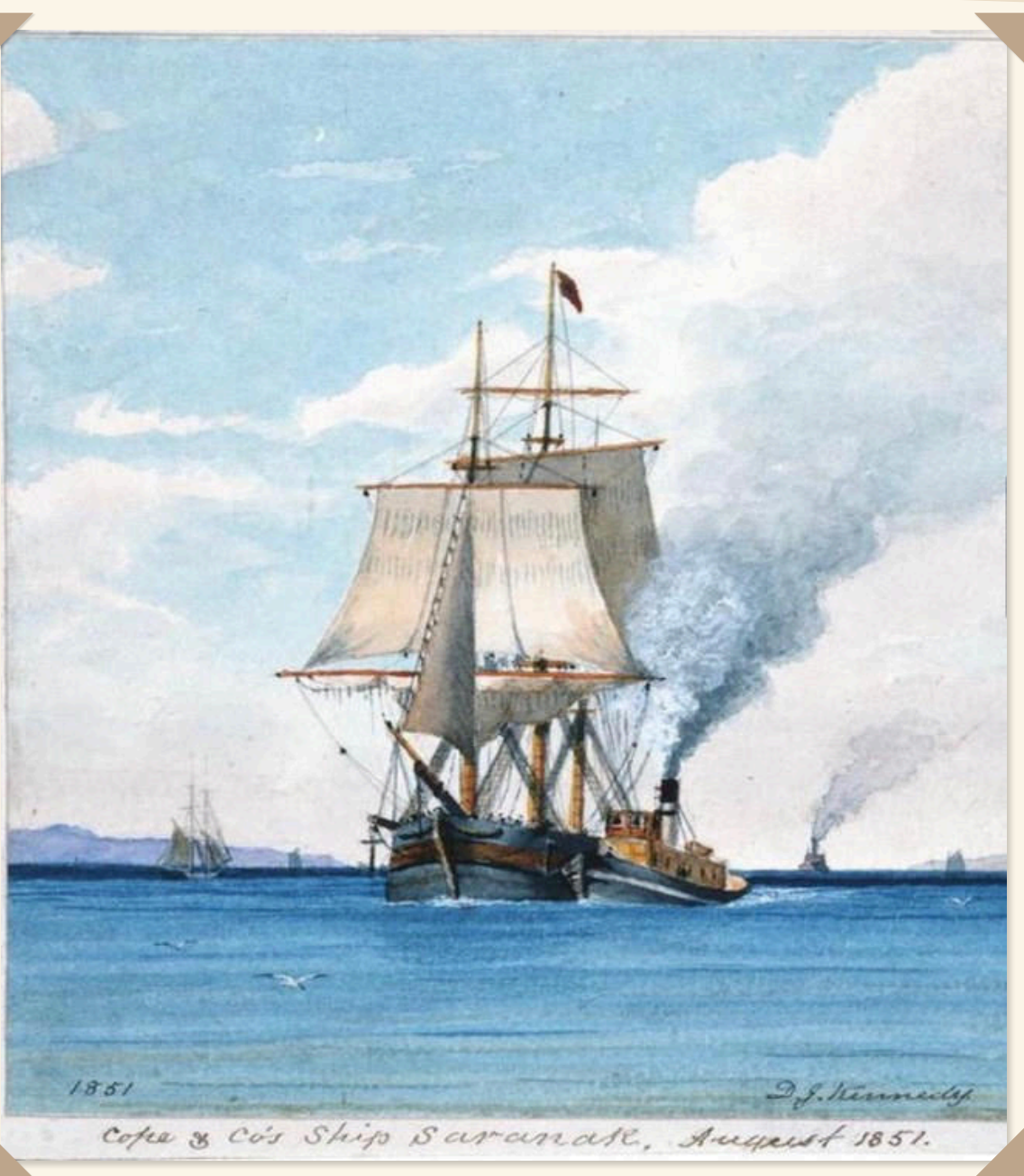
Together, Patrick and Sarah established their home in the Buck Lane and Garrett Hill section of what would later become Bryn Mawr. There they built not only a livelihood, but a home in which family, faith, hard work, and mutual support were woven together.

Although census records identified Patrick simply as a laborer, family history preserved by my father, John E. “Jack” Connelly, reveals a much richer story. Patrick became a respected teamster and coal hauler, transporting freight and coal throughout the growing Main Line communities with horse-drawn wagons. As Bryn Mawr expanded alongside the Pennsylvania Railroad, he hauled coal from railroad cars into the furnace rooms that heated Bryn Mawr College and other nearby institutions.



An Example of a Cope's Line Passenger Ticket

This ticket names the *Saranak*, the ship aboard which Sarah Flanagan crossed the Atlantic in 1849. Although it was not Sarah's actual ticket, it illustrates the type of document carried by passengers traveling aboard the ship.



Sarah Flanagan's Arrival in America — May 30, 1849

At approximately eighteen years old, Sarah Flanagan arrived in Philadelphia aboard the *Saranak* from Liverpool. The passenger record identifies her as Irish-born. More than sixty years later, the 1910 census still recorded her immigration year as 1849.

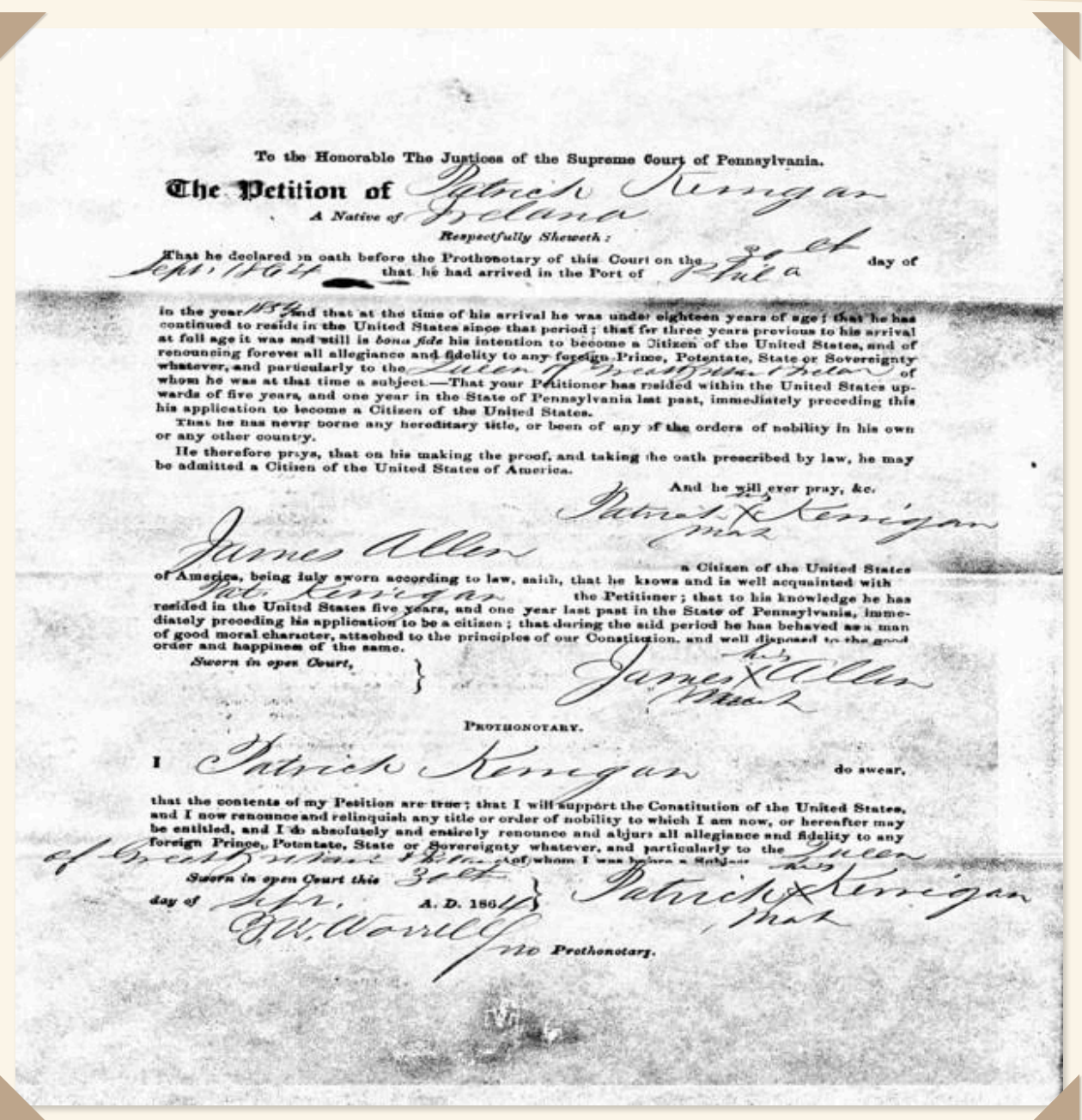
The Parish of St. Thomas of Villanova Begins

The official parish registry opened with the historic baptism of Michael Horton on August 15, 1848, and established St.Thomas of Villanova as a separate parish from St. Augustine's. On March 10, 1848 permission for a college charter to grant degrees was obtained-classes had begun with seven students on September 18, 1843. Enrollment grew steadily. In 1854 Father William Hartnett, O.S.A. officiated at the earliest marriage recorded in the parish between Patrick Kerrigan and Sarah Flanagan. By 1865, Father Middleton reports that the Augustinians had increased in number---there were sixteen priests, sixteen lay brothers and three religious students; a vast increase over the original five Augustinians who were in the country in 1841.

Marriage Record — 1854

Patrick Kerrigan and Sarah Flanagan were united in the first marriage recorded at the newly established St. Thomas of Villanova Parish. The record marks both the beginning of their partnership and the Kerrigan family’s place at the start of the parish’s documented history -

St Thomas of Villanova Parish - <http://www.stthomasofvillanova.org/learn-more-about-our-parish-history.html>.



Patrick H. Kerrigan's Naturalization — September 30, 1864

During the Civil War, Patrick renounced his allegiance to Great Britain and pledged his loyalty to the United States. His naturalization completed his formal journey from Irish immigrant to American citizen.

Jack also remembered that Patrick operated a boarding stable, hauled freight for local businesses, and owned an additional house that provided rental income. Patrick also worked as a gardener at Villanova College, a profession that reflected skills rooted in his Irish upbringing. His love of gardening became a tradition that continued in the Kerrigan family for generations.

While Patrick earned a living as a gardener, teamster, coal hauler, and businessman, Sarah devoted herself to the demanding responsibilities of keeping an immigrant household together. Census records described her occupation simply as “keeping house,” but those words scarcely reflect the reality of her daily life.

Sarah maintained the home, raised their children, tended the family garden, preserved vegetables for the winter months, and managed a household where very little was wasted. Together, she and Patrick also owned the neighboring house that provided rental income and helped secure the family’s financial future.

Patrick and Sarah believed deeply in investing in their family. Their oldest son, William Frederick Kerrigan, worked beside his father unloading coal cars, caring for horses, and learning the business from an early age. After William married Hannah McGinty, the young couple remained closely connected with Patrick and Sarah, who continued to provide guidance, encouragement, and stability as the next generation established its own household.

Sarah welcomed Hannah into the family home. As grandchildren arrived, she helped her daughter-in-law care for the growing family while continuing to manage the household. Three generations lived, worked, and supported one another under the same roof.

Through years of dependable work, Patrick earned the trust of his neighbors and helped provide a secure future for his family. Sarah gave that family a place of stability, resourcefulness, generosity, and belonging. Their greatest investment was not simply the business and property they built, but the family they nurtured.

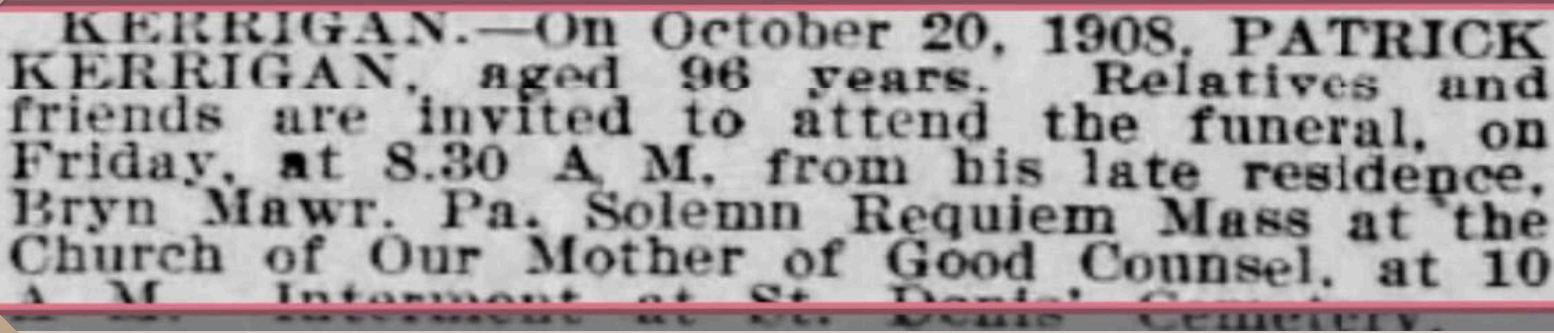
Patrick witnessed extraordinary change during his lifetime. When he arrived in America, transportation depended almost entirely upon horses and wagons. By the time of his death, railroads connected the nation, Bryn Mawr had grown into a thriving suburban community, and the family he and Sarah established had become firmly rooted in Pennsylvania.

Patrick died on October 10, 1908. His funeral was held from the family home in Bryn Mawr, followed by a Solemn Requiem Mass at Our Mother of Good Counsel Church before his burial at St. Denis Cemetery.

After Patrick’s death, Sarah remained in the Bryn Mawr community they had helped build. The 1910 census records her as the widowed head of her household, still surrounded by family and the life she and Patrick had created together.

After Patrick and William were gone, Sarah and Hannah carried on together, sharing responsibility for both the home and the family business. Their partnership reflected the quiet resilience that sustained many immigrant families through times of loss and hardship. For the Kerrigans, success was measured not only by what they owned, but by the strength of the family they built and sustained together.

Sarah outlived Patrick by more than a decade. She died on January 19, 1919. Her funeral was held from the family home on Lancaster Avenue, followed by a Solemn Requiem Mass at Our Mother of Good Counsel Church. She was laid to rest beside Patrick at St. Denis Cemetery, ending a remarkable partnership that had carried one immigrant family from humble beginnings to firmly established American roots.



Funeral Notice of Patrick H. Kerrigan (1908)

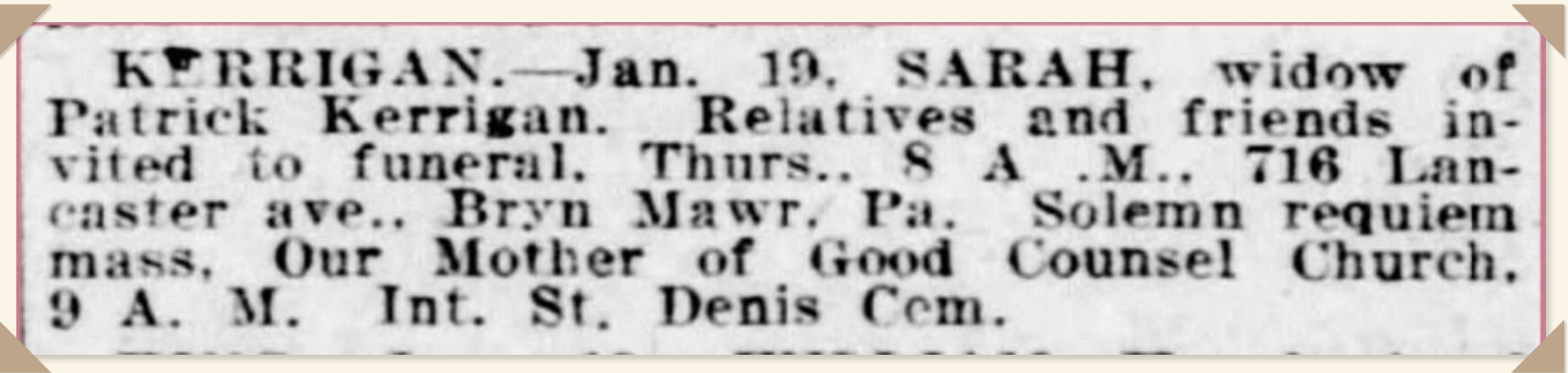
Patrick’s funeral notice reported his age as ninety-six and invited relatives and friends to gather at his late residence in Bryn Mawr. A Solemn Requiem Mass followed at Our Mother of Good Counsel Church.

CARRY AWAY

STRONG FAMILIES ARE BUILT BY INVESTING IN ONE ANOTHER AND IN THOSE WHO FOLLOW. PATRICK AND SARAH CROSSED THE ATLANTIC SEPARATELY IN SEARCH OF BETTER LIVES, BUT TOGETHER THEY CREATED A HOME WHERE WORK, FAITH, SECURITY, AND MUTUAL SUPPORT CARRIED THREE GENERATIONS FORWARD.

Patrick helped build the family’s livelihood, while Sarah transformed their house into a home. Together they gave their children, grandchildren, and daughter-in-law encouragement, opportunity, stability, and belonging. Even after loss, Sarah and Hannah carried the family forward together.

Their greatest legacy was not the business or property they accumulated, but the strength, confidence, and love they passed on to those who followed.



Funeral Notice of Sarah Flanagan Kerrigan — 1919

Sarah’s funeral was held from the family home on Lancaster Avenue before a Solemn Requiem Mass at Our Mother of Good Counsel Church. She was laid to rest beside Patrick at St. Denis Cemetery after a lifetime devoted to her family and community.

Form V. S. No. 5.

PLACE OF DEATH.

County of *Montgomery*

Township of *Lake Marion*

or

Borough of _____

or

City of _____ No. _____ St. _____ Ward _____

[If death occurs away from USUAL RESIDENCE give facts called for under "Special Information."]

Registration District No. *3111*

Primary Registration District No. _____

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA,
BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS.
CERTIFICATE OF DEATH.

File No. *95357*

Registered No. *169*

[If death occurred in a Hospital or Institution, give its NAME (instead of street and number.)]

FULL NAME *Patrick H. Kerrigan*

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS

SEX *Male* COLOR *White*

DATE OF BIRTH *October - 20 1814*
[Month] [Day] [Year]

AGE *96* years, _____ months, _____ days

SINGLE, MARRIED, WIDOWED, OR DIVORCED *Married*

BIRTHPLACE [State or country] *Ireland -*

NAME OF FATHER *John Kerrigan*

BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER [State or country] *Ireland -*

MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER *Mary McCormack*

BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER [State or country] *Ireland -*

OCCUPATION *Laborn -*

THE ABOVE STATED PERSONAL PARTICULARS ARE TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF

[Informant] *Hannah Kerrigan*

[Address] *Bryn Mawr Pa*

Filed *Oct 21 1908* Registrar *John Kerrigan*

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

DATE OF DEATH *October - 30 1908*
[Month] [Day] [Year]

I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from _____ to _____

that I last saw h _____ alive on _____

and that death occurred, on the dte stated above, at _____

M. The CAUSE OF DEATH was as follows:
Senile Degeneration.

Had been sick for years, no one in constant attendance - Have provided for him at home last year or more

[Duration] _____ Days

Contributory _____

[Duration] _____ Days

[Signed] *Wm C. Powell* M. D.
Oct 20 1908 (Address) *Bryn Mawr*

SPECIAL INFORMATION and for Hospitals, Institutions, Transfers, etc.
Recent Residence: _____ How long at _____
Usual Residence: _____ Place of Death? _____ Days

Where was disease contracted? _____

PLACE OF BURIAL OR REMOVAL *St. Denis Cem* DATE OF BURIAL *OCT. 23 1908*

UNDERTAKER *Wm McOmally Ardmore Pa* ADDRESS _____

Death Certificate of Patrick H. Kerrigan — 1908

Patrick’s death certificate identifies his parents as John Kerrigan and Mary McCormack, both born in Ireland. His daughter Hanna Kerrigan served as the informant, allowing the record to connect three generations of the family

Form V, 2, No. 5-58M. 1-38-56.

CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

County of *Montgomery* Registration District No. *3111* File No. *3476*
Township of *Lewis Merion* Primary Registration District No. *28*
Borough of *Bryn Mawr* No. *45 Laureate Ave* Ward. *1*
City of *Philadelphia* (If death occurred in a hospital or institution, give the NAME, location of street and number.)

2. FULL NAME *Sarah Kerrigan*

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS

3. SEX *Female* 4. COLOR OR RACE *W* 5. SINGLE, MARRIED, WIDOWED OR DIVORCED *Widow*
(Write the word)

6. DATE OF BIRTH *1838*
(Month) (Day) (Year)

7. AGE *85*
If LESS than 1 day how many, ... hrs. or min. ?

8. OCCUPATION
(a) Trade, profession, or particular kind of work *At Home*
(b) General nature of industry, business, or establishment in which employed (or employer)

9. BIRTHPLACE (State or Country) *Ireland*

PARENTS

10. NAME OF FATHER *Owen Flanagan*
11. BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER (State or Country) *Ireland*
12. MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER *Mary*
13. BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER (State or Country) *Ireland*

14. THE ABOVE IS TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE.
(Informant) *Mrs W. F. Kerrigan*
(Address) *Bryn Mawr Pa*

15. *Jan. 21 1919* *W. C. Anderson*
Filed Local Registrar

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

16. DATE OF DEATH *January 19th 1919*
(Month) (Day) (Year)

17. I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from *Dec 10th 1918* to *Jan 19th 1919*
that I last saw her alive on *January 19th 1919*
and that death occurred, on the date stated above, at *M.*
The CAUSE OF DEATH* was as follows:
Carcinoma of side of face etc.
44-120
(Duration) *2 yrs.* mos. *2* ds.
Contributory (Secondary) *Uremia*
(Duration) *2* yrs. *2* mos. *2* ds.
(Signed) *W. C. Anderson* M. D.
Jan 21st 1919 (Address) *Bryn Mawr*
*Sign the DISEASE CAUSING DEATH; or in deaths from VIOLENT CAUSES, state (I) MEANS OF INJURY; and (II) whether ACCIDENTAL, SUICIDAL, or HOMICIDAL.

18. LENGTH OF RESIDENCE (For Hospitals, Institutions, Transients or Recent Residents).
At Place of death *2* yrs. *2* mos. *2* ds. In the State *2* yrs. *2* mos. *2* ds.
Where was disease contracted?
If not at place of death?
Former or usual residence

19. PLACE OF BURIAL OR REMOVAL *St. Ann's Del Co* DATE OF BURIAL *Jan 23 1919*
20. UNDERTAKER *W. C. O'Malley* ADDRESS *Bryn Mawr Pa*

Death Certificate of Sarah Flanagan Kerrigan — 1919

This record identifies Sarah's birthplace as Ireland and names her parents, Owen Flanagan and Mary. It documents her final years in Bryn Mawr and preserves one of the few surviving links to the family she left behind in Ireland.



Photograph of William Fredrick Kerrigan

William Frederick Kerrigan

JANUARY 1857 – AUGUST 24, 1900

Great Grandfather

BUILDING A LIFE ALONG THE MAIN LINE

William Frederick “Bill” Kerrigan was born in January 1857 in Humphreysville, Pennsylvania, the rural community that would later become Bryn Mawr. He was the son of Irish immigrants Patrick H. Kerrigan and Sarah Flanagan Kerrigan, whose determination and hard work established the family’s American foundation.

Bill grew up on the Kerrigans’ five-acre property along what became Kerrigan Lane. His father operated a successful livery stable and hauling business, and family life revolved around the work required to sustain both the household and the enterprise. According to memories preserved by my father, John “Jack” Connelly, the family lived without electricity or indoor plumbing. A large vegetable garden supplied much of their food, chickens provided eggs and meat, and vegetables were preserved in glass jars sealed with wax for the winter.

After completing the eighth grade in a one-room schoolhouse, Bill joined his father in the family business. He cared for the horses, assisted with hauling, and later unloaded coal delivered by rail. Through this work, he learned the practical skills and responsibilities necessary to serve a community that was gradually changing around them.

A BOY WATCHES HISTORY PASS BY

One of the most memorable stories preserved in my father’s memoir concerned an event that Bill witnessed as a child. According to the family account, eight-year-old William accompanied his father in April 1865 to see the funeral train carrying President Abraham Lincoln.



President Abraham Lincoln pass through southeastern Pennsylvania. Like thousands of Americans who gathered along the tracks, father and son stood in silence as the mourning train made its way toward Springfield, Illinois.

Father and son joined the thousands of Americans who gathered along the train’s route to mourn the assassinated president. Although Bill was only a boy, the experience connected an ordinary family moment with one of the defining events in American history. The memory was passed through the Kerrigan family and ultimately preserved in writing by my father.

As Bill grew older, the Kerrigan business evolved with the Main Line. The expansion of the Pennsylvania Railroad brought new residents, commerce, and opportunities to the area. Patrick adapted by boarding horses, renting wagons, transporting passengers, hauling freight, and delivering coal. Bill learned every part of the operation and prepared to carry the family enterprise into its second generation.

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

On December 29, 1887, William married Hannah F. McGinty, a young woman who had grown up less than half a mile away. The McGinty and Kerrigan families were neighbors whose lives had long been intertwined within the Bryn Mawr community.

William and Hannah became the parents of six children:

- Mary S. Kerrigan, born in 1888
- Clara C. Kerrigan, born in 1890
- Charles Kerrigan, born in 1894
- William F. Kerrigan Jr., born in 1895
- Grace Anna Kerrigan, born in 1896
- Alice Josephine Kerrigan, born in 1897

Alice, their youngest daughter, was my grandmother.

Together, William and Hannah managed the demands of a growing family and a busy enterprise. Their household depended upon shared labor. Livestock had to be cared for, vegetables raised and preserved, wood chopped, and the home heated with a pot-belly stove and wood-fired kitchen range. Every member of the family contributed because every pair of hands mattered.

THE KERRIGAN BUSINESS

A surviving business card bearing the name “W. F. Kerrigan” documents the scope of the family’s Boarding and Livery Stables in Bryn Mawr. The business provided carriages, coaches, and cabs for hire; transportation for weddings, parties, and receptions; and hauling services for the surrounding community.

The card also advertised “odorless excavating by improved method.” Although the phrase sounds unusual today, it referred to the removal of privy waste before the development of modern sewer systems. It was an essential service that demonstrated the Kerrigans’ willingness to meet the practical needs of a changing community.

Perhaps the most striking detail on the card is its telephone number: “Phone 2.” Such an early number reflects how quickly the Kerrigan enterprise adopted telephone service in Bryn Mawr. It also supports the family’s recollection that the stable was among the community’s earliest businesses to embrace the new technology.

The card shows that the Kerrigans were far more than horse owners. They operated a full-service transportation, hauling, and community-service business woven into everyday Main Line life. William represented the second generation of that enterprise, carrying forward the foundation established by his immigrant parents while helping it respond to a new era.

T-204.

TWELFTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES.

B

State Pennsylvania

County Montgomery

Township or other division of county Lower Merion Township

Name of incorporated city, town, or village, within the above-named division Bryn Mawr

Name of institution Public

Supervisor's District No. 2 Merion 1st Wd.

Enumeration District No. 215 10

Ward of city.

Enumerated by me on the

9

day of June, 1900,

William Kerrigan

Enumerator.

LOCATION.		NAME.	RELATION.	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION.	ACTIVITY.			CITIZENSHIP.			OCCUPATION, TRADE, OR PROFESSION.		EDUCATION.		PHYSICALLY IF BIL.	
SEX.	AGE.				Place of Birth of Father.	Place of Birth of Mother.	Place of Birth of Person.	Place of Birth of Father.	Place of Birth of Mother.	Place of Birth of Person.	Occupation.	Trade or Profession.	Elementary School.	High School.	College.	University.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
21		John A. Kerrigan	Son	10	10	1879	Pa.	Pa.	Pa.		at School					
22		John A. Kerrigan	Son	10	10	1879	Pa.	Pa.	Pa.		at School					
23		John A. Kerrigan	Son	10	10	1879	Pa.	Pa.	Pa.		at School					
24		John A. Kerrigan	Son	10	10	1879	Pa.	Pa.	Pa.		at School					
25		John A. Kerrigan	Son	10	10	1879	Pa.	Pa.	Pa.		at School					
26		John A. Kerrigan	Son	10	10	1879	Pa.	Pa.	Pa.		at School					
27		John A. Kerrigan	Son	10	10	1879	Pa.	Pa.	Pa.		at School					
28		John A. Kerrigan	Son	10	10	1879	Pa.	Pa.	Pa.		at School					
29		John A. Kerrigan	Son	10	10	1879	Pa.	Pa.	Pa.		at School					
30		John A. Kerrigan	Son	10	10	1879	Pa.	Pa.	Pa.		at School					
31		John A. Kerrigan	Son	10	10	1879	Pa.	Pa.	Pa.		at School					
32		John A. Kerrigan	Son	10	10	1879	Pa.	Pa.	Pa.		at School					
33		John A. Kerrigan	Son	10	10	1879	Pa.	Pa.	Pa.		at School					
34		John A. Kerrigan	Son	10	10	1879	Pa.	Pa.	Pa.		at School					
35		John A. Kerrigan	Son	10	10	1879	Pa.	Pa.	Pa.		at School					
36		John A. Kerrigan	Son	10	10	1879	Pa.	Pa.	Pa.		at School					
37		John A. Kerrigan	Son	10	10	1879	Pa.	Pa.	Pa.		at School					
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41		John A. Kerrigan	Son	10	10	1879	Pa.	Pa.	Pa.		at School					
42		John A. Kerrigan	Son	10	10	1879	Pa.	Pa.	Pa.		at School					
43		John A. Kerrigan	Son	10	10	1879	Pa.	Pa.	Pa.		at School					
44		John A. Kerrigan	Son	10	10	1879	Pa.	Pa.	Pa.		at School					
45		John A. Kerrigan	Son	10	10	1879	Pa.	Pa.	Pa.		at School					
46		John A. Kerrigan	Son	10	10	1879	Pa.	Pa.	Pa.		at School					
47		John A. Kerrigan	Son	10	10	1879	Pa.	Pa.	Pa.		at School					
48		John A. Kerrigan	Son	10	10	1879	Pa.	Pa.	Pa.		at School					
49		John A. Kerrigan	Son	10	10	1879	Pa.	Pa.	Pa.		at School					
50		John A. Kerrigan	Son	10	10	1879	Pa.	Pa.	Pa.		at School					
51		John A. Kerrigan	Son	10	10	1879	Pa.	Pa.	Pa.		at School					
52		John A. Kerrigan	Son	10	10	1879	Pa.	Pa.	Pa.		at School					
53		John A. Kerrigan	Son	10	10	1879	Pa.	Pa.	Pa.		at School					
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92		John A. Kerrigan	Son	10	10	1879	Pa.	Pa.	Pa.		at School					
93		John A. Kerrigan	Son	10	10	1879	Pa.	Pa.	Pa.		at School					
94		John A. Kerrigan	Son	10	10	1879	Pa.	Pa.	Pa.		at School					
95		John A. Kerrigan	Son	10	10	1879	Pa.	Pa.	Pa.		at School					
96		John A. Kerrigan	Son	10	10	1879	Pa.	Pa.	Pa.		at School					
97		John A. Kerrigan	Son	10	10	1879	Pa.	Pa.	Pa.		at School					
98		John A. Kerrigan	Son	10	10	1879	Pa.	Pa.	Pa.		at School					
99		John A. Kerrigan	Son	10	10	1879	Pa.	Pa.	Pa.		at School					
100		John A. Kerrigan	Son	10	10	1879	Pa.	Pa.	Pa.		at School					

A LIFE CUT SHORT

On August 24, 1900, William died suddenly of a heart attack. He was only forty-three years old. His youngest daughter, Alice, was not yet three.

His death left Hannah with six children and responsibility for the family business. Because she had worked alongside William and understood the enterprise, she was prepared to assume its leadership. With assistance from William’s parents, Patrick and Sarah, Hannah kept both the household and business moving forward. She would eventually expand its services as plumbing, septic systems, electricity, and indoor bathrooms transformed life along the Main Line.

That remarkable continuation belongs principally to Hannah’s story, but it also reflects the partnership she and William had created. The knowledge she gained during their marriage became essential to the family’s survival after his death.

William was buried at Saint Denis Cemetery in Havertown, Pennsylvania. Family tradition holds that Hannah purchased a large double burial plot and an impressive monument to ensure that her husband would be permanently remembered. Their son William F. Kerrigan Jr., who died from appendicitis in 1910 at only fifteen years old, was also memorialized there.

THE STAINED-GLASS LEGACY

William and Hannah donated a stained-glass window to Our Mother of Good Counsel Parish in Bryn Mawr. Their names remain inscribed along its lower border, providing a lasting testament to their faith, generosity, and place within the parish community.

The Kerrigan name also became part of the local landscape through Kerrigan Lane, preserving the family’s association with the land and community where Patrick and Sarah established their home and where William and Hannah raised the next generation.

In 2026, Father Joseph S. Mostardi, O.S.A., of Our Mother of Good Counsel Parish confirmed that the stained-glass window in the church was donated by Patrick and Sarah Kerrigan. Although no additional records concerning the window were found, it remains a visible part of the church they supported.

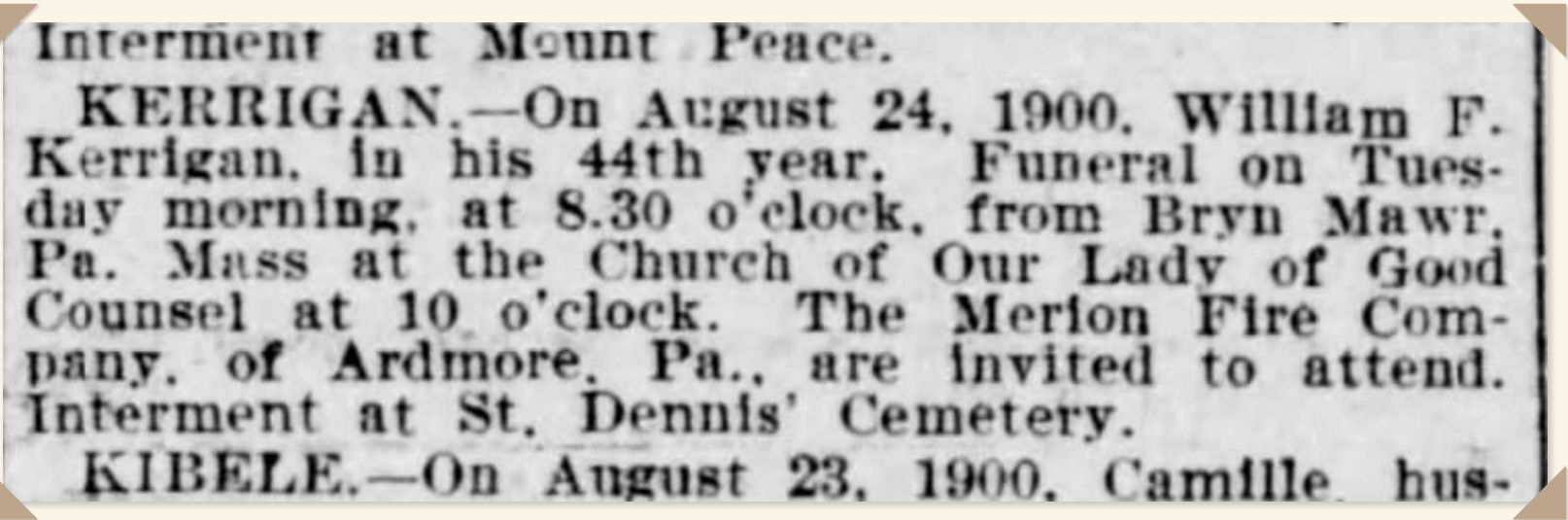
HIS REFLECTION

Although William’s life ended at only forty-three, his influence extended far beyond those years. He represented the second generation of the Kerrigan family in America—the generation that transformed the sacrifices of immigrant parents into an established family business, a stable home, and deep roots within the Bryn Mawr community.

His life also formed an important bridge between generations. As a boy, he reportedly stood beside his immigrant father and watched Abraham Lincoln’s funeral train pass. As an adult, he worked beside Hannah to build the family and enterprise that she would courageously carry forward after his death.

Their youngest daughter, Alice Josephine Kerrigan, later married John Henry Connelly, uniting two Irish American families whose histories became permanently intertwined. Through Alice came my father, John “Jack” Connelly, who preserved the Kerrigan family’s memories in writing. Through him, the story of William’s life—and the moment he shared with his father—continued into another generation.

William did not live to see the twentieth century unfold, but the family he helped create endured. His legacy survived through Hannah’s leadership, their children’s lives, the business that retained his name, the stained-glass window bearing their names, and the stories passed from parent to child.



Published following William’s death on August 24, 1900, this notice announced his funeral Mass at the Church of Our Lady of Good Counsel and burial at Saint Denis Cemetery. The invitation extended to the Marion Fire Company of Ardmore reflects William’s connection to the surrounding Main Line community.



Our Mother of Good Counsel Stained-Glass Window

William and Hannah Kerrigan’s names remain inscribed on the stained-glass window they donated to Our Mother of Good Counsel Parish in Bryn Mawr—a lasting expression of their faith, generosity, and connection to the parish community.

CARRY AWAY

TAKE THE TIME TO SHARE A LEGACY MOMENT WITH SOMEONE YOU LOVE. LOOKING TOGETHER AT A MOMENT IN HISTORY CAN DEEPEN YOUR RELATIONSHIP AND HELP YOU SEE THE BIGGER PICTURE—THE LIVES THAT CAME BEFORE YOU, THE CHOICES THAT SHAPED THE PRESENT, AND THE RIPPLES YOUR OWN LIFE MAY CARRY INTO THE FUTURE.



Hannah F. McGinty Kerrigan

MAY 19, 1854 – SEPTEMBER 2, 1923

Great Grandmother

THE STRENGTH BEHIND THE KERRIGAN LEGACY

Some people quietly live their lives. Others become the foundation upon which generations are built. Hannah F. McGinty Kerrigan was one of those people.

Family stories and accountings about Hannah survived in greater detail than those of almost anyone else in the Kerrigan family. Much of what follows was carefully preserved by my father, John “Jack” Connelly, with invaluable assistance from his granddaughter, Christine Hsieh. My father learned these stories from his mother, Alice Josephine Kerrigan, Hannah’s youngest daughter. Their memories provide an extraordinary window into the life of a woman whose strength, leadership, and determination shaped generations of our family long before I began uncovering the historical record.

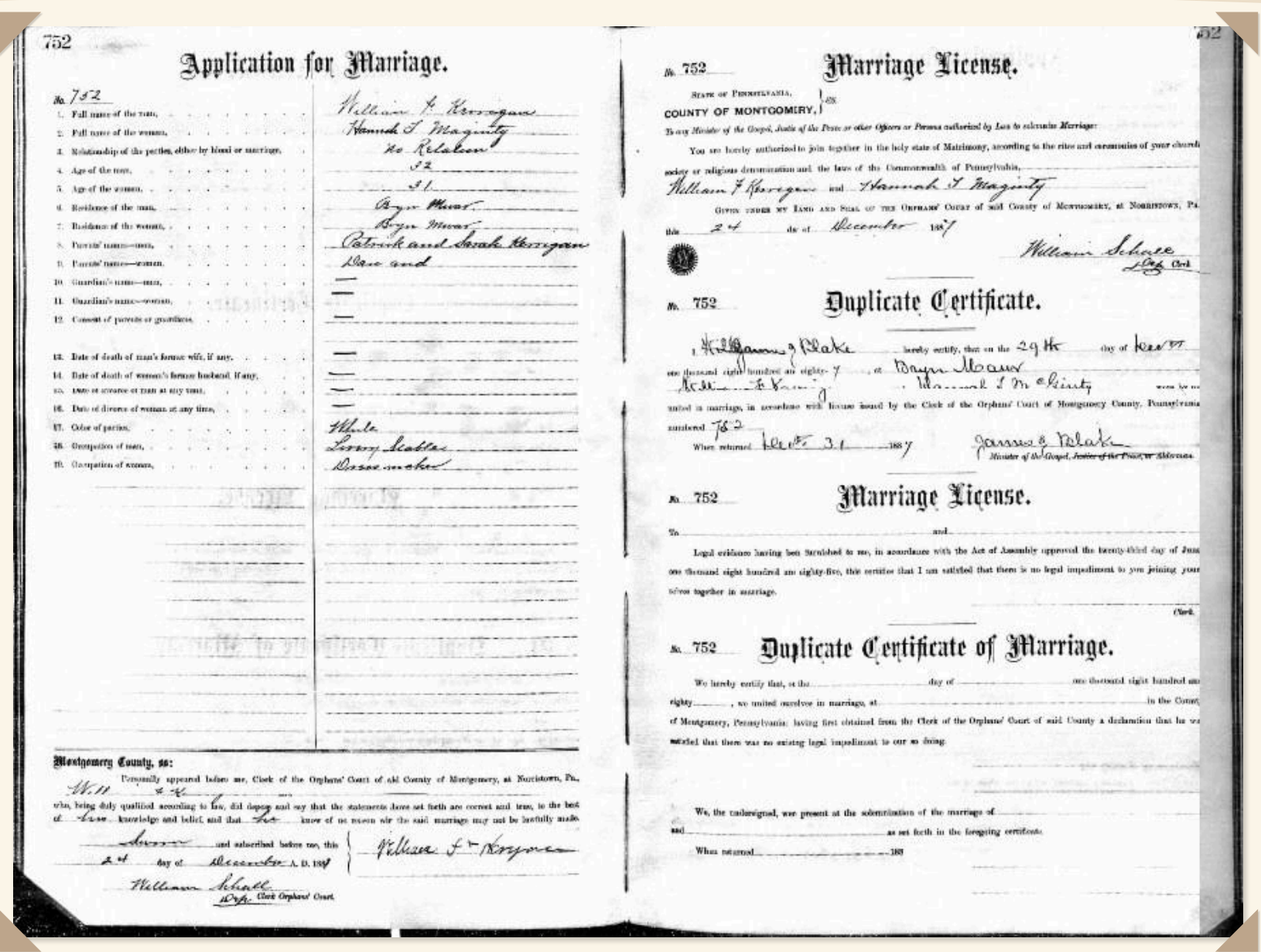
Born on May 19, 1854, in Haverford, Pennsylvania, Hannah grew up while the Main Line was still a landscape of farms, dirt roads, and scattered villages. She attended school near William Frederick “Bill” Kerrigan, who lived less than half a mile away. Their childhood paths eventually crossed, and on December 29, 1887, they were married and began building a life together in a modest cabin on Old Lancaster Road with Hannah’s parents.

Like many young families of the late nineteenth century, the Kerrigans relied far more on hard work than material wealth. Chickens supplied eggs and meat. A vegetable garden provided much of the family’s food, while glass jars sealed with wax preserved the harvest for winter. Wood had to be chopped for the stove, and every member of the household contributed because every pair of hands mattered. Their life reflected the resilience and self-sufficiency that characterized so many American families of the era.

Over the next decade Hannah and Bill welcomed six children into their home: Mary, Clara, Charles, William, Grace, and Alice Josephine. Alice, the youngest, would later marry John Henry Connelly and become the beloved grandmother remembered by later generations.

Together, Hannah and Bill built not only a family but also a successful business. Like many husband-and-wife partnerships, they shared responsibilities, and over the years Hannah learned the day-to-day operation of the enterprise alongside Bill. Every accomplished leader begins as a student, and Bill undoubtedly became one of Hannah’s greatest teachers. Neither of them could have imagined how important those lessons would soon become.

Then, in an instant, everything changed.



Marriage Certificate of Hannah Kerrigan and William Kerrigan

This marriage record documents the next generation of the Kerrigan family. It identifies Hannah as the daughter in law of Patrick H. Kerrigan and Sarah Flanagan, linking their family to the generations that followed. Dan McGinty, Hannah's father, is noted on the document too. The document also reflects the close ties among the extended Irish immigrant families of Philadelphia and the Main Line.

On August 24, 1900, Bill died suddenly of a heart attack at only forty-three years of age. Hannah was left a widow with six children, the youngest just three years old. Overnight, the wife became the head of the household. The mother became the business leader. The responsibilities she had once shared now rested entirely upon her shoulders.

Many women facing such circumstances would have depended upon relatives or sold the family business. Hannah chose another path.

She moved from co-leader to leader.

The business, known as **W. F. Kerrigan Boarding and Livery Stables**, was far more than a stable. It provided boarding for horses, livery services, coaches and cabs for hire, transportation for weddings and receptions, hauling, and excavating throughout the Bryn Mawr community. Hannah mastered every aspect of the operation. She supervised employees, managed payroll, made financial decisions, and ensured that both the business and her family continued to move forward.

She did far more than preserve what Bill had built—she strengthened it.

Hannah understood that success required more than hard work—it required the willingness to change. As the Main Line evolved from a rural community into a modern suburb, so did the Kerrigan enterprise. She expanded its services to include coal delivery, plumbing, septic systems, and the installation of indoor bathrooms as modern conveniences transformed everyday life.

A surviving business card proudly displays the telephone number “2,” a reminder that the Kerrigans were among the earliest adopters of telephone service in their community. Family tradition also remembers their home and business as among the first on the Main Line to embrace this remarkable new technology. Hannah’s home likewise became one of the first on Kerrigan Lane to receive electricity. Whether viewed through surviving documents or family memories, one characteristic consistently emerges: Hannah looked forward rather than backward. She understood that adapting to change was not abandoning tradition—it was ensuring the family’s future.

My father summarized her accomplishments with characteristic simplicity:

“Hannah was a successful businesswoman, and she quickly learned how to run the family and the business.”

Behind those few words stood years of courage, determination, and leadership.

The Kerrigan home was also filled with warmth. One of the family’s happiest memories centered around evenings spent gathered around a baby grand piano, sharing stories, songs, and laughter. Hannah understood that building a successful life meant more than operating a thriving business. It also meant creating a home where love, music, and family traditions flourished.

Around 1912, Hannah built a new home at 715 Lancaster Pike, a tangible symbol of everything she had accomplished after being widowed.

Yet success never diminished her compassion.

During difficult economic times, men frequently walked the railroad tracks searching for work and food. Hannah believed there was an important difference between someone unwilling to work and someone simply down on his luck. Those willing to chop wood earned a hot meal and a place to sleep in the barn.

Only once was that generosity betrayed.

One evening, after offering food and shelter to a traveler, Hannah discovered him attempting to break into her cellar. Without hesitation, she lit a newspaper, threw it toward the intruder, and shouted:

“You bum! After I feed you and let you sleep in my barn, you try to break into my house!”

The startled man fled.

It became one of the family’s favorite stories because it captured Hannah perfectly. She was generous, but she was nobody’s fool.

Life continued to test her courage.

Her son William died in 1910 at only fifteen years old from appendicitis, a disease medicine could seldom treat successfully at the time. Years later, her son Charlie died unexpectedly in his early thirties after suffering a heart attack while walking in Philadelphia. Few burdens are heavier than burying a child.

She also experienced disappointment. Charlie once failed to deposit company payroll funds, instead spending the money on a fur coat for his wife. Quietly and without public embarrassment, Hannah covered the payroll herself, protecting both her employees and the family’s reputation. She never stopped loving her son, but she never allowed personal hardship to interfere with her responsibilities.

Practical to the end, Hannah carried a blackjack in the pocket of her apron whenever she walked to the barn after dark. Kerrigan Lane had no streetlights. She admitted being frightened at times, but fear never prevented her from doing what needed to be done.

By the time Hannah died on September 2, 1923, she had witnessed the transformation of the Main Line from a rural landscape of horse-drawn wagons into a modern suburban community connected by electricity, telephones, improved transportation, and new technologies. Even more remarkable was the transformation she accomplished within her own family.

Without Hannah’s determination, there may never have been the secure home in which Alice Kerrigan was raised. Without Alice, there would have been no Connelly family as later generations came to know it. Hannah left behind far more than a successful business. She left a family shaped by resilience, responsibility, generosity, adaptability, and perseverance. Those values became her true inheritance, quietly passed from one generation to the next.

Hannah’s resilience became the foundation upon which countless lives would eventually rest.

Some family trees are held together by quiet branches.

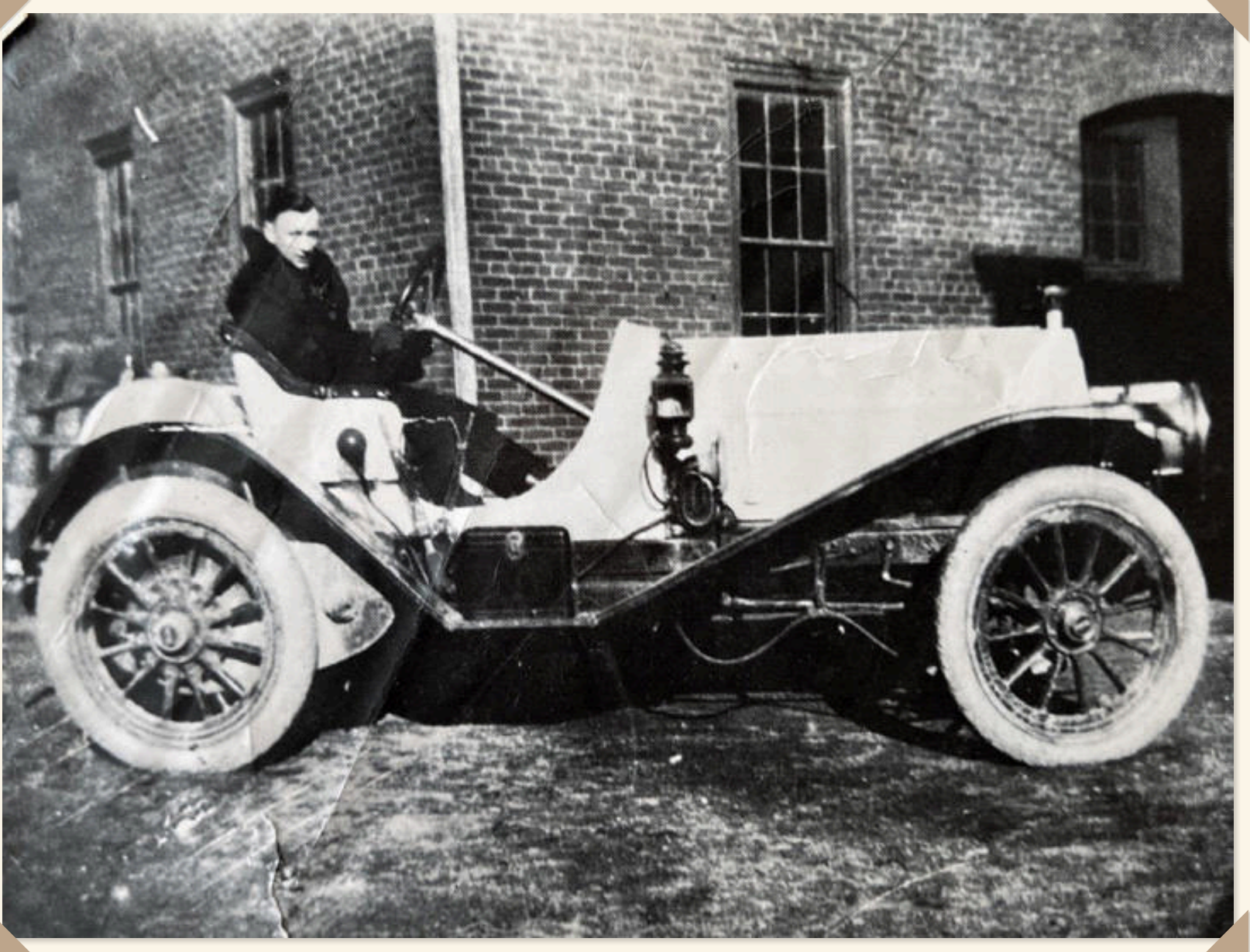
Ours was held together by Hannah McGinty Kerrigan.

CARRY AWAY

SOMETIMES LIFE OFFERS YOU OBSTACLES, BUT YOU CAN CHOOSE TO SEE THEM AS CHALLENGES. OTHERS MAY UNDERESTIMATE YOUR ABILITY TO OVERCOME THEM, BUT DON’T UNDERESTIMATE YOURSELF. USE THAT ENERGY IN A POSITIVE WAY AND TURN THE CHALLENGE INTO A STRONG OUTCOME.

VII. THE AMERICAN PORTRAITS

McGinty Family



Charlie photographed in his car, an early open touring/runabout, brass-era automobile because of the prominent brass lamps typical of automobiles from roughly 1907 – 1910.

Hannah McGinty’s marriage to William Frederick Kerrigan introduced the McGinty family into the Kerrigan family story.



Hannah Kerrigan on the front porch of her home.

Form V. S. No. 8—DOM-8-8-19.

1. PLACE OF DEATH
County of Merion
Township Lower Merion
or
Borough of
City of Bryn Mawr
Registration District No. 3111
Primary Registration District No. 715 Lancaster Ave.
City of Hannah Kerrigan

CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS.
File No. 96734
Registered No. 190

2. FULL NAME Hannah Kerrigan

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS

3. SEX F 4. COLOR OR RACE W 5. SINGLE, MARRIED, WIDOWED OR DIVORCED Widow

6. DATE OF BIRTH May 19, 1854

7. AGE 69 yrs. 3 mos. 12 ds. If LESS than 1 day how many.....hrs. or min.?

8. OCCUPATION
(a) Trade, profession, or, particular kind of work At Home
(b) General nature of industry, business, or establishment in which employed (or employer)

9. BIRTHPLACE, (State or Country) Bryn Mawr Pa

10. NAME OF FATHER Daniel McGinty

11. BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER (State or Country) Ireland

12. MAIDEN NAME Eleanor Lowhrey

13. BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER (State or Country) Ireland

14. THE ABOVE IS TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE.
(Informant) Mrs. Mayie Kerrigan
(Address) 715 Lancaster Ave

15. DATE OF DEATH Sept 2, 1923

16. I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from 1921 to Sept 19, 1923, that I last saw her alive on Sept 19, 1923, and that death occurred, on the date stated above, at 11:40 pm. The CAUSE OF DEATH* was as follows:
apoplexy
Duration: 1 yrs. 2 mos. ds.
Contributory (Secondary) arterio sclerosis
(Signed) Alex. R. Evans M. D.
Sept 3 10 23 (Address) Ardenmore

17. LENGTH OF RESIDENCE (For Hospitals, Institutions, Transients or Recent Residents).
At place of death: yrs. mos. ds. In the State: yrs. mos. ds.
Where was disease contracted, If not at place of death?
Former or usual residence

18. PLACE OF BURIAL OR REMOVAL St. Denis
19. DATE OF BURIAL Sept. 5, 1923
20. UNDERTAKER Mr. McEnaghy
ADDRESS Ardenmore Pa

Filed Sept 4, 1923 Local Registrar

Death certificate of Hannah Kerrigan passed on September 2, 1923. Her parent names and birthplaces were documented, Daniel McGinty and Eleanor (Lowhrey) McGinty – both from Ireland.



The family gravestone of William F. and Hannah Kerrigan at Saint Denis Cemetery, also memorializing their son William F. Kerrigan Jr.



Daniel and Ellen McGinty are buried at St. Denis Cemetery. Their monument preserves the names of the Irish couple who crossed the Atlantic separately, reunited in Pennsylvania, and established this branch of the family in America.

Daniel Patrick McGinty

ABOUT 1810 – MAY 13, 1883

Second Great-Grandfather

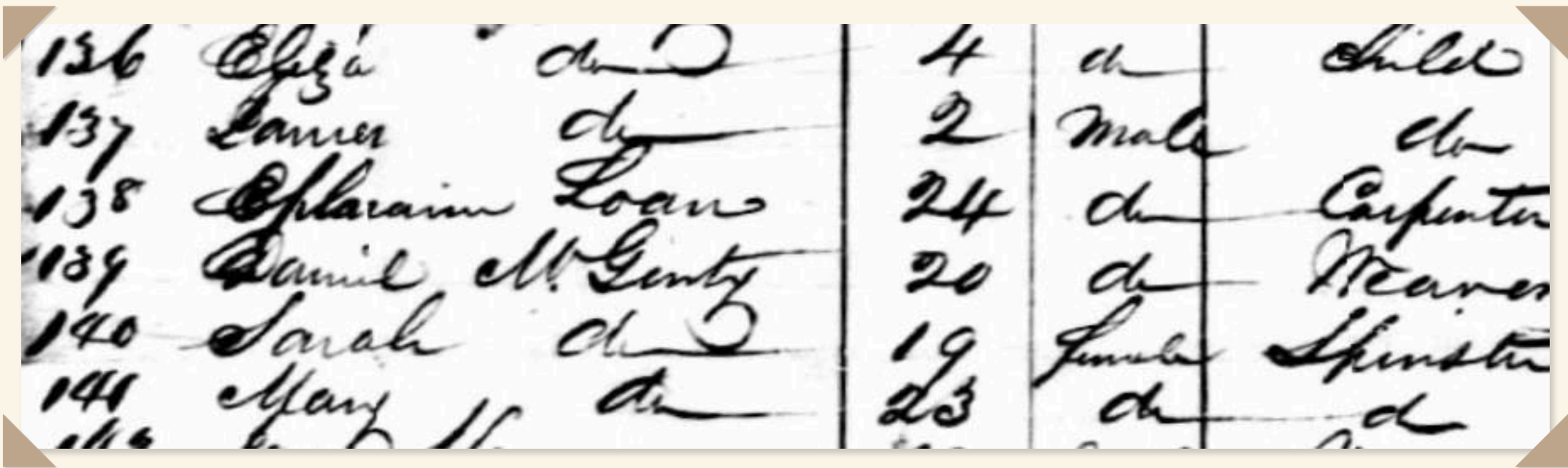
AN IRISH PIONEER WHO CHOSE AMERICA

Daniel McGinty was born about 1810, most likely in or near the parish of Clondahorky, County Donegal, Ireland. Little is known of his early life, but surviving records suggest that by the early 1830s he was living in this rural farming community along Ireland’s rugged northwest coast. It was there that he likely met and married Ellen Lowhrey, beginning a partnership that would eventually carry them separately across the Atlantic and establish their family in America.

Daniel appears to have emigrated during an earlier period of Irish immigration, nearly a decade before the Great Famine forced millions to leave Ireland. A passenger record identifies a Daniel McGinty arriving in Philadelphia aboard the Amy on August 23, 1836. No surviving document explicitly connects that passenger with the man who later lived in Lower Merion Township. Nevertheless, the name, timing, destination, and subsequent documentary record align closely enough that this history treats the Amy passenger as the likely record of Daniel’s arrival.

Approximately two years later, Ellen followed him to Philadelphia aboard the Cadmus, arriving from Liverpool on August 21, 1838. Her passenger record identifies her as Ellen McGinty, age twenty, confirming that she was already using her married name. By 1840, Daniel and Ellen were living together in Lower Merion Township, Montgomery County, where they had begun building their American life.

The 1840 federal census records only the young couple, suggesting that they were still at the beginning of their family life. Daniel found work in agriculture, and during the following decade the McGintys achieved a measure of stability. The 1850 census places them in neighboring Radnor Township, Delaware County, where Daniel was working as a farmer. The household reported real estate valued at \$900—a noteworthy accomplishment for an immigrant family that had arrived little more than a decade earlier.



The passenger list of the Amy records a Daniel McGinty arriving in Philadelphia on August 23, 1836. Although the record cannot be conclusively connected to the later resident of Lower Merion Township, the name, date, destination, and subsequent chronology make this the most likely account of his arrival in America.

One of the most important discoveries documenting Daniel’s life is his naturalization record. On August 13, 1842, he appeared before the Philadelphia Court of Quarter Sessions and filed his Declaration of Intention to become a citizen of the United States. On September 14, 1844, he completed the process by taking the Oath of Allegiance before the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, formally declaring America to be his permanent home.

The naturalization papers also preserve something more personal: Daniel made his mark rather than signing his name. Signing by mark was common among immigrants of his generation and does not by itself explain the extent of his education or literacy. It nevertheless provides a tangible connection to him. That small mark is the closest thing the family may ever have to his signature, placed upon a document recording one of the most consequential decisions of his life.

Within a few generations, Daniel’s descendants would own homes, receive university educations, build successful careers, travel the world, and preserve his story in this family history. The mark he left on his naturalization paper became part of a much larger journey—one in which each succeeding generation was given opportunities the generation before it had worked to create.

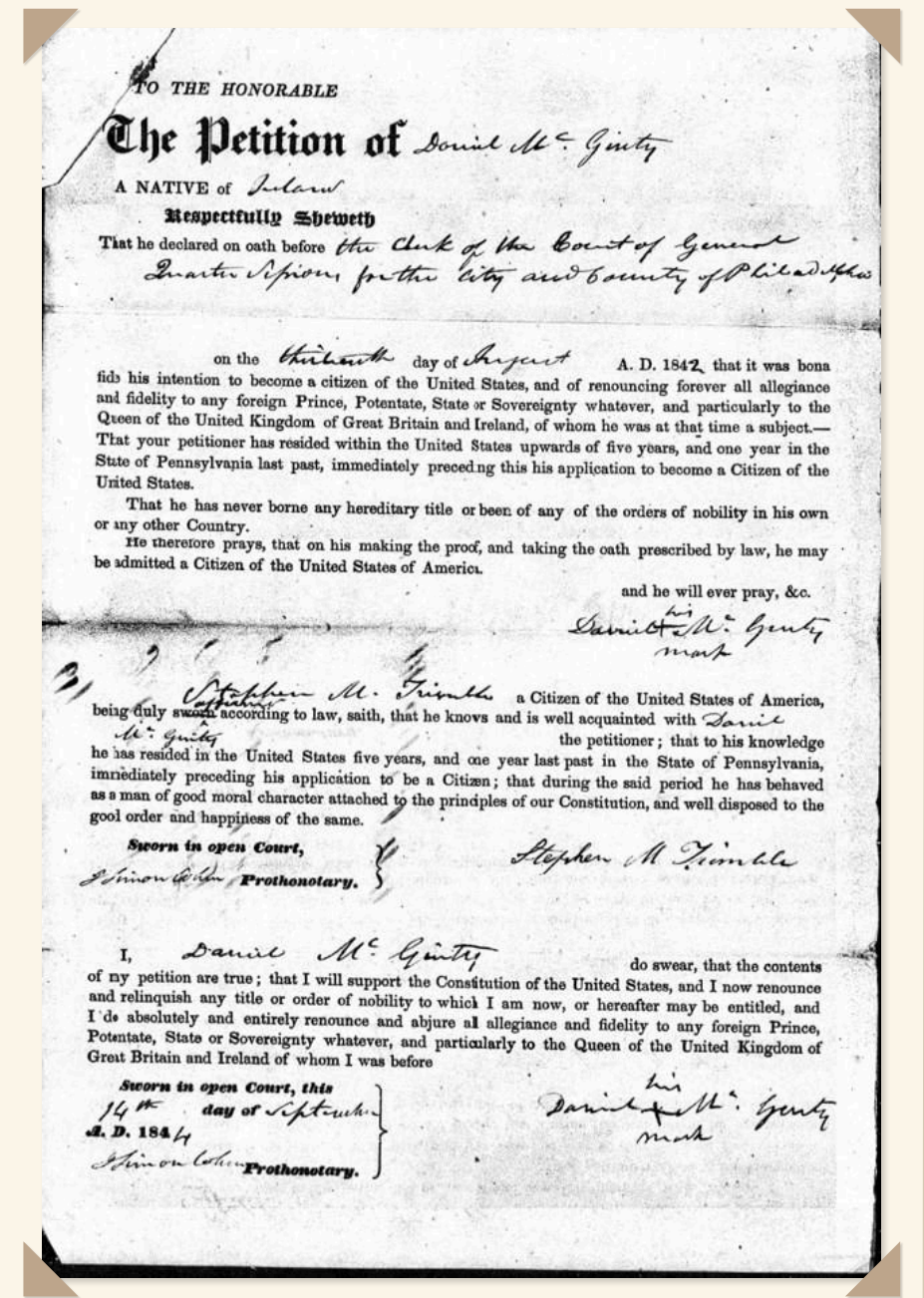
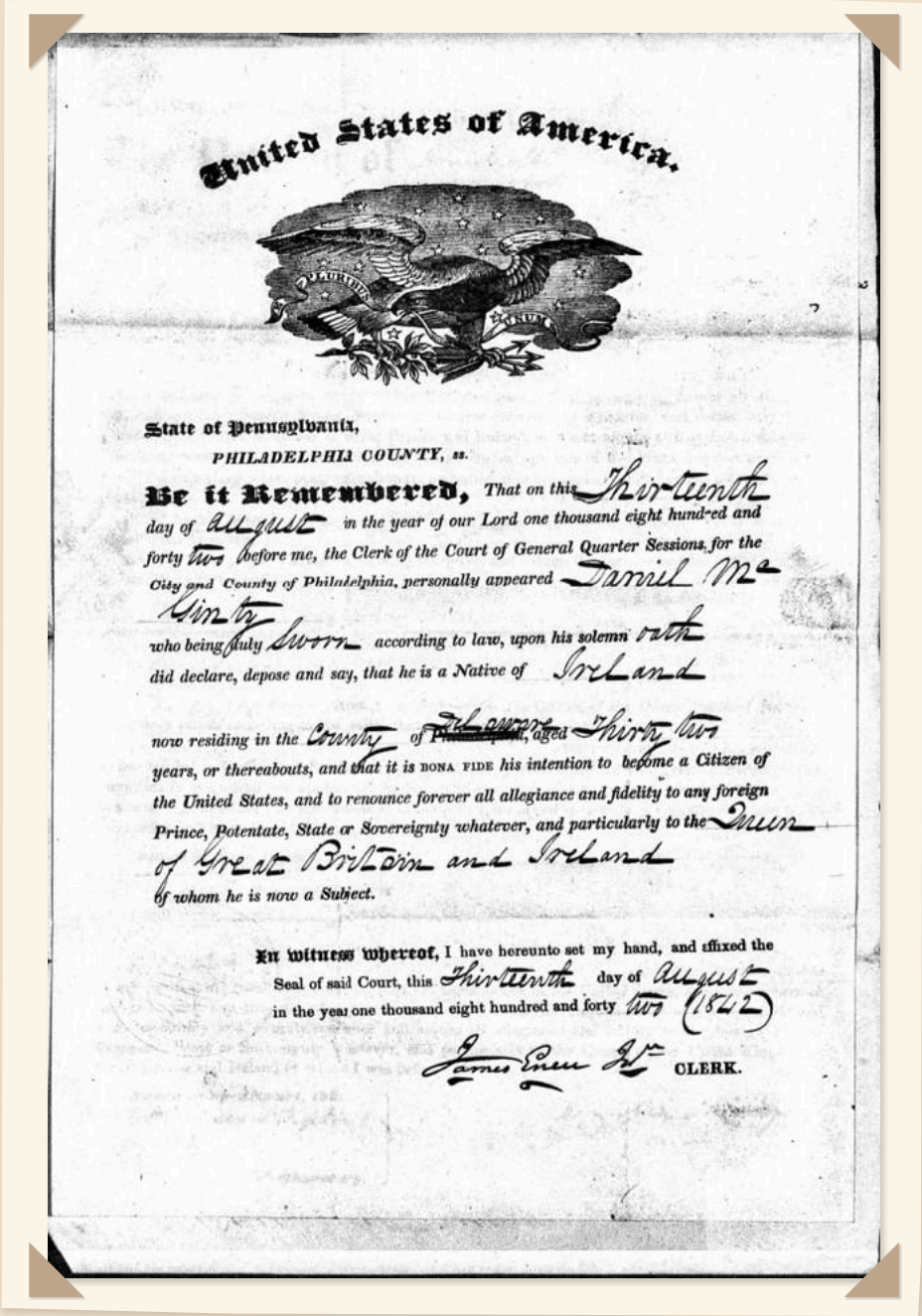
Daniel and Ellen raised six children in the communities west of Philadelphia. Their only son, John, was joined by five daughters: Ellen, Mary Ann, Catharine, Hannah, and Sallie. Their daughter Hannah later married William Frederick Kerrigan, joining the McGinty and Kerrigan families. Through Hannah, Daniel and Ellen’s Irish heritage became permanently woven into the Kerrigan and Connelly family lines.

For at least a decade, the McGinty household also included Catharine McGlaughlin, an older Irish-born woman whose precise relationship to the family remains unknown. She may have been a relative—possibly connected to Ellen’s family—or a close family friend. The McGintys’ daughter Catharine may have been named in her honor, although that connection cannot be documented. Her presence in the household offers a glimpse of the extended networks through which immigrant families often supported one another.

The McGintys experienced both the promise and the hardships of nineteenth-century America. On July 1, 1863, their son John, then twenty-four years old, registered under the Federal Enrollment Act as a Class I registrant. On that same day, the opening shots of the Battle of Gettysburg were fired less than 125 miles away. No evidence has been found that John ultimately entered military service, but his registration shows how directly the Civil War reached the McGinty household.

The following years brought profound sorrow. John died in 1866 at only twenty-six years of age. Three years later, his sister Ellen died of consumption at approximately twenty-three. Both died before their parents. These losses demonstrate that while immigration brought the possibility of greater opportunity, it could not protect a family from the illness and early death that remained common during the nineteenth century.

Daniel continued to adapt as the economy around Philadelphia changed. By 1870, he was working as a railroad laborer, reflecting the rapid expansion of Pennsylvania’s rail system. His transition from farming to railroad work illustrates his willingness to accept the work available to support himself and his family.



From Intention to Citizenship

These pages document two separate stages in Daniel McGinty's naturalization. He declared his intention to become an American citizen on August 13, 1842. On September 14, 1844, he completed the process by taking the Oath of Allegiance. Daniel made his mark on the papers, leaving a personal trace of the immigrant who formally chose America as his home.

MCGINTY → KERRIGAN → CONNELLY

Ellen died on December 23, 1878. The 1880 census subsequently recorded Daniel as a widower and laborer. After approximately forty years of marriage and a shared life in Pennsylvania, he spent his remaining years without the woman who had crossed the Atlantic to join him.

Daniel died on May 13, 1883. Cemetery paper records reported his age as seventy-seven, although that age is somewhat older than the approximate birth year suggested by several census records. He was buried beside Ellen at St. Denis Cemetery, where their monument preserves the names of the Irish couple who established this branch of the family in America.

Daniel's life is not remembered through public fame or celebrated achievements. It survives through the passenger record of the Amy, the censuses that trace his family's progress, the naturalization papers bearing his mark, and the generations of descendants who followed. Together, those records tell the story of an Irish immigrant who chose America and remained committed to the life he began building there.

CARRY AWAY

Follow your internal compass and remain committed to your long-term goals. Daniel crossed the Atlantic, established a home for his family, and completed the process of becoming an American citizen. His life demonstrates the lasting power of choosing a direction and continuing to follow it.



This period illustration represents the type of transatlantic journey Ellen McGinty made in 1838. It is not the vessel that carried her. Ellen crossed without Daniel at her side and arrived in Philadelphia aboard the *Cadmus* on August 21, 1838.

Ellenor (Eleanor) Lowhrey McGinty

ABOUT 1818 – DECEMBER 23, 1878

Second Great Grandmother

A COURAGEOUS JOURNEY OF HER OWN

Ellenor Lowhrey McGinty—also recorded as Eleanor and Ellen—was born about 1818 in Ireland. Her reported ages in the 1850 and 1860 censuses, together with the age recorded at her death, consistently support that approximate birth year. The 1870 census differs by only about two years.

Ellen belonged to the generation of Irish immigrants who left their homeland before the Great Famine. She was already married to Daniel McGinty when, at approximately twenty years of age, she crossed the Atlantic aboard the *Cadmus*. The ship sailed from Liverpool and arrived in Philadelphia on August 21, 1838. The passenger record identifies her as Ellen McGinty, confirming that she was already using her married name.

According to the passenger evidence adopted in this history, Daniel had arrived in Philadelphia aboard the *Amy* in August 1836. Ellen therefore followed him approximately two years later, making the Atlantic crossing without her husband at her side. The passenger list does not establish whether she traveled with relatives, friends, or acquaintances, so it cannot be stated that she was entirely alone. It does, however, document a demanding journey undertaken by a young married woman preparing to reunite with her husband and establish their life in America.

By 1840, Ellen and Daniel were living together in Lower Merion Township, Montgomery County. The census records only the young couple, suggesting that they were still at the beginning of their family life. They later lived in neighboring Radnor Township before returning to Lower Merion, reflecting the close connection among the communities west of Philadelphia.

Ellen and Daniel raised six children: John, Ellen, Mary Ann, Catharine, Hannah, and Sallie. Three of them—John, Ellen, and Mary Ann—never married and were eventually memorialized together beneath one gravestone. John died in 1866 at only twenty-six years of age, and Ellen died of consumption in 1869 at approximately twenty-three. Both died before their parents. Mary Ann survived until 1913.

Their three other daughters—Catharine, Hannah, and Sallie—married and established families of their own. Hannah married William Frederick Kerrigan, joining two Irish immigrant families whose descendants would remain connected for generations. Through Hannah, Ellen became an ancestor of the Kerrigan and Connelly families represented in this book.

For at least a decade, the McGinty household also included Catharine McGlaughlin, an older Irish-born woman who was likely a relative or close family associate, although her precise relationship remains unknown. The McGintys’ daughter Catharine may have been named for her. Her presence suggests that Ellen and Daniel’s household extended beyond their immediate family and may have served as part of a broader network of mutual support.

While Daniel worked as a farmer and later as a railroad laborer, Ellen managed the household and helped raise their growing family. Although the surviving records do not describe her daily work, maintaining a nineteenth-century household required constant labor. Food had to be prepared, clothing washed and repaired, children cared for, and the home managed without the conveniences later generations would take for granted.

The federal censuses document the stability that Ellen and Daniel gradually achieved. In 1850, their household reported real estate valued at \$900. By 1870, the reported value had increased to \$1,200. The records do not divide that accomplishment between husband and wife, but it was the result of the life they built together over several decades.

That life also demanded considerable resilience. Ellen endured the deaths of two of her children before her own. Her only son, John, died in 1866. Three years later, her daughter Ellen died of consumption. The losses of two young adult children within such a short period must have deeply affected the entire household, although no letters or personal accounts survive to record Ellen’s feelings in her own words.

Like many immigrant women of the nineteenth century, Ellen left few documents created in her own hand. Her life must instead be reconstructed through passenger lists, census records, property values, family relationships, and the lives of her children. Yet these records reveal a meaningful story. She crossed an ocean without her husband beside her, reunited with him in Pennsylvania, helped establish their household, raised six children, and remained at the center of the family they created.

Ellen died on December 23, 1878, in Havertown, Pennsylvania, at approximately sixty years of age. She was buried at St. Denis Cemetery. Daniel was buried beside her following his death in 1883. Their monument preserves their lives together—a lasting reminder of an Irish couple who crossed the Atlantic separately, reunited in Pennsylvania, and planted roots that continued to deepen through succeeding generations.

Although much about Ellen’s early life in Ireland remains unknown, her legacy is unmistakable. She followed Daniel across the Atlantic and undertook a difficult journey of her own. She then helped transform their uncertain beginning into a permanent family home. Through her children and grandchildren, her strength and perseverance became part of the foundation upon which our family’s American story was built.

CARRY AWAY

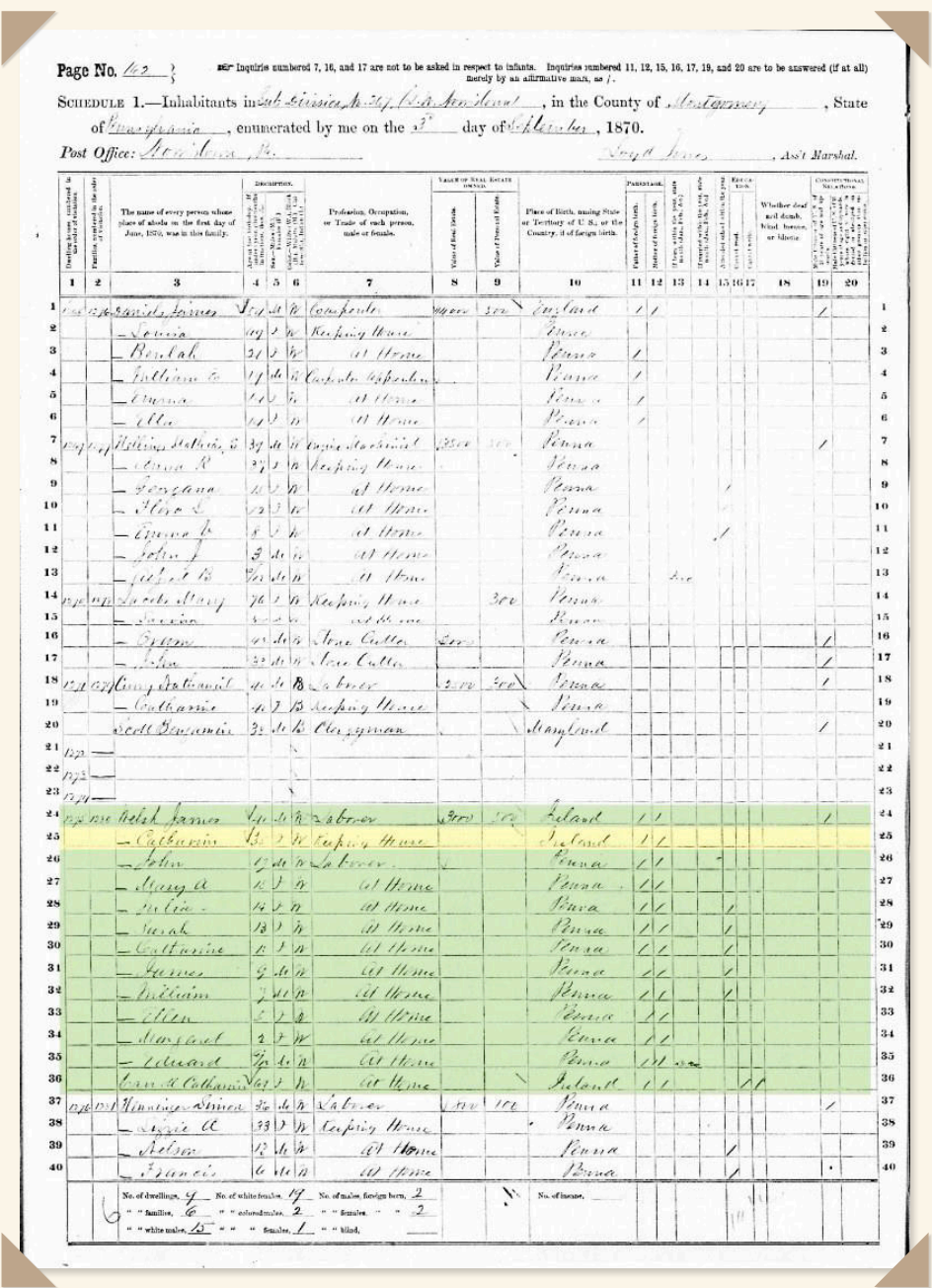
Sometimes moving forward requires the courage to make a difficult journey of your own. Ellen crossed the Atlantic without her husband at her side, following the path Daniel had begun approximately two years earlier. Her journey reunited them in Pennsylvania and helped turn their hope for a new life into a permanent family home.

VIII. THE AMERICAN PORTRAITS

Walsh Family



John, Ellen, and Mary Ann McGinty never married and were buried together beneath this shared gravestone. John died in 1866 at twenty-six, Ellen died of consumption in 1869 at approximately twenty-three, and Mary Ann survived until 1913. Their memorial preserves the three siblings together.



The Walsh Family in 1870

Recorded under the spelling “Welsh,” the 1870 census lists James and Catharine with their ten children in Norristown. James was employed as a laborer, while Catharine was recorded as “keeping house.” The household of twelve captures the large family they built together and illustrates the changing spellings of the Walsh surname.

James Walsh & Catharine Carroll Walsh

ABOUT 1827–1829 – JULY 1900
NOVEMBER 1834 – ABOUT FEBRUARY 1901

Second Great-Grandparents

TWO IRISH IMMIGRANTS WHO BUILT A FAMILY TOGETHER

James Walsh and Catharine Carroll were born in Ireland and made their journeys to America separately.

James arrived at the Port of Philadelphia on July 11, 1848. Less than a year later, fourteen-year-old Catharine departed Liverpool and arrived in Philadelphia on June 26, 1849. Both had crossed the Atlantic to begin lives they could not yet have imagined.

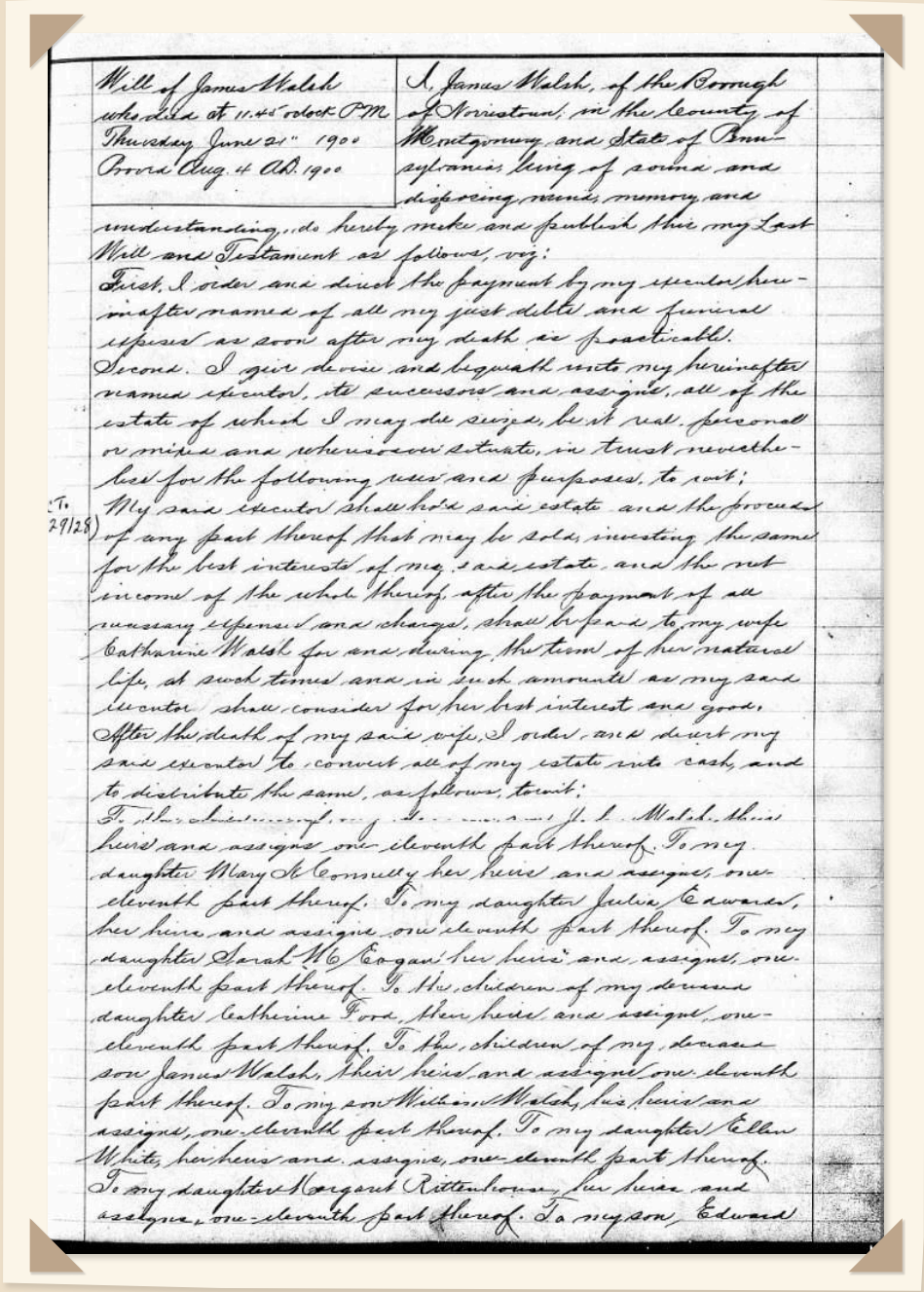
Their paths soon converged. James and Catharine married in 1851, when she was about seventeen. Two young Irish immigrants who had left their homeland behind had found one another in Pennsylvania.

They settled in Norristown, where James supported his growing family as a laborer. The 1860 census recorded James and Catharine with their young children, and by 1870 their household had grown considerably. James continued working outside the home while Catharine was recorded as “keeping house”—a modest description for the work required to raise their large family.

Together, James and Catharine became the parents of ten children. The family name was recorded inconsistently as Walsh and Welsh, sometimes even within records concerning the same immediate family. These variations made later generations difficult to trace, but the surviving census, probate, and cemetery records establish the family they created together.

Their life was not without hardship. Several of their children died before their parents, including one who succumbed to consumption. Such losses were an unfortunate reality for many nineteenth-century families, but for James and Catharine they were deeply personal—the loss of children they had brought into the world and raised together.

Over the years, James accumulated property and something to leave behind. On April 27, 1900, he signed his last will and testament. The document provides something more meaningful than an accounting of property. In it, James named Catharine and their children and carefully considered how what he had accumulated should pass among the family. After nearly half a century of marriage, his final legal document remained centered on the people with whom he had built his life.



James died in July 1900 and was interred at Saint Patrick Cemetery in Norristown on July 25. His cemetery record illustrates the difficulty created by the family’s surname variations: the lot holder was identified as “James Welsh,” while his burial entry was written as “James Walsh.”

Later that year, the census found Catharine living in Conshohocken as a sixty-six-year-old widow and head of her household. She would not remain there for long. Less than seven months after James’s burial, Catharine was buried at St. Matthew’s Roman Catholic Cemetery in Conshohocken on February 14, 1901—Valentine’s Day.

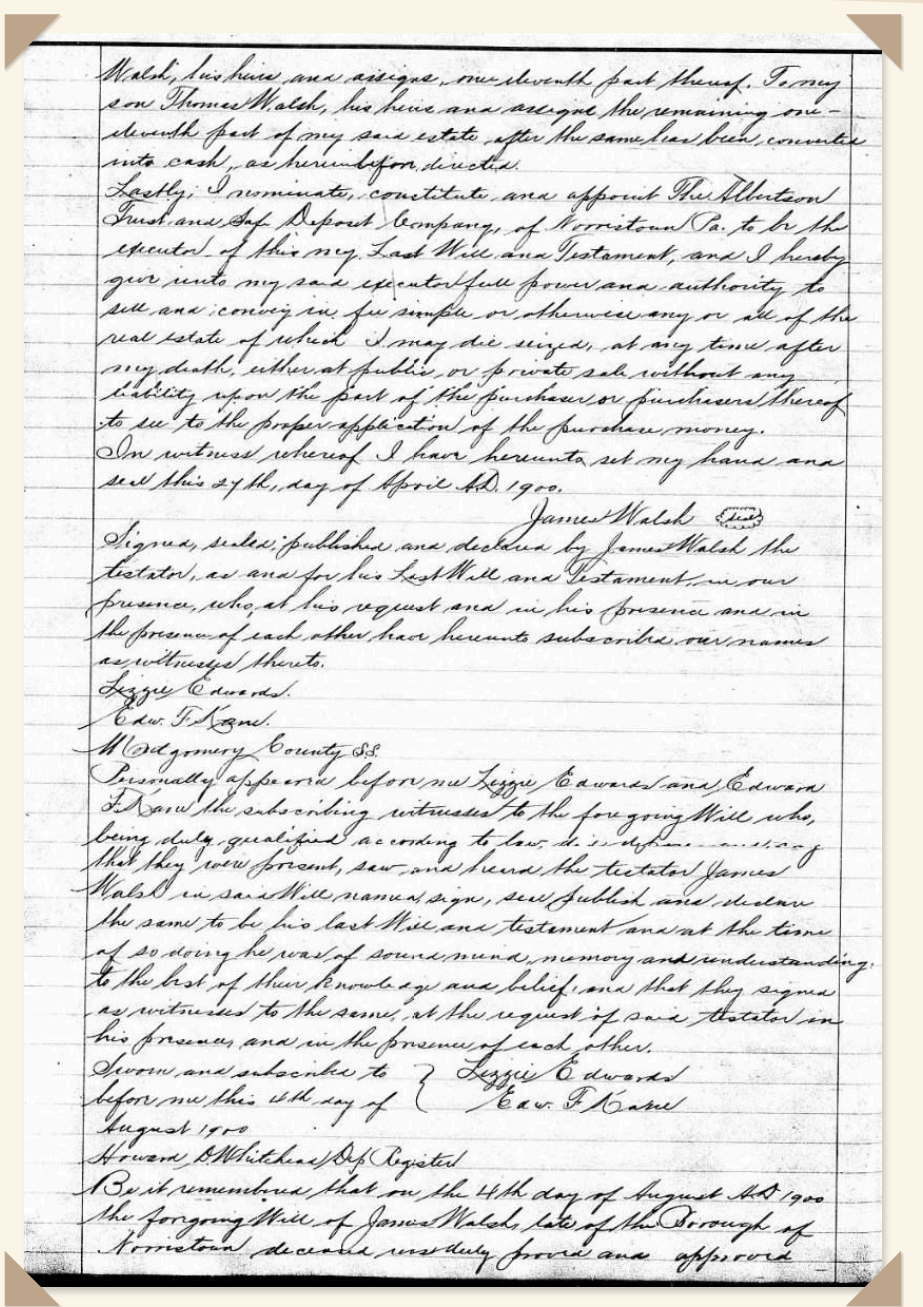
James and Catharine were laid to rest in different cemeteries. Yet after two immigrants had crossed an ocean, found one another, raised ten children, endured the family’s joys and losses, and spent nearly half a century building a life together in Pennsylvania, one can only hope that, in some way, they were reunited.

CARRY AWAY

SOMETIMES A LIFE WELL LIVED IS SIMPLY A LIFE BUILT TOGETHER.

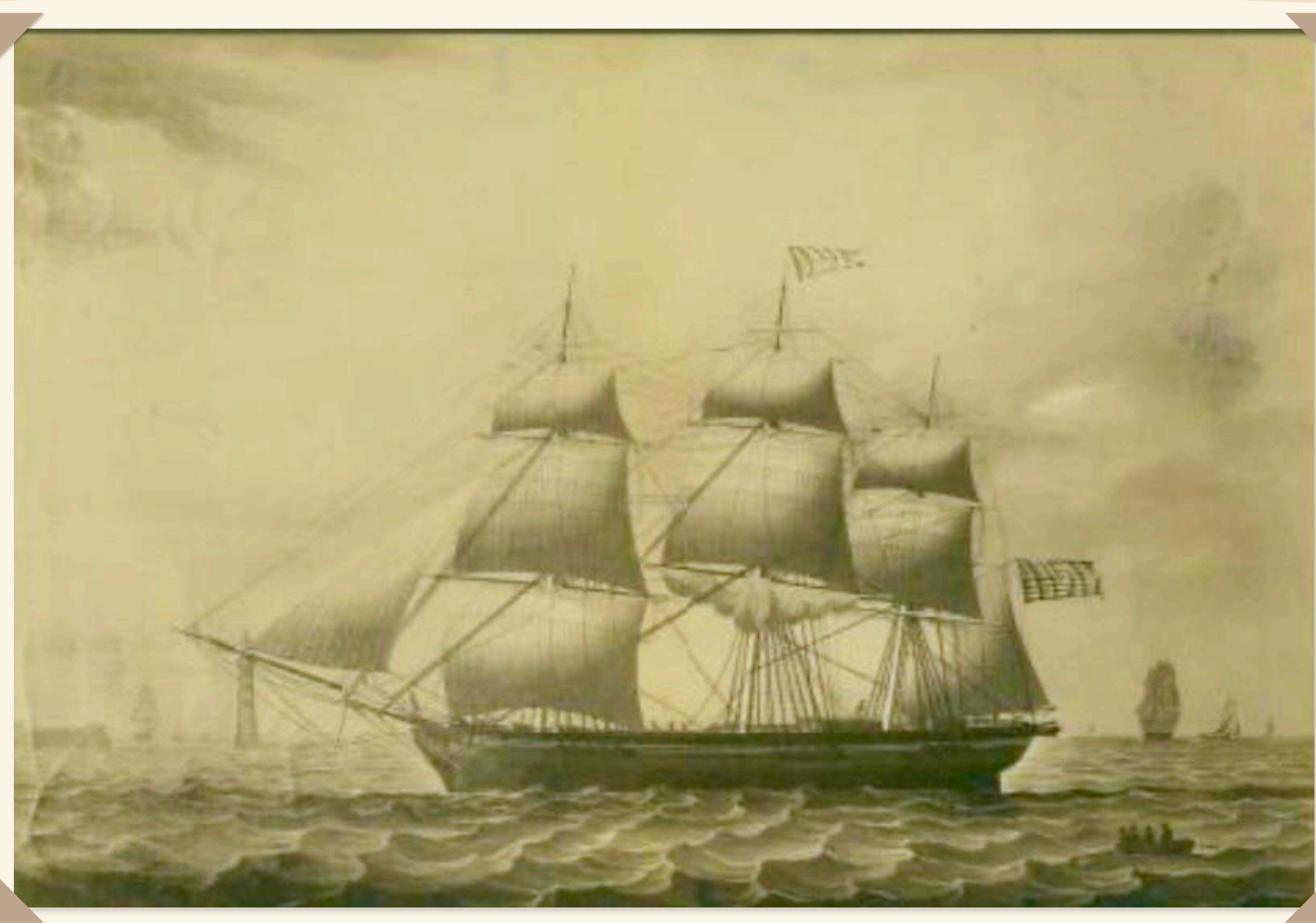
THE AMERICAN PORTRAITS

Connelly Family



James Walsh’s Will

James Walsh’s will, dated June 21, 1900, provided Catharine with the use and income of his estate throughout her lifetime. After her death, the remaining property was to be distributed among their children and descendants. The will was proved on August 4, 1900, shortly after James’s death.



Arrival in America

An 1835 image of the merchant ship *St. Leon* of Castine, Maine. A vessel bearing this name carried Edward Connelly to Boston in April 1848, although the pictured ship has not been conclusively confirmed as the same vessel.

Edward Connelly

ABOUT 1816 – SEPTEMBER 21, 1886

Second Great Grandfather

AN IRISH IMMIGRANT WHO PUT DOWN ROOTS

Edward Connelly was born in Ireland in about 1816. Although the exact place of his birth remains one of the mysteries in our family history, the path he followed to America has survived. Sailing from Liverpool aboard the *St. Leon*, Edward arrived in Boston on April 27, 1848. Like thousands of Irish immigrants of his generation, he crossed the Atlantic seeking the possibility of a more secure future.

By 1850, Edward was living in Lower Merion Township, Pennsylvania, where he began establishing himself through steady physical labor. Around 1851, he married Jane Starr, another Irish immigrant. Together they built a home that became the foundation of the American Connelly family.

The 1860 federal census records Edward working as a stone mason, a skilled and physically demanding trade. His hands helped build the rapidly growing communities along Philadelphia’s Main Line at a time when much of the area was still a landscape of farms, estates, and small villages.

Edward and Jane raised five children: four sons—John Joseph, Edward J., Joseph Henry, and Robert P.—and one daughter, Mary Jane. Their descendants would remain deeply rooted in Delaware and Montgomery Counties for generations.

Edward later earned his living as a gardener, beginning a connection to horticulture that continued through the next generation. His sons worked primarily as gardeners, and John Joseph became a florist. The work provided opportunity, but it also carried risks. Decades after Edward’s death, his son Robert lost his life after being struck by a falling tree limb while working—a tragic reminder of the dangers faced by those whose livelihoods depended upon outdoor physical labor.

SERVICE AND CITIZENSHIP

The surviving Saint Denis Cemetery record identifies Edward plainly as a “**U.S. War Veteran.**” Edward served his adopted country during the Civil War, although his regiment and the details of that service have not yet been established. His military service belongs within his story without attaching him to a particular unit unsupported by the surviving evidence.

In 1866, shortly after the Civil War ended, Edward completed the naturalization process and formally became an American citizen. John Starr Jr. appeared as a witness, providing an important documented connection between Edward and the Starr family, although John’s precise relationship to Jane has not been proven.

Naturalization represented more than an entry in a courthouse book. Edward formally pledged his allegiance to the country in which he had served, worked, married, and established his family. Eighteen years after stepping ashore from the *St. Leon*, his journey from Irish immigrant to American citizen was complete.

“A FINE OLD MAN”

In later years, Edward became known for his work in landscaping and outdoor gardening. A contemporary memoir, *Personal Reminiscences of the Main Line*, described him as “a fine old man” engaged in “out-of-door work,” or “landscape gardening,” as the author explained it. The same account noted that members of the Connelly family became locally prominent as florists.

The memoir also recognized the indispensable role played by Edward’s daughter-in-law in the family business. In addition to caring for her home and children, she kept the books, prepared bills and checks, and managed the office while her husband worked outdoors. Long before Connelly’s Florist became familiar to later generations, the family had established a local reputation through its gardening and floral work.

A FATHER’S FINAL PROVISIONS

Edward signed his will on May 7, 1886. The document offers a final and unusually personal glimpse into his concern for his family.

He left his property to Jane for the remainder of her life, ensuring that she would continue to have a home and financial security. He also made careful provisions for their daughter, Mary Jane. Edward directed that she could remain permanently in the family home with her mother and, if she married during Jane’s lifetime, could bring her husband into the house to live with them.

The will also recognized each of Edward’s four sons. Edward J. and Robert P. were to receive individual bequests, while John J. and Joseph Henry were appointed executors. His unmarried sons could continue living in the home but were expected to contribute fairly toward their board.

Rather than simply dividing his possessions, Edward considered how the household would continue after his death. His instructions reveal a practical man who understood his responsibilities as a husband and father and wanted Jane and Mary Jane to remain secure.

Edward died on September 21, 1886, approximately four months after signing his will. He was buried at Saint Denis Cemetery in Havertown, where generations of the Connelly family would later be laid to rest.

REFLECTION

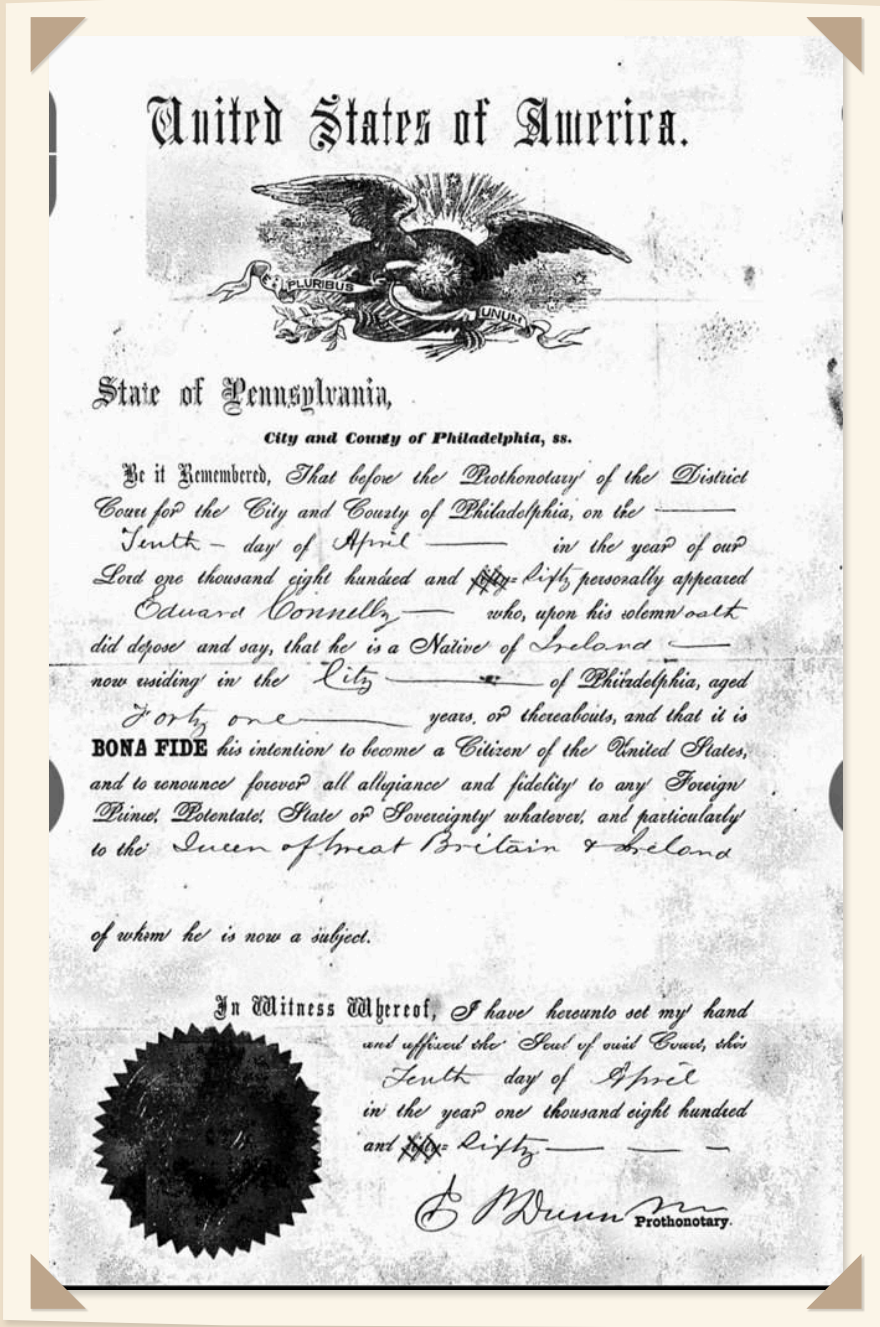
Edward’s story is one of perseverance, service, and commitment. He left Ireland, crossed the Atlantic aboard the *St. Leon*, and built a new life through demanding physical work. He served his adopted country during the Civil War and then formally became an American citizen. With Jane, he raised four sons and one daughter and established a family whose roots remained firmly planted along the Main Line.

Of all the records that survive, one simple phrase stands above the rest. A man who knew Edward remembered him as “a fine old man.” That quiet compliment may be the greatest tribute any ancestor can receive. Long after occupations, census entries, and legal documents have faded into history, those words remind us that Edward was remembered not only for what he accomplished, but for the man he was.

Old Section Saint Dennis Cemetery 11				Grave No
Conley	Michael	Died 1-13-1905 Aged 64 yrs		388
	Mary	His Wife Died 11-8-1895 age 63 yrs		388
	Patrick	Died 9-30-1906 Age 60 yrs		365
Conley	Mary A	Wife of John M Murphy Died 7-8-1890		
		Age 28 yrs		2315
Convery J	U S War Veteran	X		2146
				2147
	Herman John	Penna Seaman 2nd Cl U S Navy		
		12-20-1933 U S War Veteran		1684
Conway	Luke	Died 4-13-1838 Aged 42 yrs		278
Connelly	Catharine	1862-1914		2415
	Susan	6-20-1906		2133
	Esther	3-28-1893 12-2-1893		1214
	Joseph A	11-29-1895 9-4-1896		1214
	Edward	Died 9-21-1886 Aged 70 yrs		1215
		U S War Veteran		
	Jane	His Wife Died 7-8-1904 88 yrs		1215
		X		1216
		Monument (Children) of Michael & Elizabeth (Connelly)		
Connelly	Elizabeth	Talor 8-22-1824 4-22-1875		394
	Phebe Ann	4-20-1854 3-28-1872 Aged 17 -10 mos		394
		20 days		
	Phebe Ann	8-1-1852 8-2-1852		394
	Michael	8-1-1852 8-2-1852		394
	Margaret Jane	1-21-1857 12-30-1863		394
	Martin	1-21-1857 2-3-1857		394
	Martin	1-2-1861 3-23-1861		
		Children of Patrick & Susan Connelly		
Connelly	John	Died 7-16-1880 Age 5 yrs		237
	Jane	Died 10-23-1884 Age 13 yrs		
Connelly	Margaret	Wife of Michael Connelly		
		Died 5-2-1911		2025
Connelly				2073
Connelly	Michael	Son of Patrick & Ann Connelly		
		8-28-1855 11-4-1878 Aged 23 yrs.		
		3 mos & 11 Days		846
		X		847
		X		848
Conny	Patrick	1857-1922		1572
	Edward	1886-1894		1572
Connt	Agnes M	1891-1918 (Conway Plot)		1572
Conay	Michael	Died 12-14-1905		1209

Service and Citizenship

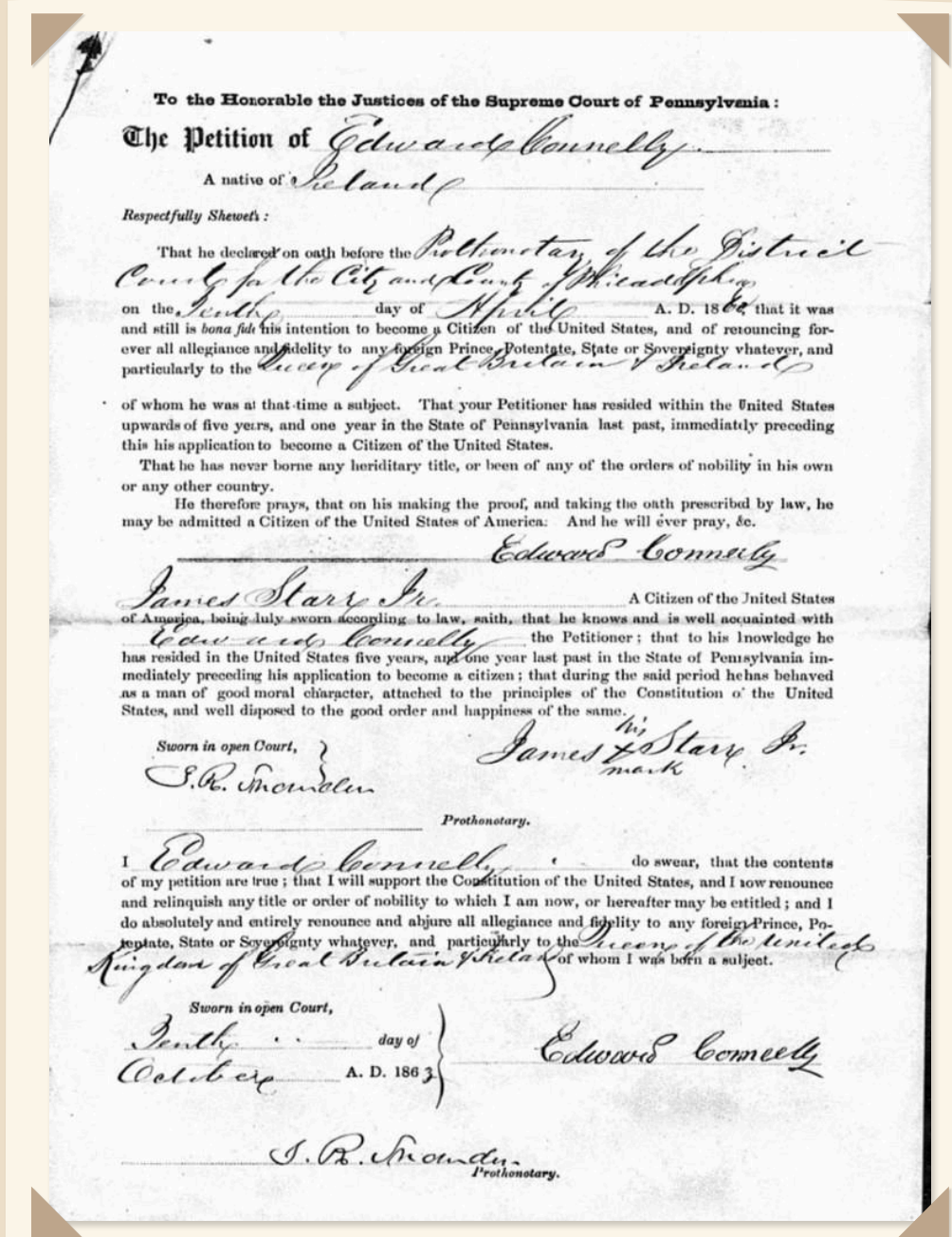
The surviving Saint Denis Cemetery record identifies Edward as a “U.S. War Veteran.” His age makes Civil War service possible, but no regiment, service record, or specific period of military duty has been confirmed. The notation therefore belongs within his story without attaching him to a particular war or unit unsupported by the surviving evidence.



It is nice to receive a compliment but remember that no single description can capture the whole person. Edward was remembered as a “fine old man,” but he was much more than those few words. Be careful in allowing others to define you, because there is always a bigger picture—a lifetime of experiences, choices, relationships, and contributions that make up who you are.

CARRY AWAY:

Don't let others define you.



From Intention to Citizenship

Edward Connelly's 1860 declaration recorded him as a native of Ireland and formally began his path toward American citizenship. In 1866, he completed the naturalization process by taking the Oath of Allegiance. A witness bearing Jane's Starr surname provides an additional documented connection between Edward and her family.

A fine old man in “out-of-door work” or “Landscape Gardening,” as it is now called, was Edward Connelly, whose family is still prominent in the neighborhood as florists, and his daughter-in-law, known among her friends when a young girl as the village beauty, is one of the many Main Line wives, who have been indispensable to their husbands’ business. Many such wives, in addition to their household and maternal cares, have kept their husband’s books, made out bills and checks and generally run the office end of the business, while the breadwinner was away at work. Certainly a noble type of woman from the standpoint of usefulness in the world, compared with the increasing modern type that thinks she was principally made to expend the results of her husband’s labor; or the type that prefers to labor in easier singleness, missing the pleasures and avoiding the duties of household and maternal life.

In the middle of the last century the Irish came in great numbers and were then our “foreigners,” but their children and grandchildren are now the best of Americans. Even then, they resented the foreign term, since they had come to stay. One of their typical wits jumped to his feet, when the term had been applied to him at a political meeting, and shouted: “Wats the matter wid bein’ a furriner, shure an’ wasn’t C’lumbus hisself a furriner?” True, so once was all our heredity, even our Indians in the prehistoric past, came across Behring Straits into this land of promise for all races. The Irish have been followed by Italians, Huns, Poles, Slavs and countless other races, many of whose children are likewise making good.

Ancestry Americans should not boast much of ancestry, but be thankful when they can claim a healthy and intellectual heritage from clean living and sound minded forefathers. The service and achievements of one’s own life, is a better subject of pride than that of one’s ancestors, but unfortunately such pride often generates self boastfulness, which is really worse than boasting of one’s ancestors. Why should one boast of one or a few ancestors, who may

Remembered in the Community

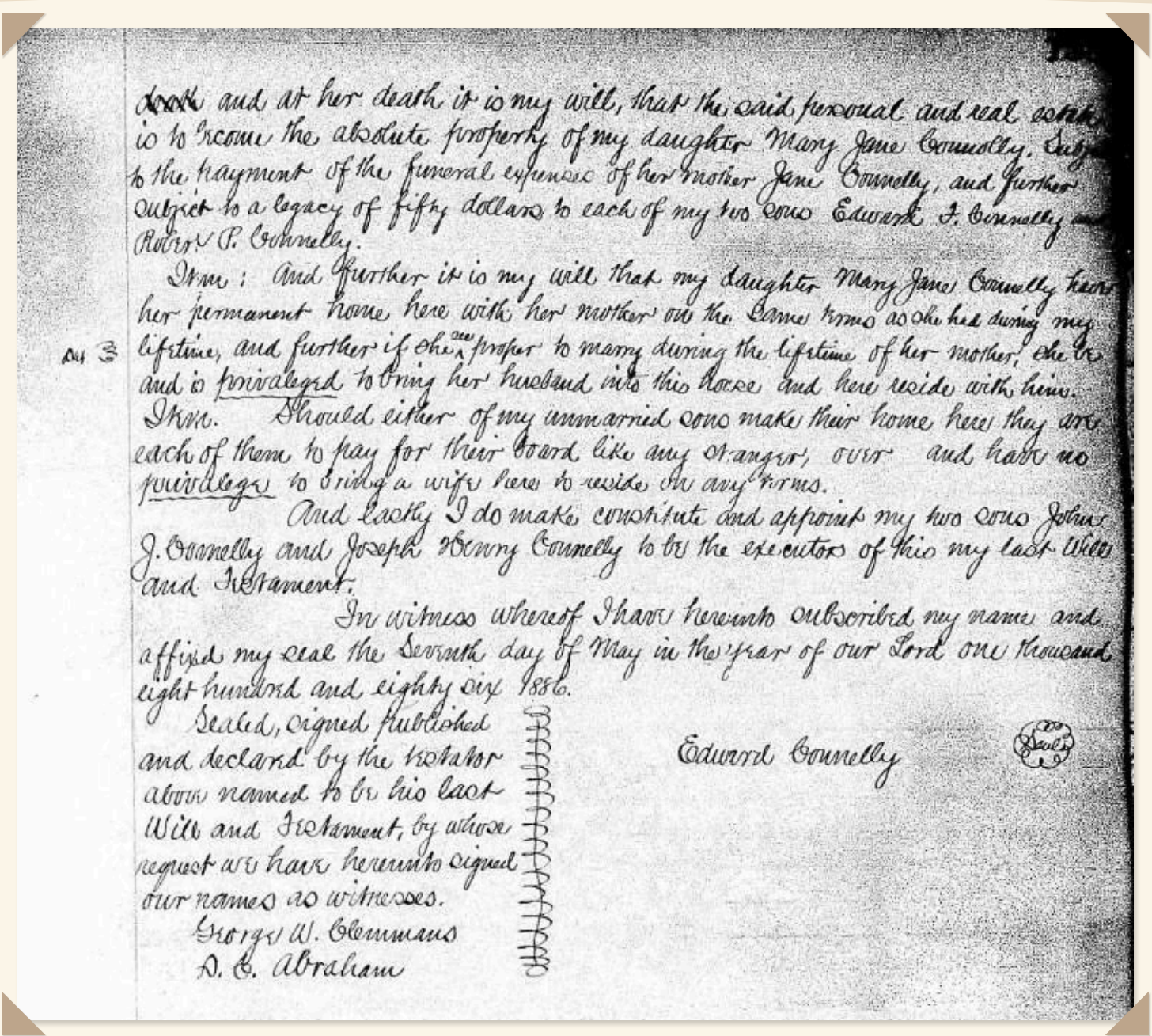
A later local history remembered Edward Connelly as “a fine old man” engaged in outdoor work, then known as landscape gardening. It also noted that members of his family remained prominent in the neighborhood as florists, preserving a rare community memory of Edward and the work associated with his family.

Edward Connelly
18930

I, Edward Connelly of the Township of Radnor in the County of Delaware and State of Pennsylvania being of sound mind memory and understanding do make publish this my last Will and Testament:

1. First: I direct my funeral expenses and just debts be paid out of personal property as soon as practicable after my death, by my executors hereinafter named.

2nd. I will and bequeath to my beloved wife Jane Connelly all of my personal and real estate of whatever kind, during her natural life, and after



Edward Connelly's Final Wishes

Edward's will, signed on May 7, 1886, preserves his wishes in his own words. He provided for Jane during her lifetime, ensured that their daughter Mary Jane would always have a home, and appointed his sons James J. and Joseph Henry Connelly as executors. Edward's signature appears at the foot of the document, only months before his death.



A mid-nineteenth-century transatlantic packet ship, similar to the *Superior*, aboard which Jane Starr crossed from Liverpool to Philadelphia in 1846. No known image of the *Superior* has been identified.

Jane Starr Connelly

SEPTEMBER 1823 – JULY 6, 1904

Second Great Grandmother

THE MOTHER OF THE AMERICAN CONNELLY FAMILY

Jane Starr was reportly born in Ireland in September 1823. In May 1846, Jane left Ireland aboard the *Superior*, a 571-ton sailing ship commanded by Captain M. J. Mason. The vessel departed Londonderry bound for Philadelphia, where Jane arrived on May 22. The passenger manifest, reported the following day, recorded her as “Jane Starrs,” age twenty-four. More than fifty years later, Jane herself reported 1846 as her immigration year in the 1900 census, strongly connecting the young passenger aboard the *Superior* to Jane Starr. Although the details of her early life remain largely unknown, years of research have firmly established her identity through multiple death certificates, family records, and documented relationships linking her to her husband, Edward Connelly, and their children.

Around 1851 Jane married Edward Connelly after both had settled in southeastern Pennsylvania. Together they established their home first in Lower Merion Township and later in nearby Radnor, where they raised their growing family during the years when the Main Line was changing from farmland into one of America’s most desirable communities.

While Edward earned his living as a stone mason and later as a landscape gardener, Jane devoted herself to creating a stable home. Census records describe her simply as “keeping house,” but those words hardly capture the responsibilities of raising five children—four sons and one daughter—while managing and sustaining an immigrant household in nineteenth-century America. Jane lived through the Civil War, supported her husband and children through years of change, and watched the next generation establish homes and livelihoods of their own. Her sons continued the family’s connection to horticulture, working primarily as gardeners, while John Joseph became a florist.

Jane died on July 6, 1904, at the age of eighty-six. Her obituary appeared in The Philadelphia Inquirer, and she was laid to rest beside Edward in St. Denis Cemetery in Havertown.

Immigrant Ships
Transcribers Guild

Ship Superior

Londonderry, Ireland to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
23 May 1846

REPORT OR MANIFEST of all the Passengers taken on board the Ship Superior
whereof M J Mason is Captain from Londonderry, burthen 571 tons, and owned by
W^m H J Corkle of Londonderry and bound to Philadelphia.

Columns represent: Passenger numbers*, names, age, sex*, occupation*, the country
to which they severally belong*, the country of which they intend to become
inhabitants*, baggage.

1	Eleaner Curry	26	
2	Jane Thompson	29	spinster
3	Martha Longville	22	
4	John Henry	30	
5	Nancy Wallace	40	
6	Catharine Wallace	18	
7	Mary M^cKinley	10	
8	Martha M^cKinley	21	
9	W^m Allen	22	
10	Jane Curry	26	

124 Bridget Daly
125 Peter Daly
126 James Daly
127 Mich^l Daly
128 Tho^s Daly
129 Cha^s Daly
130 Nancy Donahue
131 Jane Starrs
132 Sarah Bradley
133 Mary Bradley
134 Bridget Bradley

Manifest of the Superior, which sailed from Londonderry to Philadelphia in May 1846. Jane Starrs appears as passenger 131.

REFLECTION

Jane’s life reminds me that the history of a family is often written quietly. She crossed an ocean, built a home in a new country, raised children during one of America’s most turbulent periods and lived long enough to see her family firmly established in Pennsylvania. While records preserved Edward’s occupations and status as a military veteran, Jane’s legacy lived inside her home—in the family she nurtured and the values she passed to the generations that followed.

For many years Jane remained one of the mysteries in my family tree. Piece by piece, records from multiple generations finally confirmed her identity and restored her rightful place in our family’s story.

Today she is remembered not as a question waiting to be answered, but as one of the women who helped build the American Connelly family. Her quiet strength continues to reflect upward through every generation that followed—including my own.

CARRY AWAY

PATIENCE IS A VIRTUE. JANE REMINDS US THAT GENEALOGY DOES NOT ALWAYS REVEAL ITS ANSWERS QUICKLY—OR AT ALL. BE PATIENT WITH THE SEARCH, APPRECIATE WHAT YOU CAN DISCOVER, AND LEAVE THE DOOR OPEN FOR THE NEXT GENERATION TO FIND WHAT YOU COULD NOT.

Page No. 5

and Inquiries numbered 7, 16, and 17 are not to be asked in respect to infants. Inquiries numbered 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 18, and 20 are to be answered (if at all) merely by an affirmative mark, say, ✓.

SCHEDULE 1.—Inhabitants in Radnor Township, in the County of Delaware, State of Pennsylvania, enumerated by me on the 12th day of July, 1870.

Post Office: West Chester Delaware U.S. Ass't Marshal.

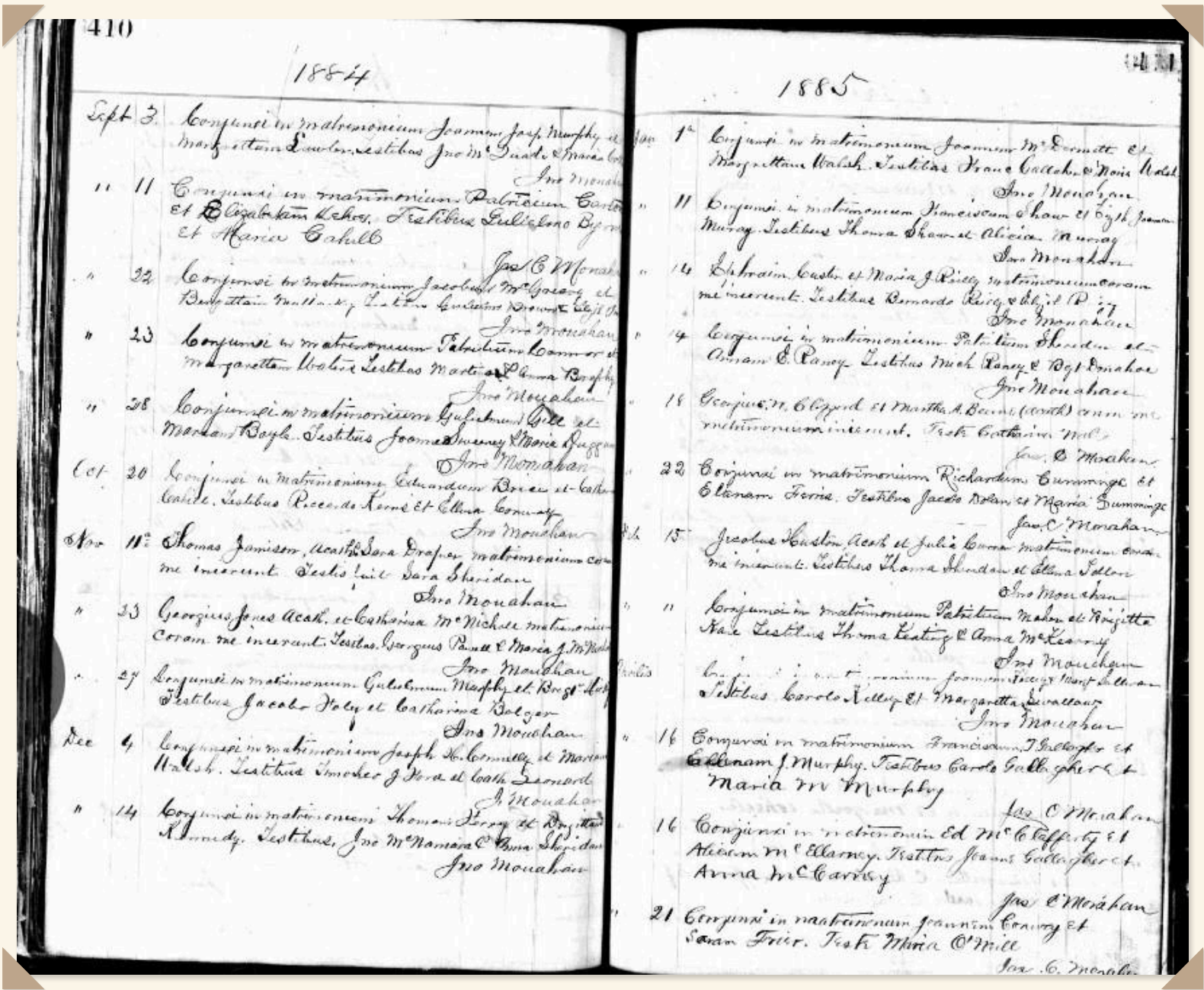
1	2	3	4 5 6			7	8 9		10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
1	32	Edwards, William	U.S.	Teacher	House	✓	272.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
2	33	Marshall, John	U.S.	House	✓	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
3	34	Marshall, John	U.S.	House	✓	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
4	35	Marshall, John	U.S.	House	✓	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
5	36	Marshall, John	U.S.	House	✓	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
6	37	Marshall, John	U.S.	House	✓	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
7	38	Marshall, John	U.S.	House	✓	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
8	39	Marshall, John	U.S.	House	✓	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
9	40	Marshall, John	U.S.	House	✓	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
10	41	Marshall, John	U.S.	House	✓	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
11	42	Marshall, John	U.S.	House	✓	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
12	43	Marshall, John	U.S.	House	✓	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
13	44	Marshall, John	U.S.	House	✓	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
14	45	Marshall, John	U.S.	House	✓	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
15	46	Marshall, John	U.S.	House	✓	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
16	47	Marshall, John	U.S.	House	✓	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
17	48	Marshall, John	U.S.	House	✓	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
18	49	Marshall, John	U.S.	House	✓	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
19	50	Marshall, John	U.S.	House	✓	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
20	51	Marshall, John	U.S.	House	✓	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
21	52	Marshall, John	U.S.	House	✓	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
22	53	Marshall, John	U.S.	House	✓	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
23	54	Marshall, John	U.S.	House	✓	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
24	55	Marshall, John	U.S.	House	✓	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
25	56	Marshall, John	U.S.	House	✓	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
26	57	Marshall, John	U.S.	House	✓	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
27	58	Marshall, John	U.S.	House	✓	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
28	59	Marshall, John	U.S.	House	✓	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
29	60	Marshall, John	U.S.	House	✓	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
30	61	Marshall, John	U.S.	House	✓	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
31	62	Marshall, John	U.S.	House	✓	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
32	63	Marshall, John	U.S.	House	✓	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
33	64	Marshall, John	U.S.	House	✓	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
34	65	Marshall, John	U.S.	House	✓	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
35	66	Marshall, John	U.S.	House	✓	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
36	67	Marshall, John	U.S.	House	✓	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
37	68	Marshall, John	U.S.	House	✓	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
38	69	Marshall, John	U.S.	House	✓	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
39	70	Marshall, John	U.S.	House	✓	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
40	71	Marshall, John	U.S.	House	✓	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Edward died in 1886 after more than three decades of marriage. Rather than moving in with relatives, Jane continued living independently. The 1900 census records her as the head of her household in Radnor Township, reflecting the quiet strength and independence that had characterized her entire life.

CONNELLY.—On July 6, 1904, JANE, widow of Edward Connelly, in her 86th year. The relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, on Saturday morning, at 8.30 o'clock, from her late residence, Garrett ave, Rosemont, Pa. Solemn high mass of requiem at St Thomas' Church, Villanova. Interment at St Denis' Cemetery. Please omit flowers.

Jane Connelly's Obituary

Jane's obituary in *The Philadelphia Inquirer* recorded her as the widow of Edward Connelly and announced that her funeral would begin at her Rosemont home, followed by a solemn requiem Mass at St. Thomas of Villanova and burial beside Edward at St. Denis Cemetery.



Marriage of Joseph H. Connelly and Mary A. Walsh. Joseph and Mary were married at St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church in Norristown on December 4, 1884. Their entry appears on the left page, second from the bottom.

Joseph H. Connelly & Mary Walsh Connelly

JOSEPH: JANUARY 28, 1857 – FEBRUARY 3, 1935
MARY: FEBRUARY 5, 1853 – SEPTEMBER 4, 1916

Great-Grandparents

A FOUNDATION FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

Joseph H. Connelly was born on January 28, 1857, in Garrett Hill, Pennsylvania, the son of Irish immigrants Edward Connelly and Jane Starr. Baptized the following year in Philadelphia, Joseph belonged to the first American-born generation of the Connelly family. He grew up in Lower Merion and Radnor as the Pennsylvania Railroad transformed the surrounding countryside into the developing communities of Philadelphia's Main Line.

Mary A. Walsh was born on February 5, 1853, in Norristown, Pennsylvania, to Irish immigrants James Walsh and Catharine Carroll. She spent her childhood in Norristown, a growing industrial community along the Schuylkill River.

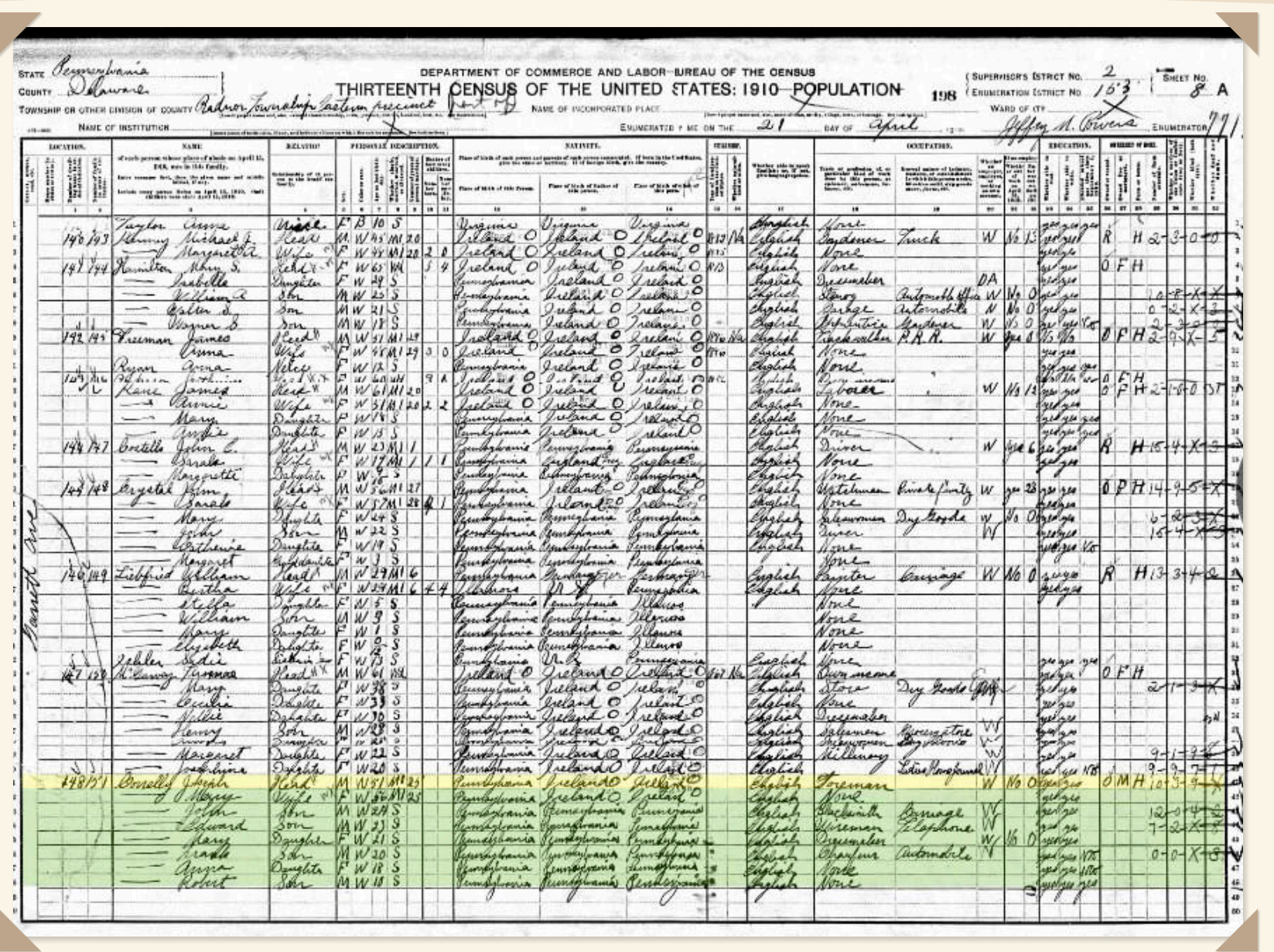
On December 4, 1884, Joseph and Mary were married at St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church in Norristown. Their marriage united two American-born children of Irish immigrants and joined families whose lives had already become rooted in southeastern Pennsylvania.

Together, Joseph and Mary established their home on Garrett Avenue in Rosemont. Over more than three decades of marriage, they raised seven children: John Henry, Edward, Marie, Frank Michael, Anna, Robert W., and Mary Veronica. Their home became the foundation from which the next generation of the Connelly family would build its own life.

Joseph supported the family through years of physical labor. Census records describe him first as a laborer, later as a foreman, and eventually as a gardener at a local college. Those short occupational descriptions trace a life of steady advancement and increasing responsibility. His promotion to foreman suggests the confidence he earned through experience and dependable service.

Mary's work took place primarily within the family home. Raising seven children and managing a household before modern appliances required constant effort. Meals had to be prepared, clothing washed and mended, fires maintained, and children cared for through sickness and difficulty. Although such work seldom appeared in public records, it was essential to the family's stability and success.

Faith was central to the home Joseph and Mary created. Their daughter Mary Veronica entered the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary and devoted forty-five years to religious life and teaching. Their son John Henry carried the Connelly family into the next generation. The paths taken by their children reflected the values of faith, responsibility, education, and service nurtured within the family home.



1910 United States Census. Joseph and Mary Connelly are recorded with their children in Rosemont, nearly twenty-six years after their marriage. The household reflects the family and enduring foundation they built together along Philadelphia's Main Line.

Joseph and Mary experienced an era of remarkable change. During their lifetimes, the Main Line grew from a collection of rural communities into a thriving suburban region. Railroads expanded, electric lights and telephones entered American homes, and automobiles began replacing horses on local roads. Yet amid those changes, the center of their lives remained their family, their faith, and the home they maintained together.

Mary died on September 4, 1916, at the age of sixty-three, after nearly thirty-two years of marriage. Her death certificate identified her parents as James Walsh and Catharine Carroll, both born in Ireland. Her daughter Mary served as the informant.

Joseph remained a widower for the rest of his life and continued living on Garrett Avenue. He died on February 3, 1935, six days after his seventy-eighth birthday. His death certificate identified his parents as Edward Connelly and Jane Starr, both born in Ireland, with his daughter Mary again serving as informant. Joseph's funeral was held from the family home, followed by a Solemn Requiem Mass at St. Thomas of Villanova Church.

Joseph was laid to rest beside Mary in St. Denis Cemetery. Nearly nineteen years after her death, they were reunited in the Catholic community that had been central to their life together.

REFLECTION

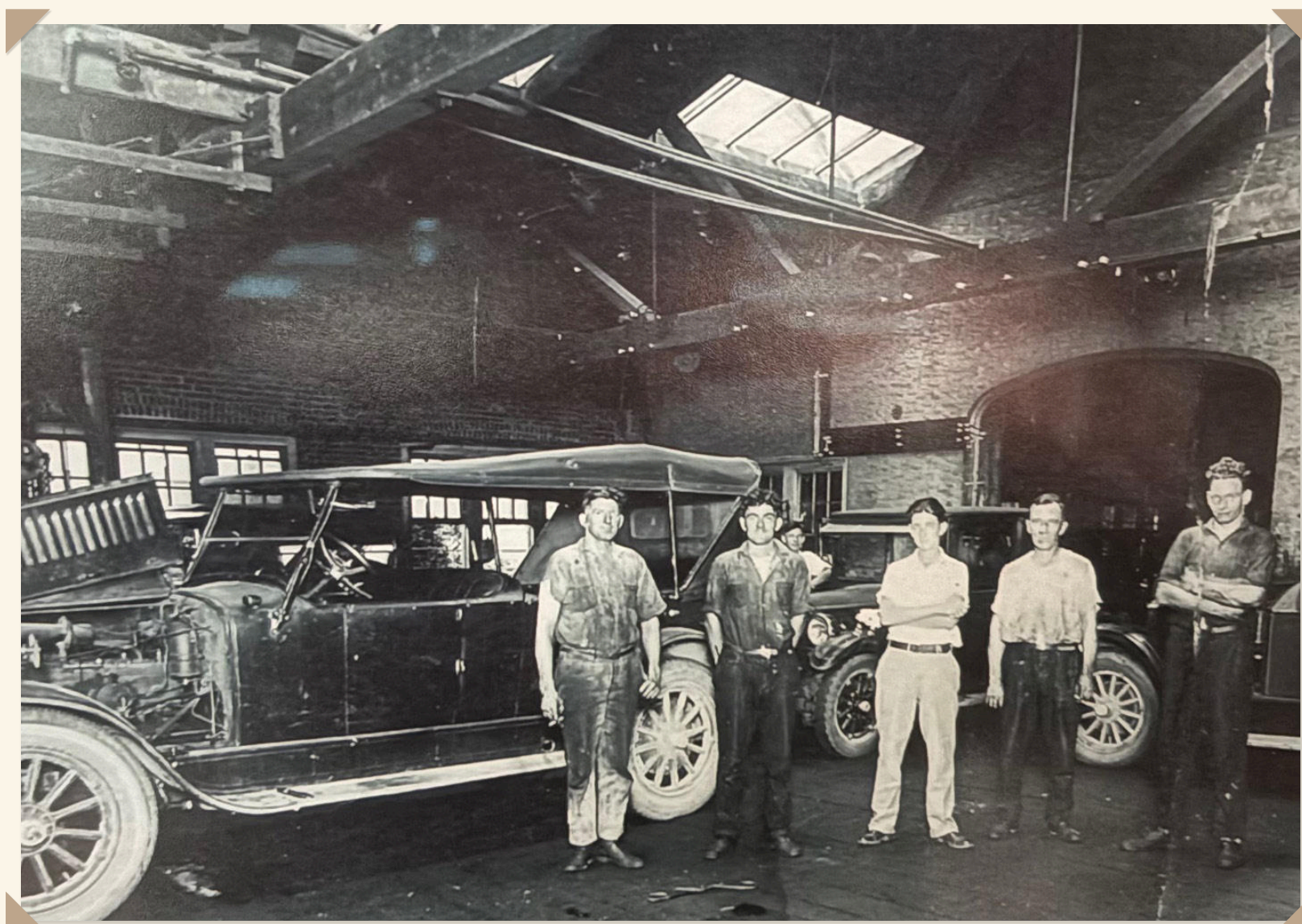
Joseph and Mary inherited the hopes and sacrifices of parents who had crossed the Atlantic and began again in America. Together, they transformed that immigrant foundation into a stable home along the Main Line.

Joseph's work outside the home and Mary's work within it were different but complementary. One provided the family's livelihood; the other sustained its daily life. Through more than three decades of marriage, they raised seven children and created a home grounded in faith, responsibility, and service.

Their legacy was not a public monument or a celebrated achievement. It was the family they built together. The lives of their children—and the generations that followed—became the enduring evidence of their partnership.

CARRY AWAY

HAVE FAITH IN ONE ANOTHER, IN YOUR FAMILY, AND IN GOD. JOSEPH AND MARY'S CATHOLIC FAITH GAVE PURPOSE TO THEIR LIVES AND GUIDED THE HOME THEY BUILT TOGETHER. ITS INFLUENCE REACHED BEYOND THEM, INSPIRING THEIR DAUGHTER MARY VERONICA TO DEVOTE FORTY-FIVE YEARS TO RELIGIOUS LIFE, EDUCATION, AND SERVICE TO OTHERS. A FAITH LIVED CONSISTENTLY CAN BECOME A LEGACY CARRIED FORWARD BY THE NEXT GENERATION.



John Henry Connelly, second to the left, standing in Madden’s Garage during the 1920s.

John Henry Connelly

SEPTEMBER 27, 1885 – JANUARY 19, 1949

Grandfather

THE MECHANIC WHO NEVER QUIT

John Henry Connelly was born on September 27, 1885, in Garrett Hill, Pennsylvania, the son of Joseph H. Connelly and Mary Walsh. He belonged to the second American-born generation of the Connelly family, but its Irish heritage remained close and deeply rooted. He grew up in Radnor Township, surrounded by the close-knit Irish Catholic community that shaped his character throughout his life.

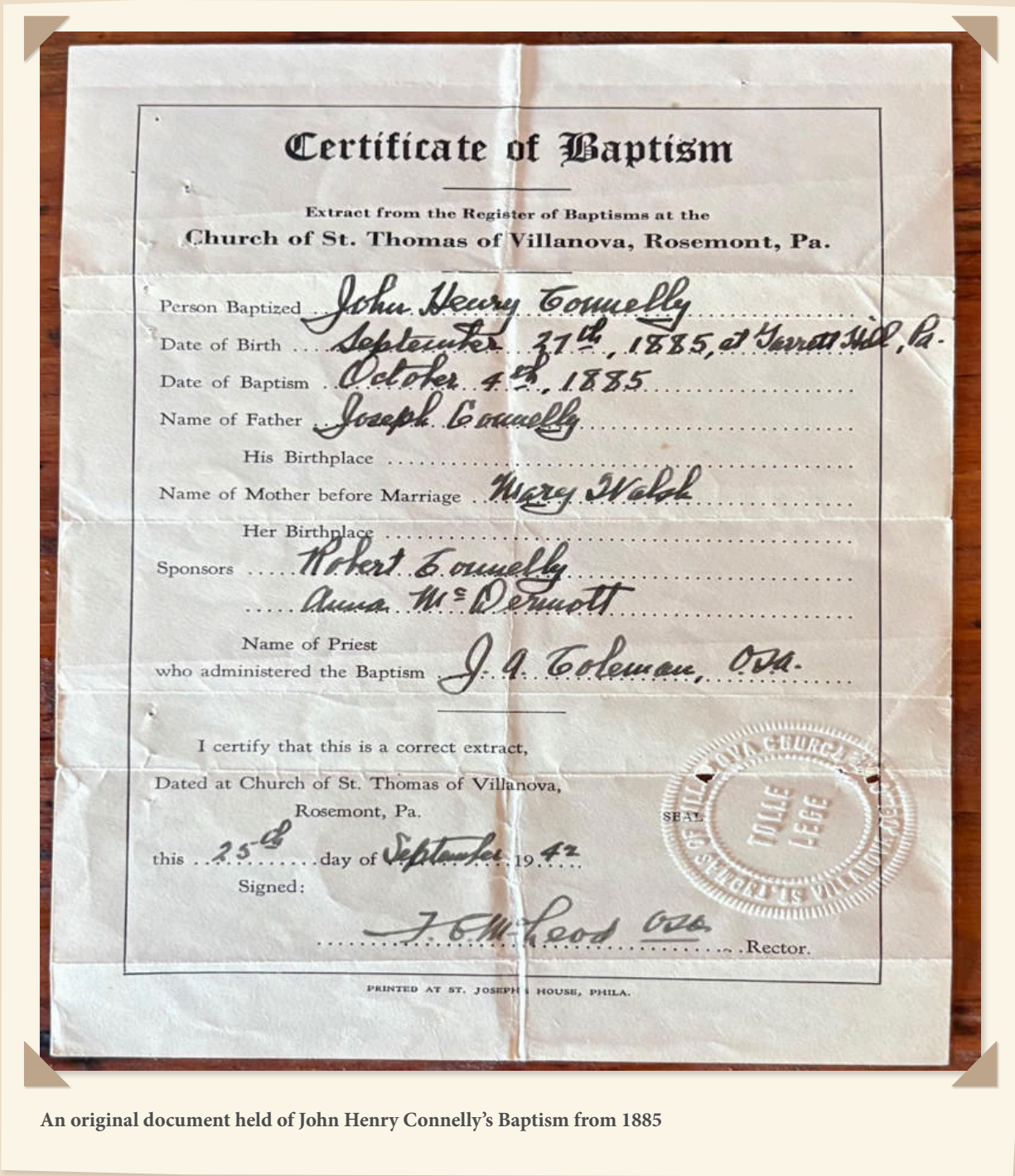
John Henry remained quietly proud of his Irish heritage throughout his life. Although he rarely drew attention to himself, that pride became part of the values and identity he passed on to his children, particularly his son Jack, who carried those Irish traditions into the next generation.

In 1910, John Henry Connelly was twenty-four years old and working as a blacksmith in a carriage shop. It was a trade with deep roots in the family, but John practiced it at precisely the moment American transportation was beginning to change. As horses and carriages gradually gave way to automobiles, John changed with the times, carrying his mechanical skills into the emerging automotive world. His working life became a bridge between two eras—one built around the horse and carriage and another increasingly shaped by the automobile.

On September 4, 1918, John Henry married Alice Josephine Kerrigan. Their story began at Madden’s Garage in Bryn Mawr, where John worked as an automobile mechanic and Alice worked in the office. Surrounded by the sounds of engines and the excitement of one of Bryn Mawr’s early automobile garages, they met, fell in love, and began a partnership that would carry them through both joyful and difficult years.

After their marriage, they settled in one of the semi-detached houses near Alice’s mother, Hannah Kerrigan, remaining close to the Kerrigan family. Their first child, Eleanor Veronica, was born in 1920, followed by Theodore (“Ted”), William (“Bill”), and finally the twins, John Edward and Charles. The twins were a novelty and bought renewed joy to the family. As their family grew during the Depression Era, so did John’s determination to provide for them.

John belonged to the first generation of automobile mechanics. As horse-drawn transportation gradually disappeared from American roads, his hands helped keep the new machines of the twentieth century moving. It was skilled, honest work that demanded patience, mechanical ability, and long hours.



One of the most meaningful photographs preserved in our family shows my grandfather standing second from the left inside Madden’s Garage during the 1920s. Dressed in grease-stained mechanic’s clothes and surrounded by the automobiles of the day, the photograph captures him doing the work that supported his family. More than a family photograph, it preserves an important moment in Bryn Mawr’s history as automobiles replaced horses and carriages throughout the Main Line.

Much of what I know about my grandfather comes from a memoir my father, John Edward Connelly, wrote in 2007. Only sixteen years old when his father died, he carefully preserved the stories that had been passed down within the family. Through his memories, John Henry becomes much more than dates and official records.

According to my father’s recollections, John Henry eventually left Madden’s Garage with fellow mechanic Fred Cornish to open their own garage on Roberts Road in Bryn Mawr. Like countless small businesses of the era, however, their timing could not have been worse. The Great Depression arrived, business slowed dramatically, and after only about a year they were forced to close. John returned to work, this time for his former coworker Schmader, who had successfully established his own garage.

The Depression years tested him in every imaginable way.

There was often no heat inside Schmader’s garage because fuel cost money, and meeting payroll always came first. John earned approximately twenty dollars a week and supplemented his income by repairing automobiles on the side whenever possible. With five children to support, including young twins, every dollar mattered.

One family story recalled by my father tells of a customer in White Hall who refused to pay after John completed repairs. John’s son Ted eventually confronted the man and insisted that he pay his father what he owed. It became one of many examples of how difficult it could be for honest working men to earn a living during those challenging years.

Commercial vehicles, including Wilson Laundry trucks, became regular customers at the garage. John earned a reputation as a dependable mechanic. One customer, Mike Greco, who worked at a Greek restaurant in Bryn Mawr, owned a beautiful 1936 Packard. John kept the Packard in excellent mechanical condition, and in return Mike occasionally allowed him to borrow the car on Sundays.

Those Sunday drives in the borrowed Packard became treasured family outings, often ending with picnics and afternoons at Darby Creek. Even during difficult years, John found small ways to create happy memories for his family.

The Depression also revealed the kindness of neighbors.

The manager of the local Food Fair quietly held the family’s checks until Schmader’s Garage had enough money in the bank to cover them. Friends working at the ACME grocery store made certain the Connelly family received donated food baskets when times were hardest. Those quiet acts of generosity helped carry the family through years when honest work did not always provide enough.

In 1939, financial hardship forced John and Alice to leave their Bryn Mawr home. They moved to Garrett Hill, renting a modest house for thirty-two dollars a month.

In my father’s notes, John Henry arranged to borrow a car to move their baby grand piano to their new home. The piano was important to Alice since she played the piano and it always delivered great family entertainment. Despite every setback, John continued working, determined to provide for his wife and children through honest labor.



Personal, worn cards, UAW and driver's license registration, carried by John Henry Connelly in his wallet.

John Henry rarely sought recognition. He simply showed up each day, worked hard, cared for his family, and carried responsibilities without complaint. His life reflected the quiet virtues common to many men of his generation: humility, perseverance, patience, and unwavering devotion to those who depended upon him.

In 1949, at only sixty-three years of age, John Henry entered Bryn Mawr Hospital for surgery to repair a bleeding stomach ulcer. Sadly, he did not survive the operation. His life ended far too soon, leaving Alice and their children without the quiet, dependable man who had worked his entire life to provide for them.

When I look at the photograph of my grandfather standing inside Madden's Garage, I see much more than a mechanic.

I see a husband.

I see a father.

I see a quiet, patient, hardworking man whose greatest ambition was simple: **to provide for Alice and their five children as faithfully as he could, even though the hardships of the Great Depression.**

His life also represents a remarkable transition in our family's story. Only one generation earlier, members of the Kerrigan family cared for horses and carriages in their Bryn Mawr livery stable. John Henry belonged to the next generation, repairing automobiles as they gradually transformed the American landscape. **In one generation, our family moved from caring for horses to keeping automobiles on the road.** That single photograph quietly captures the moment when one era gave way to another.

Thanks to the memories preserved by my father and the photographs safeguarded through the years, John Henry Connelly can now be remembered not simply through census records and dates, but through the work he loved, the burdens he carried, the family he devoted himself to, and the quiet example he left for those who followed.

CARRY AWAY

TAKE A DRIVE WITH SOMEONE YOU LOVE. A CAR CAN TAKE YOU BEYOND YOUR EVERYDAY SURROUNDINGS AND GIVE YOU TIME TOGETHER—A WIFE, A DAUGHTER, A SON, OR THE WHOLE FAMILY. WITH THE WINDOWS DOWN AND THE ROAD AHEAD, CONVERSATION CAN COME NATURALLY. SOMETIMES THE BEST OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN WHAT IS GOING ON IN SOMEONE'S LIFE IS SIMPLY TO GET IN THE CAR AND GO FOR A RIDE. IT HAS WORKED FOR FAMILIES FOR MORE THAN A CENTURY, AND IT STILL WORKS TODAY.



John Henry and Alice Kerrigan Connelly with their son, Bill Connelly.



Alice Josephine Kerrigan Connelly “Alice K” in front of her door, behind her was a Victory wreath made by her son, John E. Connelly.

Alice Josephine Kerrigan Connelly

NOVEMBER 7, 1897 – MAY 16, 1981

Grandmother

THE STORYTELLER

Alice Connelly, known simply as “**Nanny**” to her grandchildren, was born on November 7, 1897, in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania. She married John Henry Connelly in 1918 and was widowed while still a relatively young woman. Despite the hardships she faced, she remained the heart of a close-knit family whose children and grandchildren never doubted they were loved.

Nanny possessed a warm, outgoing personality with a spark that naturally drew people to her. She loved family gatherings, delighted in telling stories, and enjoyed the little stage they provided. Whether sharing a family memory, delivering a well-timed remark, or simply making others laugh, she brought warmth, humor, and energy wherever she went.

For many years, Nanny lived with Uncle Charlie and Aunt Pat in their home in Montvale, New Jersey. She also spent time visiting her daughter, Aunt Eleanor, in Ridgefield. It was a wonderful arrangement that allowed her to remain closely connected to her family rather than living alone.

She was always impeccably dressed. Whether she was at home or visiting family, her dress was neat, her hair carefully done, and she carried herself with quiet dignity. Looking back, she always seemed put together.

Nanny was a gifted storyteller, an entertainer who loved the spotlight. She had an instinct for timing and genuinely enjoyed having an audience. Family gatherings became her little stage, where stories, memories, and playful observations brought everyone together. Every now and then she would make an innocent-sounding remark—usually directed toward one of her daughters-in-law—that stirred the conversation just enough to keep everyone smiling. Somehow, she always managed to smile her way out of it.

One family dinner captured her personality perfectly.

When the breadbasket was nearly empty, she quietly asked for some bread. Looking into the basket she said, “*I’ll be okay with eating the crust.*”

Of course, no one was about to let Nanny eat only the crust. Someone immediately went into the kitchen and returned with a fresh basket of bread. She knew exactly how to get everyone’s attention without ever asking directly. It was vintage Nanny—part storyteller, part actress, and completely charming.



An original held document of Alice Josephine Kerrigan's Baptism from December 13, 1897



Alice Kerrigan Connolly with three of her grandchildren—Matt, Mariann, and Marge—at Aunt Eleanor's house.

Later in life, when Nanny wanted a different living arrangement, my father worked together with his brothers and sister to establish her in a one-bedroom apartment in Harleysville, Pennsylvania. Living there placed her just down the street from her son Jack and close to her sons Ted and Bill. Each of her children contributed fifty dollars every month toward her apartment. It was a beautiful expression of gratitude from children who never forgot everything their mother had done for them.

Her apartment quickly became another gathering place for the family.

There always seemed to be a pot of fresh coffee brewing and bacon already cooked if my father happened to stop by. She loved to bake, and one of our family favorites was her orange cake, a recipe that became part of our family’s traditions.

Many of her recipes lived on through my mother. Shirley made Nanny’s mashed potatoes and coleslaw exactly the way she had been taught, preserving flavors that connected one generation to the next.

Anyone visiting Nanny’s apartment immediately noticed the bowl of butter mints sitting on the coffee table. They were always there, waiting for visitors, especially grandchildren.

Her faith was an important part of her life. Hanging in her bedroom was a familiar picture of Jesus whose eyes seemed to follow you wherever you stood in the room. Like many children and grandchildren, I quietly noticed that picture every time I visited.

Nanny remained especially close to her slightly older sister, Grace. Alice was the youngest of her family, and by later life nearly all of her brothers and sisters had passed away except Grace. Their lifelong bond was something our family always admired.

One of the simplest—and most memorable—treats she made for her grandchildren was a slice of fresh white bread spread generously with soft butter and sprinkled with sugar. Today it sounds unusual, but at the time it was simply “*Nanny’s snack*.” Looking back, it was probably a tradition born during the Depression years, when simple ingredients became cherished comforts.

When I think of Nanny today, I don’t first remember census records or dates.

I remember walking through her door.

There was coffee brewing, bacon waiting in the kitchen, butter mints on the table, stories ready to be told, and a grandmother whose warmth made every visit feel special.

She possessed a rare gift. She made people feel welcome. Whether through a story, a smile, a slice of orange cake, or a simple piece of bread with butter and sugar, she created an atmosphere where family gathered naturally and laughter came easily.

That is the legacy she left—not simply that she lived from 1897 to 1981, but that she created a family culture of warmth, kindness, humor, hospitality, and belonging that continues through her children, grandchildren, and generations yet to come.

CARRY AWAY

THERE IS NEVER A BAD TIME TO HAVE A GOOD CUP OF COFFEE AT THE KITCHEN TABLE. IT’S AN OPPORTUNITY TO RELAX, TALK, AND SPEND TIME TOGETHER. AND IF SOMEONE ASKS, “DO YOU WANT A SLICE OF CAKE WITH YOUR COFFEE?” SAY YES. IT’S A WINNING MOVE FOR EVERYONE.

Alice Kerrigan Connelly

Alice Kerrigan Connelly of Harleysville, a former resident of Bryn Mawr, died Jan. 4. She was 83 and was the widow of John H. Connelly.

Mrs. Connelly was the daughter of William and Hannah Kerrigan who ran the Kerrigan’s livery stable in Bryn Mawr which delivered coal to Bryn Mawr College and to Bryn Mawr Hospital. Mrs. Connelly, whose great-grandfather was Pat Kerrigan, formerly lived on Kerrigan Lane.

Surviving are four sons, Joseph of Bryn Mawr, William of Plymouth Meeting, Charles of Tucson, Ariz. and Jack of Harleysville; a daughter, Eleanor Mudrak of Ridgefield, N.J.; 13 grandchildren and nine great grandchildren.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Jan. 8 at Our Mother of Good Counsel Church in Bryn Mawr. Interment was in St. Denis Cemetery.

Four Generations Remembered

Alice Kerrigan Connelly’s obituary connects several generations of the family. It recalls her parents, William and Hannah Kerrigan, and their Bryn Mawr livery business, which delivered coal to Bryn Mawr College and Bryn Mawr Hospital. It also names her great-grandfather Patrick Kerrigan, Kerrigan Lane, and the children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren who continued the family story.



Wedding photograph: Shirley Mae Zimmerman and John “Jack” Edward Connelly on their wedding day, October 13, 1956. Their marriage joined the German and Irish family branches traced throughout this book.

John Edward “Jack” Connelly

DECEMBER 6, 1932 – OCTOBER 10, 2018

Father

“JACK WAS ALWAYS IN MOTION”

In many ways, Jack carried something of both parents within him. From his father, he inherited a remarkable ability to work with his hands and an instinct for understanding how things were built. From his mother, he inherited warmth, humor, and a natural gift for turning family memories into stories. Together, those qualities shaped the hardworking craftsman and engaging storyteller his family would always remember.

Whether he was working, building, gardening, helping a neighbor, or spending time with his family, he rarely sat still for long. He approached life with energy, generosity, and an eagerness to stay involved. Above all, he was a devoted husband, father, and family man whose Irish heritage and Catholic faith shaped the values by which he lived.

John Edward “Jack” Connelly was born on December 6, 1932, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the youngest son of John Henry Connelly and Alice Josephine Kerrigan Connelly. He entered the world alongside his twin brother, Charles, and the two shared a special bond and an interest in family, western movies, and classic cars. Jack grew up with his brothers Ted, Bill, and Charlie and his sister Eleanor in a close-knit Irish Catholic family.

Tragedy struck in January 1949 when John Henry died unexpectedly. Jack was only sixteen. Several of his older brothers entered military service, and Jack hoped to join them, but a hernia prevented his acceptance. Instead, he remained at home and helped support his mother and family. The responsibility he assumed at such a young age strengthened the dependability and devotion that would characterize his life.

After leaving school, Jack held several jobs before joining relatives at **Connelly’s Florist** in Bryn Mawr, where he delivered flowers throughout the Main Line. The work introduced him to flowers, landscaping, and customer service—interests that remained with him throughout his life.

After about a year and a half at the florist, Jack accepted a position on the assembly line at AutoCar Trucks in Ardmore. When layoffs came, family friend Jim Foley helped him secure a position at *The Main Line Times* on November 23, 1950. That opportunity shaped the next half-century of his life.

Jack began as a driver but quickly proved himself through reliability, determination, and an exceptional work ethic. Over nearly fifty years, he rose through the organization to become Manager of Operations.

Charlie (Tom Boy) Jack Connelly



Best Friends, Charlie and Jack.

The Main Line Times was a complete newspaper operation that included reporting, editing, advertising, printing, circulation, and distribution. Jack’s responsibilities centered on production and distribution—overseeing advertising inserts, bundling newspapers, and coordinating delivery as each edition rolled off the presses. It was a world of constant activity: presses thundered, insertion machines rattled, paper dust filled the air, and delivery trucks departed on tight schedules. Jack thrived in that environment.

For our family, the newspaper became much more than Dad’s workplace. All four of his children worked there at one time or another, earning our first paychecks and learning firsthand what hard work looked like. We came to know the editors, pressmen, drivers, salespeople, and office staff who became familiar faces in our lives.

Only years later, after beginning careers of our own, did we fully appreciate what working beside Dad had taught us. We understood responsibility, perseverance, teamwork, and the satisfaction that comes from doing a job well.

It was also at *The Main Line Times* that fate quietly intervened. Mary Bernard, affectionately known as “Aunt Mary,” worked in dispatch and believed she knew the perfect young woman for Jack. She encouraged him to meet a tall blonde waitress named Shirley Zimmerman, who was working at the Crest Restaurant in Wildwood Crest during the summer of 1954.

Jack agreed. That simple introduction at the Jersey Shore began one of the most important relationships in both of their lives.

CRAFTSMAN STORYTELLER HUSBAND AND FATHER

If work revealed Jack’s discipline, home revealed his heart.

He inherited his father’s practical abilities and developed an extraordinary talent for building, repairing, and improving the world around him. At the family’s Narberth home, he built a fieldstone fireplace and replaced worn sidewalks with freshly poured concrete. After moving to Harleysville, he transformed the basement into a gathering place with a handcrafted bar. Built-in cabinetry, furniture, chair rails, shelving, and countless repairs reflected both his craftsmanship and his pride in creating a comfortable home.

He often joked that the only trade he left to others was electrical work.

Jack’s creative spirit appeared in many forms. As a young teenager, he painted an oil portrait of a frontier-style revolver inspired by the westerns he loved and kept it throughout his life. He later designed gardens, built furniture, and crafted decorative pinecone wreaths. Nearly every family member received one, and each of his children still displays one today.

He took enormous pride in caring for the family property. Weekends were spent cutting grass, edging flower beds, trimming hedges, planting seasonal flowers, and designing raised garden beds. He also enjoyed feeding the birds and watching them gather in the yard he had created.

As evening settled in, we often sat outside together, surrounded by the gardens, talking about family, work, sports, and whatever the day had brought. Those conversations were never really about the yard. Dad had created a place where stories were shared, laughter came easily, and memories were quietly made.

Jack could strike up a conversation with almost anyone. Family gatherings often became his stage as he told stories, shared humorous observations, and occasionally performed comic routines. He understood that a good story, told well, could bring people together.



Photograph taken at The Main Line Times newspaper in Ardmore, Pennsylvania.



Celebrating a birthday at home in Harleysville, Pennsylvania



Photograph of Shirley, Margaret, and Aunt Mary at Christmas time in my parents first apartment in Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania.



Photograph of Jack Connelly and his daughter, Margaret, in their apartment.

FAMILY FAITH HERITAGE AND LEGACY

Family remained one of Jack’s highest priorities. His devotion extended beyond his wife and children to his mother, brothers, sister, in-laws, and extended family. For many years, Alice lived with his twin brother, Charlie. Later, she moved to Harleysville, only a short distance from our home. Jack’s morning routine often included making breakfast for the family before walking down the street to share coffee, conversation, and a slice of bacon with his mother, whom everyone called “Nanny.”

Our family experienced the joys and challenges of several generations living close together. Shirley’s parents lived in our home while Nanny lived nearby. Jack treated his in-laws with patience, kindness, and respect. He believed family deserved both time and attention, and he demonstrated that belief every day.

One of his favorite Saturday traditions was visiting local bakeries and butcher shops and bringing home cinnamon buns, doughnuts, bacon, fresh rolls, and other treats. The tradition continued during vacations at the Jersey Shore. While Shirley enjoyed the beach, Jack explored bakeries, delis, and neighborhood shops, returning with something special for everyone. Each evening, the family came back together for dinner.

Jack’s Irish heritage was something he lived. Every St. Patrick’s Day, he returned to Connelly’s Florist for its signature green-tinted carnations, which he and Shirley sent to our teachers. Irish songs were a familiar part of family life, and he proudly passed those traditions to his children and grandchildren.

His Catholic faith was equally constant. Jack rarely missed Sunday Mass, but his faith was not something he discussed often; it was something he lived.

At his funeral, the priest reflected on Jack’s pride in his Irish heritage. He imagined Jack arriving in Heaven and being welcomed by the Lord, only for St. Patrick to ask if he might step forward and welcome Jack himself. The image brought comfort to everyone present and captured the faith and Irish spirit that had guided Jack throughout his life.

Later that day, a lone bagpiper played beloved Irish melodies, including *Danny Boy*, as family and friends gathered at the cemetery. The music offered a final tribute to the heritage he had cherished.

Jack’s legacy lives in the homes he improved, the gardens he planted, the pinecone wreaths his children still display, and the painting he preserved from his youth. More importantly, his legacy lives on in the example he set: Work honestly, help others, use your talents generously, and make time for family.

More than anything else, he taught us that family mattered.

CARRY AWAY

SHARE YOUR FAMILY HISTORY BY WRITING DOWN AND COMMUNICATING YOUR MEMORIES TO FAMILY MEMBERS. IF YOU DO NOT, STORIES WILL BE LOST OR FADE AND LOSE THEIR RICHNESS. BY SHARING THEM, YOU EXTEND THE LIFE OF THOSE STORIES AND THEIR POTENTIAL IMPACT ON FUTURE GENERATIONS. YOU CREATE A MULTIGENERATIONAL CONNECTION WITHIN THE FAMILY.



An example of one of many pinecone wreaths handmade by John E. Connelly



Shared memorial: The memorial of Shirley and Jack Connelly at Saint John Neumann Cemetery in Chalfont, Pennsylvania. Shirley died on July 30, 2006; Jack was laid to rest beside her following his death on October 23, 2018.



Shirley Zimmerman Connelly

MAY 31, 1930 – JULY 30, 2006

Mother

OUR BEDROCK

When I think of my mother, I do not first think of dates or places. I think of her sitting at the kitchen table, talking with her family, reading a book, following the news, discussing politics, watching her favorite soap operas, and looking forward to summers at the Jersey Shore. I think of Sunday dinners, Christmas Eve, family vacations, and the comfort of knowing she was always there when needed.

As a child, I took much of that for granted. As an adult, I came to appreciate how much of her life was devoted to caring for others. This is not simply the story of where she lived or what she did, but of who she was and the influence she had on those around her.

Shirley Zimmerman was born on May 31, 1930, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, one of two children born to John and Margaret Zimmerman. She shared a close bond with her younger brother, Jack, and deeply admired her maternal grandmother, whose influence remained with her throughout her life.

Growing up during the Great Depression and coming of age during World War II, Shirley belonged to a generation shaped by perseverance, sacrifice, and family responsibility. Those values became part of the foundation upon which she built her life.

Some of Shirley’s happiest memories were formed at the Jersey Shore, particularly in Avalon. She loved the ocean, beach, boardwalk, and freedom that summer seemed to bring. As a young woman, she worked at the Crest Restaurant in Wildwood Crest. There, through a mutual friend, she met Jack Connelly. What began as a simple introduction became a marriage lasting nearly fifty years.

Before marrying, Shirley also worked for *The Philadelphia Bulletin* and later in the medical practice of Dr. Epstein. On October 13, 1956, Shirley and Jack were married. Together they built a home first in Narberth and later in Harleysville, where they raised four children: Margaret, Matthew, Mariann, and Jan.

THE WOMAN SHE WAS

If the kitchen table was the center of our home, Mom was the heart of it.

She possessed a quiet intelligence revealed not through grand speeches but through the way she listened, observed, and understood people. She built a unique relationship with each of her children and seemed to know what each needed at different stages of life. Sometimes it was encouragement. Sometimes it was perspective. Sometimes it was the firm push needed to stop making excuses and move forward.



Shirley Connelly with Margaret Connelly in Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania

Mom listened carefully, remembered the details that mattered, and was never afraid to tell us what we needed to hear rather than what we wanted to hear. She did not need to understand every technical aspect of a person’s work to appreciate the person behind it. Her practical wisdom often helped others see situations more clearly.

Although reserved when meeting new people, Shirley was warm, engaging, and quietly humorous among family and close friends. She valued honesty and directness. She could be compassionate when comfort was needed and remarkably strong when circumstances demanded it.

She loved to read and was rarely without a book, newspaper, or magazine. Politics was another lifelong interest. She followed not only the issues but the people behind them, discussing personalities and the direction of the country with the enthusiasm many people reserve for sports.

Shirley identified strongly with the Kennedy era and admired Senator Robert F. Kennedy. His assassination deeply affected her, as did the deaths of President John F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Many years later, the attacks of September 11, 2001, brought similar feelings of sadness and uncertainty. She cared deeply about the country and followed its triumphs and struggles throughout her life.

Mom’s practical wisdom often appeared in simple conversations. When work became stressful, she would listen and then offer one of her favorite reminders:

“IT’S JUST A JOB.”

She believed in working hard, but she also knew that a career should never become more important than family, health, or happiness.

She offered similarly practical advice while shopping:

“IF YOU REALLY LIKE IT, BUY IT NOW. IT WON’T BE THERE WHEN YOU COME BACK.”

On the surface, she was talking about a dress, a piece of furniture, or a special gift. The lesson reached further. Opportunities do not always wait. If something brings joy and you can afford it, do not spend your life wishing you had acted sooner.

Shirley treasured her grandchildren and delighted in reading to them, listening to them, and sharing quiet moments together. Being present was one of the greatest gifts she gave.

Although she never considered herself a family historian, she appreciated her family’s history and preserved treasures that connected us to earlier generations. Among them were the journals of her grandfather, Edmund Young. By safeguarding them, she helped ensure that an important part of our family’s story survived.

Mom never learned to drive. As children, it seemed perfectly normal. Only later did I recognize how much independence that required her to surrender in a suburban world built around automobiles. Yet she adapted without complaint and remained fully involved in our lives.

FAMILY TRADITIONS AND WHAT ENDURES

Family gatherings were carefully woven into the rhythm of our lives. Sunday dinners were not optional. We could spend the afternoon on our own activities, but when dinner was ready, everyone was expected at the table. Those meals created conversations, traditions, and memories that strengthened our family year after year.

There was always enough food for one more person. Whether dinner included turkey, roasts, steaks on the grill, barbecued chicken with Open Pit sauce, or hamburgers, no guest left the table hungry. Hospitality was never discussed; it was simply lived.

Christmas Eve held a special place in Mom’s heart. It was not merely another holiday gathering but an occasion that brought everyone together under one roof. The tree, decorated each year with familiar ornaments, cornhusk dolls, and shimmering tinsel, became part of our family’s story. The presents were never the most important part of the evening. Mom found her greatest joy in seeing her family together.

The Jersey Shore remained one of the happiest places in her life. Summers in Avalon eventually gave way to family vacations in Wildwood Crest and Ocean City. While Mom enjoyed the beach with the children, Jack explored local bakeries, delis, and neighborhood shops. Every evening, everyone returned for a seafood dinner and stories from the day. The vacations were never really about the beach. They were about being together.

Sports also became part of family life. Mom followed her children’s athletic activities and loved professional football. She particularly admired Joe Montana. Football Sundays and the Philadelphia Flyers’ consecutive Stanley Cup championships became shared family memories. She celebrated her children’s accomplishments with genuine pride, whether in athletics, academics, careers, or family life.

As her parents grew older, Shirley welcomed them into the family home. Caring for aging parents while raising four children required patience, strength, and sacrifice. As children, we simply accepted that our grandparents lived with us. Only later did I appreciate the responsibilities Mom carried each day. She rarely complained. She simply did what needed to be done.

One of the most touching memories from the final chapter of my mother’s life remains with me.

After being diagnosed with advanced cancer, Mom endured years of declining health. As her illness progressed, she became bedridden and increasingly weak. During that same period, Dad suffered a heart attack and was hospitalized. For the first time in their long marriage, both faced serious illness.

When Dad returned home, Mom gathered every ounce of strength she had, pulled herself up, and made her way to sit beside him. No one asked her to do it. She simply wanted to be with him.

I have often thought that she was waiting for him to come home. In that quiet moment, without many words, she expressed what nearly fifty years of marriage had meant to her. It remains one of the most beautiful expressions of love I have ever witnessed.

Shirley passed away on July 30, 2006, surrounded by her family at her daughter Margaret’s home after a lengthy illness.

Much of everyday life changes with time. Houses are sold, traditions evolve, and children grow into parents and grandparents themselves. Yet what mattered most about Mom survives. Her perspective continues to guide us. Her conversations still echo in our memories. The traditions she cherished continue to bring our family together. Most importantly, the love, understanding, and quiet strength she shared with each of us continue to shape our lives.



Photograph of Margaret, Matt and Mariann in front of the Christmas tree in Narberth, Pennsylvania.



Photograph of Matt, Mariann and Marge in the Atlantic Ocean in Atlantic City, New Jersey.



Shirley and Jack photographed while attending a family college graduation dinner for Chrissy at the William Penn Restaurant in Blue Bell, Pennsylvania



Photograph of the Connelly home located at 395 Pheasant Run Road in Harleysville, Pennsylvania.



Photograph of the Connelly family: Mariann, Marge, Matt, Dad Mom, and Jan in Harleysville, Pennsylvania.

Today, my sister Mariann and her husband, Kurt, host our family’s Christmas Eve celebration. Although the location has changed, its spirit has not. Somewhere during the gathering, a story or memory of Mom almost always enters the conversation. In that way, she continues to bring our family together, just as she always did.

CARRY AWAY

LISTEN TO YOUR BODY AND ACT WHEN IT COMES TO YOUR HEALTH. IF YOU TEND TO FIGHT THROUGH DISCOMFORT RATHER THAN ADDRESS ITS CAUSE WITH A DOCTOR, REMEMBER THAT HEALTH PROBLEMS DO NOT IMPROVE THROUGH NEGLECT. ASK A FAMILY MEMBER OR FRIEND TO HELP YOU SEEK ANSWERS WHEN YOU NEED SUPPORT. DO NOT UNDERESTIMATE THE VALUE YOU BRING TO THE PEOPLE WHO LOVE YOU.

Special Tribute

Through the Eyes of Shirley and Jack’s Grandchildren

The greatest measure of a life is often found in the memories left behind. These reflections from Jack and Shirley’s six grandchildren preserve the gestures, sayings, traditions, and quiet moments through which Mom Mom and Pop Pop made each of them feel loved.

Jenna Schwartz



“Who loves you?”
“Pop Pop.”

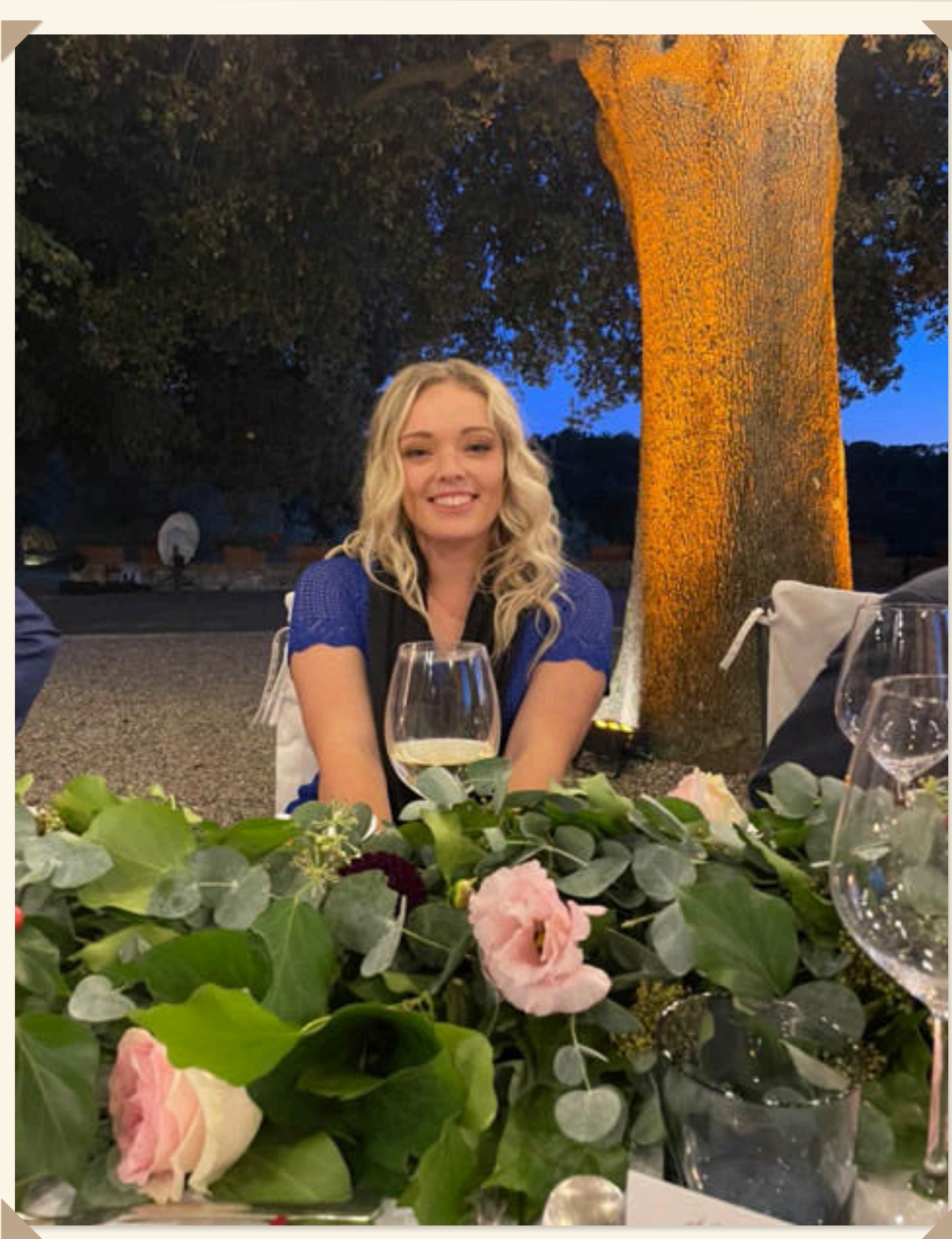
Without hesitation, that was always Jenna’s answer, spoken with a smile.

Collin Cusick



“Pop Pop always gave me half dollars and two-dollar bills. I still carry some of those two-dollar bills in a secret place in my wallet.”

Claudia Gilmore



“He was the kind of grandfather I wished everyone could have.”

“He would tell amazing stories and always had a little something to give you that came with a back story.”

“Sometimes I’d sneak sugar into the hospital and hide it in his shoe because that’s where he told me to put it.”

“Mom Mom always had those little seashell candies.”

Kyle Phillips

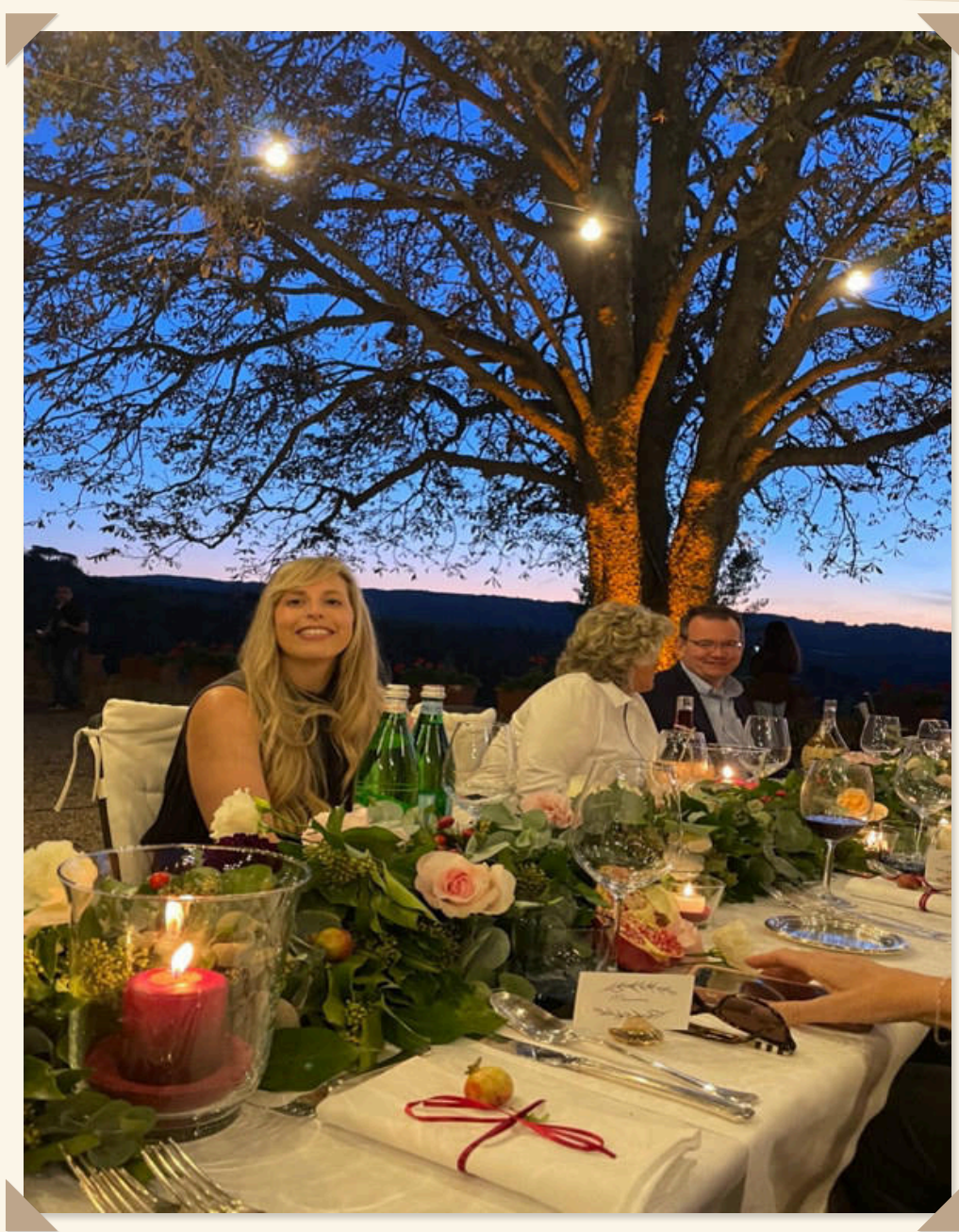


“No matter what, Mom Mom always made sure I was taken care of.”

“If she didn’t have my favorite snacks, we’d go to Henning’s to get them.”

“Every shift at Emil’s I’d look through the kitchen door and see Pop Pop sitting at the bar. We didn’t have to talk. His quiet presence spoke volumes.”

Katie Plagianakos



“Sunday dinners, birthdays, Christmas Eve—that’s what togetherness looked like.”

“Mom Mom made me feel seen.”

“Looking back, they were honestly the parent figures we needed.”

“Pop Pop was the definition of a man—a dedicated worker who loved his family.”

Christine Hsieh



“One night after my shift at Montgomery Mall, Pop Pop was waiting in the parking lot just to make sure I got safely to my car.”

“Summer mornings meant pastries, bacon, scrapple, and breakfast with Pop Pop.”

“Mom Mom’s advice was simple: ‘Never turn your back to the ocean.’”

“I can still remember her Birkenstocks, her lipstick, and listening to ‘Midnight Train to Georgia’ together.”

V. THE LIVING GENERATIONS



Margaret Jane (Connelly) Phillips

Margaret was named after our grandmother, Margaret Zimmerman. She was born on July 9, 1958, at Presbyterian Hospital in West Philadelphia. Marge was Jack and Shirley’s firstborn child, arriving while they were living in a small apartment in Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania.

From an early age, Marge was a gifted athlete. She excelled in organized sports at Indian Valley High School and later Souderton High School. Shirley enthusiastically supported her athletic pursuits, creating scrapbooks filled with newspaper clippings, varsity letters, awards, and other memories of her accomplishments.

Marge later settled in Hatfield, Pennsylvania, where she raised her three children—Christine, Katie, and Kyle. During her career, she worked at the *Main Line Times* and Roy Lomas Carpets before joining Altec. There, she managed a team that supported adults with developmental disabilities, helping them live more independently within their community.

Marge has always been someone who keeps moving. Whether competing on the athletic field, supporting her clients, or keeping pace with her children and grandchildren, her energy has remained one of her defining qualities.

She also enjoys cooking and preparing family recipes, especially for Thanksgiving and Easter gatherings. Her specialties include baked scalloped potatoes, coleslaw, and Thanksgiving stuffing—and I admit those are my favorites.

Jack and Shirley lived with Marge for a time, and Shirley spent the final year of her life in the Hatfield home. Surrounded by the activity of family life, her children, and her grandchildren, Shirley found great happiness there.

Today, Marge lives in Perkasio, Pennsylvania, near Mariann and her family. She enjoys spending several days each week with her nearby grandson, Waylon, and her face lights up whenever she talks about her grandchildren. Above all, she is proud of the lives her three children have built.



Matthew David Connelly

I was born on October 6, 1960, at Haverford Hospital. I know it was a Thursday morning because my father always enjoyed telling the story of going out for eggs with the doctor who delivered me after my birth.

I spent my career working in advertising before joining AT&T and later JPMorgan Chase, where I held corporate leadership positions in marketing and finance. After thirty-four years, I now enjoy my next life adventures in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida.

More than any professional accomplishment, I hope those closest to me will remember me as thoughtful, adventurous, generous, and grateful for the family that shaped my life. I will always treasure the once-in-a-lifetime adventures shared with my sisters, nieces, and nephews. Preserving our family’s history through this book has been a meaningful project in my life.



Mariann (Connelly) Schwartz

Mariann was born on May 1, 1962.

Mariann married Kurt Schwartz, and they reside in Perkasio, Pennsylvania. They have one daughter, Jenna, who lives with them. Jenna is autistic, and no one has been a stronger advocate for her than Mariann. Together, Mariann and Kurt have devoted themselves to providing Jenna with every opportunity to succeed.

Driven by determination and love for her daughter, Mariann fought for better educational support and behavioral services within the public school system. When those services fell short, she educated herself on Jenna’s educational rights and worked alongside Kurt to establish clear expectations and goals. Their perseverance led to the creation of a well-structured, in-home program tailored specifically to Jenna’s needs.

Working with experts throughout the community, Mariann developed a program that provides Jenna with educational, social, and life-skills experiences designed to strengthen her independence and prepare her for the future. What began as a necessity has grown into a small business managed from their home with a dedicated staff.

While overseeing Jenna’s program, Mariann also built a successful career with several large national banks, concluding her career at JPMorgan Chase in the Auto Finance line of business. She has always possessed a talent for managing people and solving problems.

Jack and Shirley lived with Mariann for many years, and Jack spent the final years of his life in the Perkasio home.

Today, Mariann and Kurt continue to share their home with Jenna and Kurt’s sister, Lynda. Through years of perseverance, Mariann created a supportive environment that has given Jenna opportunities to learn, grow, and experience life in ways that once seemed uncertain. It is one of the accomplishments of which she can be most proud.



Jan Alice (Connelly) Cusick

Jan was born on May 15, 1968. Shirley gave Jan the middle name Alice so that her initials would become J.A.C. – after my father, Jack. It was one of the many ways Shirley expressed her love for her husband and family.

Jan married Eric Gilmore, and they had one daughter, Claudia. She later married Clinton Cusick, and together they welcomed their son, Collin. Today, Jan and Clinton reside in Lansdale, Pennsylvania, where family remains at the center of their lives.

Jan worked for many years at the pharmaceutical company Teva. Her ability to understand medications, treatments, and the language of medicine would later prove invaluable.

Throughout Dad’s illness, Jan became his strongest health advocate. She quickly learned his medications and treatment plans, carefully managed appointments and follow-up care, and ensured that no important detail was overlooked. When physicians asked questions, Jan often filled in the information Dad had forgotten. She approached every challenge with optimism, compassion, and determination, turning difficult news into practical next steps.

Modern medicine undoubtedly extended Dad’s life, but so did Jan’s unwavering advocacy, careful attention to detail, and loving commitment. She helped ensure that he received the best care possible throughout his illness.

Today, Jan enjoys family life as she and Clinton prepare to watch Collin begin his university education while continuing to celebrate Claudia’s accomplishments.

VI. Summary

The Heartbeat and the Voice

For generations, the fife and drum belonged together. The drum provided the strong, repetitive beat. The fife carried the melody—its bright voice rising above the surrounding noise.

Perhaps a family is not so different.

THE DRUM IS THE HEARTBEAT. THE FIFE IS THE INDIVIDUAL VOICE. TOGETHER, THEY ARE WOVEN TO CREATE A LIFE.

Across these portraits, the voices are distinctly their own. Some notes are high and some are low. Others are simply faint, waiting to be heard. There are moments of courage and hardship, accomplishment and disappointment, joy and loss. It is the composition of all those notes—not simply the high ones—that gives each life its authentic voice.

The faint notes offer another opportunity. Research and discovery can bring an individual closer to us. Another document, photograph, occupation, address, signature, family story, or artifact can allow us to hear more of the life behind the name. A voice that once seemed distant can become clearer, and there may always be more waiting to be discovered.

Yet beneath all those individual voices, a steady drumbeat can be heard.

As these portraits came together, seven common threads began to repeat across generations: **commitment to family; a strong work ethic; courage to adapt; service and duty; faith and community; skill, ingenuity and self-reliance; and loyalty, connection and support for one another.**

They were not qualities chosen in advance and imposed upon these lives. They emerged organically from them. Different generations, different circumstances and different voices—but a remarkably familiar heartbeat.

Each of the 50 voices also leaves behind something of its own: a **Carry Away**. No reader is expected to hear every voice in quite the same way. One ancestor’s experience may feel distant, while another experience sounds remarkably familiar.

EACH VOICE HAS A CARRY AWAY. IT IS UP TO YOU TO LISTEN AND DISCOVER WHICH ONES RESONATE WITH YOU.

Perhaps that is one of the gifts of knowing the people who came before us. Their lives do not tell us who we must become. They simply add their voices to the music already playing.

And the composition is not necessarily finished simply because the research stops. Another record, photograph, letter, or family story may someday allow another note to be heard.

Listen to the voices we have recovered. Learn from the ones that resonate with you. And remain curious enough to listen for the voices that are still faint.

And with each generation, another voice joins the composition. The voices change. The heartbeat endures. And the reader gets to listen.