

BRIEF SUMMARY
of
FAMILY OF MARY AND PATRICK TOWEY

Compiled by:
Agnes M. Towey
Circa 1959

Revised by:
James R. Coleman
1988

The Toweys were married in St. Nathy's Cathedral at Ballaghaderreen, County Mayo, Ireland on Nov. 23, 1837, by Rev. B. Hiland. Ballaghaderreen, a picturesque small town of 1500, is now located in the county of Roscommon due to redistricting. Mary's maiden name was Towey, but she was unrelated to Patrick.

Mary's maternal grandmother's maiden name was O'Donnell, a very religious family of Ballaghaderreen, Ireland. In this family were Cardinal O'Donnell and several priests and nuns. This Cardinal O'Donnell was not the American Cardinal O'Donnell. Mary's paternal grandmother's maiden name was McDonnell. Patrick's maternal grandmother's maiden name was Casey, and his paternal grandmother's maiden name was Flynn.

Mary was small and sandy-haired, while Patrick was very tall and dark, though not handsome. Some of their children were small and red-headed, while the others were tall and dark.

Patrick was a carpenter by trade, and Mary was a housewife. In 1867 they celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary, but since their daughter had died just the year before, they preferred to have only a religious ceremony to mark the event. This they had at St. Thomas' Church in Winona, Minnesota.

Patrick died in January of 1890. Mary died July 29, 1898.

They had seven children; five were girls: Mary, Catherine, Bridget, Margaret and Winifred; and two boys: Michael and Patrick. All the children were born in Ballaghaderreen, Ireland.

Though they didn't have too much of this world's goods to give their family, they certainly made up for it in love. That is undoubtedly the reason they decided to leave Ireland and come to America as a family unit. They had seen the children of their friends and relatives leave home and come to America as soon as they were grown. In order that that would not happen to them, they decided to take their young family to America themselves.

Early in 1861 they departed. As souvenirs of Ballaghaderreen each child received an English gold piece worth 34.63. Mary brought her spinning wheel as well as two linen towels. The towels were made from flax grown in her own yard, spinning the flax herself to make the linen thread and then woven by herself. Patrick brought his black thorn cane. It was not so difficult for Patrick to leave Ireland since he was an orphan; but although Mary's mother and father had died she did have two brothers, James and John (both Catholic priests) and one sister, Evelyn, whom she hated leaving

almost broke her mother's heart to have to leave her brothers and sister in Ireland, yet she did not name her children for them; but named one Mike, another Pat, and a girl, Bridget.

After they first came from Ireland, they lived in a suburb of Detroit, Michigan. This is now the fashionable Grosse Pointe. They lived there for a little more than a year. From there they went to Columbus, Ohio. After living in Columbus for over a year, they took a river boat bound for Winona, Minnesota. Winona is situated on the Mississippi River. There were many old friends, many they had known in Ireland, who urged them to come to Winona. They arrived there in 1856 and lived there for the rest of their lives. Most of their children married and lived in and around Winona. Mary Coleman lived four miles south of Winona and Catherine Monahan eight miles north. Bridget Towey and Margaret lived in Winona, and Winifred McMullan in Minneapolis. Michael lived in Stillwater, Minn., and Patrick in Park City, Utah. Winifred came to Minneapolis in 1880. There she taught until 1885, when she married William McMullan, a banker in the Irish American Bank. They lived in Minneapolis until 1886, but in March of that year both Winnie and their baby died.

THE COLEMAN BRANCH

Mary and Patrick's oldest daughter, Mary, was born in August of 1845 and died Feb. 3, 1901. She was married to Alexander (Lackey) Coleman in the St. Thomas Catholic Church in Winona, MN, on Nov. 2, 1868 by Father Alois Flut. They had ten children; eight boys: William, James, Joseph, Edward, Alexander (Allie), Frank, Charles, and Harry; and two girls: Mary Genevieve and Winifred Louise.

Lackey Coleman was born in Ireland in July of 1845, the first year of the GREAT IRISH POTATO FAMINE, when the blight hit, and by 1850 approximately one million had perished from starvation and another million had emigrated to other lands. Lackey immigrated to the US in 1860, when he was only 15 years old and alone. His father was named Patrick Coleman and his mother's maiden name was Catherine Doney (anglicized Downey). I think that it is safe to speculate that the rest of his immediate family perished in the Great Famine. Lackey Coleman died on May 7, 1903, in Winona

Below is a photocopy of their wedding from the church records:

Mrs. Coleman /
Maria Towey /
M. S. 1868 die 2 m. In duobus conjugum
in matrimonium Alexandrum Coleman
aet. aet. 25 an. cath. filium Patricii Coleman
& Katharinae Doney, cum Maria Towey
aet. aet. 23 an. cath. filia leg. Patricii Towey
& Mariae Towey, habita una promulgatione,
Ambo ex Irelandia oriundi,
Pater fuer. Michael Doney & Marg. Doney

Catherine Aline Rowekamp was born Nov. 22, 1927. Cathie married Robert William Cooper in the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart (formerly St. Thomas' Church) in Winona on Aug. 18, 1956. They live in La Crosse, WI, and have two children:

Bryan Robert Cooper was born March 3, 1960.

Sharon Kathy Cooper was born Oct. 12, 1963.

Helen Monahan Rowekamp (Nell) attended the Winona Normal School, now Winona State U. After completion of their curriculum, she taught near her home in the Wilson-Witoka area, before she married. She attended college at the same time Agnes Towey and Mary Jordan did and was very close to them.

Catherine and Dominac Monahan had three sons: Martin (Mort), William, and Edward. None of the three married, but remained together and farmed on the home place. Martin was born Dec. 7, 1877, and died Nov. 26, 1963. William P. was born April 25, 1883, and died Aug. 3, 1950. Edward was born Aug. 18, 1884, and died Oct. 20, 1953.

THE BRIDGET TOWEY BRANCH

Patrick and Mary's next child, Bridget, married Thomas Towey (no relation) in St. Thomas Church in Winona in Feb., 1878. They, too, were married by Father Cotter. They had four children:

William L. When he was 21 years old, he went to Superior, WI, to work. Shortly thereafter, on Aug. 15, 1907, he was killed by a train. Naturally, it was a great blow to the family. In fact, most of the family thought the shock of Will's death hastened the death of his father, Thomas, who died Dec. 21, 1909. In September of the following year the family moved to Minneapolis.

Mary Winifred was born Nov. 10, 1879, and died May 31, 1947. She was their first-born. She attended Winona Normal (now Winona State) and taught in Minneapolis. She married Michael A. Jordan, an attorney, in the Immaculate Conception Church (forerunner to the Basilica of St. Mary) in Minneapolis on Sept. 4, 1920. They were married by Father Cullen. They had two children:

Michael A. Jordan Jr. was born June 24, 1921. Mike married Mary Claire Noonan Nov. 10, 1951, in the Basilica of St. Mary, Minneapolis. Mike has an insurance adjusting firm. They have one daughter:

Sheila Mary was born June 12, 1953. Sheila is Director of Social Work at Waite House in Minneapolis. She married James Patrick Mangan on Aug. 23, 1982. They have one daughter, Maggie Jordan Mangan, who was born Sept. 23, 1984.

Mary Louise Jordan, their second child, died at birth on March 20, 1923.

Agnes Margaret was the third child of Bridget and Thomas Towey. She was born June 12, 1884, and died June 25, 1964. She also attended Winona Normal and taught in Minneapolis. Agnes Towey never married.

Joseph Bernard Towey was their youngest child. He was born June 10, 1890. He studied dentistry in Chicago and returned to practice in Minneapolis. Joe never married. He died suddenly of a heart attack Sept. 27, 1956.

MICHAEL TOWEY BRANCH

Mary and Patrick's son Michael was born in 1855, and he died April 15, 1919. Michael Towey married Margaret Burke of Stillwater, MN, on Sept. 10, 1890. Margaret died Oct. 28, 1904. They had four children:

John William Towey, their oldest child, was born July 25, 1891, and died Nov. 28, 1970. John studied medicine at Northwestern University in Chicago. He began his practice in North Dakota. He married Martha Joyce Daggett in the Incarnation Church in Minneapolis on April 5, 1917. Martha was the soloist at Incarnation. They lived in Langdon, N.D. Their daughter Mary Rachel was born Feb. 26, 1918, in Langdon, and died March 8, 1981. Mary Rachel was a teacher, and later principal of an elementary school in St. Louis Park, a suburb of Minneapolis. Martha became ill while on a visit in Minneapolis and died after an illness of only several days on October 27, 1919.

John moved to Michigan and located in Powers, MI, where he became medical director and supt. of Pinecrest Sanitorium in 1921. He remarried in Dec., 1924. He married Rega Brazeau in the Catholic Church in Spaulding, MI. Rega died Aug. 23, 1985. They had two children:

Margaret Patricia Towey was born Oct. 11, 1926. Pat married Harland Parks in the Catholic Church in Madison, WI, on Dec. 26, 1955. Harland died July 15, 1985. They have four sons:

Richard Harland Parks was born Jan. 13, 1957. He married Mary Sue Mieden May 19, 1979. They have 2 children.
Sarah Elizabeth was born March 21, 1983.
Bonnie Marie was born June 13, 1985.

Paul Joseph Parks was born Feb. 4, 1958.

Robert Eugene Parks was born Sept. 8, 1959.

James Patrick Parks was born Sept. 15, 1960. He married Kimberly (Kim) Ann Case on Nov. 16, 1985. They live in Ohio where he has an airport.

John Joseph Towey was born Sept. 26, 1930. He married Dorothy Schultz in the Catholic Church in LeSeur, MN, on June 25, 1955. John is in the Purchasing department at Honeywell. They have five children:

John David Towey was born April 29, 1956. He married Donna Terri Brown on June 22, 1985. He is a design engineer with Control Data Corp. They have one son, David John, born June 15, 1987.

Elizabeth Ann Towey was born Sept. 27, 1957. She is in computer operations with Edina Realty.

Kevin Girard Towey was born March 16, 1959. He married Gail Fay Theune on Sept. 10, 1984. He is a sales rep with Instant Web Printers. They have one child, Sarah Linsey Towey.

Kathleen Mary Towey was born March 26, 1963. She is in yield management with Northwest Airlines.

Anne Marie Towey was born April 20, 1965. She will graduate this year from St. Thomas College.

Joseph Towey, the second child Michael and Margaret Towey, was a twin. He died at birth on Aug. 16, 1894.

Josephine Towey, Joseph's twin, was also born Aug. 16, 1894. Josephine taught school and never married. She died in 1969 (?).

Robert Emmett Towey, the youngest child of Michael and Margaret, was born Sept. 21, 1896, and died Feb. 14, 1971. Bob Towey married Gertrude (Sherry) Sheridan in the Catholic Church in Jackson Heights, Long Island, NY, May 29, 1930. At that time he was with the Chase Manhattan Bank in NY. He later became Trust Officer and Vice-Pres. of Midland National Bank in Minneapolis. Sherry died on Feb. 16, 1958. He later married Olive Ward. Bob died Feb. 14, 1971. Bob and Sherry had three children:

Eileen Towey was born May 14, 1932. She married Donald W. Lynch in the Basilica of St. Mary on Sept. 14, 1954. They have eight children:

Michael William Lynch was born March 9, 1956. He married Jeanette Stach on June 5, 1981. Mike is a meteorologist on Radio Station WCCO. They have one child, Angela Mary, born June 18, 1987.

Mary Eileen Lynch was born Nov. 1, 1957. She married Fred Dressel. She is a teacher at Brown Electronics Institute. They have two children:

Chad Dressel was born June 8, 1985.

Caitlin Dressel was born Dec. 7, 1987.

Margaret Theresa Lynch was born May 19, 1959. She married Dana Rude May 7, 1988. She works as a secty. at the Air National Guard.

Thomas Robert Lynch was born July 25, 1960. He will marry Maura Daly on Aug. 13, 1988. He is currently doing his practice teaching.

Joseph Bernard Lynch was born Sept. 9, 1961. He is a chef in Minneapolis.

James Edward Lynch was born Dec. 6, 1962. Jim married Christine Nieder, a chiropractor, on Nov. 23, 1986. Jim is a Biology teacher at Roosevelt High School in Minneapolis.

Katherine Sheridan Lynch was born July 12, 1967. She is a student at the U. of Minn.

William Edward Lynch was born Dec. 13, 1972.

Joyce Towey was born July 22, 1935. She married Eugene Simmons, a physicist, Aug. 18, 1956, in Our Lady of the Lake Church in Mound, MN. Joyce is a school psychologist in Alexandria, VA. They have four children:

Laura Sherry Simmons was born Feb. 10, 1953. She married Carl Blythe. They have two children:

Sarah Blythe was born Nov. 9, 1984.

Kathleen was born Nov. 11, 1987.

Bowen Robert Simmons was born July 14, 1959.

Hugh ^{Charles} James Simmons was born Oct. 1, 1961

Bruce Eugene Simmons was born Oct. 26, 1962.

Michael Towey was born May 14, 1939. He married Gwen Mindup Dec. 21, 1982. Gwen died of cancer in January of 1983. Mike is a counselor and lives in Tacoma, WA. He has three children:

Ann Sheridan Towey was born Nov. 13, 1963.

Bridget Kathleen Towey was born Aug. 17, 1966.

Robert Emmett Towey was born Nov. 6, 1969.

Margaret Burke Towey (Michael's wife) died after an illness lasting several years. Her three children (John, Josephine, and Robert) were very young. They were taken by their aunt and uncle (Bridget and Tom Towey) and reared right along with their own family. Years later, when John's wife died, Aunt Bridget took his daughter, Mary Rachel Towey, to rear also. Mary Rachel made her home with Agnes Towey until Agnes' death.

REMAINING CHILDREN OF MARY AND PATRICK

Margaret E. Towey was born in 1856. Margaret did not marry. She made her home with Bridget and Tom Towey. She moved to Minneapolis with the family in 1903 (?). She died on Dec. 1, 1924.

Mary and Patrick's younger son, Patrick Henry, was born in 1857. He moved out to Utah in 1873. He married Ida Kimball in Salt Lake City, Utah, in 1888. They had two children, but they both died in infancy. Pat and Ida lived in Park City, Utah, a little mining town 50 miles from Salt Lake City until Pat's death in 1909.

Winifred Towey, the youngest child of Mary and Patrick, was born in 1859. She married William McMullan in June of 1885 in St. Thomas Church in Winona. She also was married by Father Cotter. Winnie had been teaching in Minneapolis. She and William made their home in Minneapolis where he was an officer in the Irish-American Bank and later district manager of the Northwestern Life Ins. Co. of Milwaukee. Winnie died in March, 1886, when their first baby was born.

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Patrick was born in 1819 and died January of 1890. Mary was born in 1814 and died July 29, 1893.

DEDICATION:

This is dedicated to the memory of the late Mary Rachel Towey whose efforts created the original edition of this work.

March 25, 1983

Sincerely, Jim Coleman

Ms. Virginia Mahoney

March 11, 2004

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2004 TOWEY REUNION:

The second Towey reunion is now being planned and will occur August 14 and 15, 2004, in Ballaghaderreen, County Roscommon, Ireland. It is being planned by Michael Towey of Dublin and Dick Towey of Corvallis, Oregon, who is compiling information in order to write a book on the Towey family. The reunion will be held on a Saturday and Sunday at Durkin's Hotel & Restaurant on the main street of Ballaghaderreen. The enclosed E-mail letter gives addresses, telephone numbers and E-mails on making contacts in order to call for more information and/or making arrangements to attend. Incidentally, in years past Mary Claire and I have stayed at Spellman's Motel a few times. The food is good, the rooms are okay and Michael Spellman is charming and tries to be very accommodating.

NEW INFORMATION:

In the past we have never known anything about Patrick and Mary Towey as to whom their parents might be. They are the original people that came over from Ireland with their five youngest children in 1866. The Winona death records show that Mary's parents were Patrick and Catherine Towey. According to the family, Mary's parents were both born Towey so Catherine did not have to change her name when she married her Patrick. Knowing one more piece of the puzzle may help us identify where they lived in Ireland before coming over.

The second piece of new information pertains to my immediate family more than others. For years we thought that the Toweys lived at 369 West King Street from the time they first got a home in Winona until they left and moved to Minneapolis in 1908. However, a recent check of Winona city directories shows that Tom and Bridget Towey did live at 369 West King Street with their children but that they moved to 369 Wabasha Street in about 1905. This would be two or three years before coming up to Minneapolis. The Wabasha house is in a somewhat better neighborhood than the house on King Street. The house itself is somewhat bigger and they may have needed more room because the

extended family always seemed to include more than the immediate parents and children. Tom and Bridget Towey would have been living at 369 Wabasha with their own children and with her sister, Margaret Towey. The directories also show that John W. Towey was living there and attending high school in Winona after 1905. Tom Towey died in 1907 and was buried in Winona with Patrick and Mary Towey. However, there is no name on a stone to identify him in that plot. Then in 1908 Bridget moved to Minneapolis with her sister. These homes at 369 West King Street and 369 Wabasha are fairly close together and not far from 415 Dakota Street where Julius and Nell Rowekamp lived after they retired from the farm and moved into town.

CENSUS RECORDS:

The 1850 Census shows the family living together, but no address is shown. They apparently lived in the 1st Ward of the City of Winona. Patrick is shown as 57 years old, a laborer, a white male, the value of his real estate is \$1,000.00 and the value of his personal estate is \$100.00. The second line shows Mary, his wife, at age 54, a white female and she is employed at keeping house. Four of their children also lived with them including the following:

1. Catherine, age 24, employed at keeping house.
2. Margaret, age 18, who was a seamstress. She was known as Maggie, never married and continued to live with her sister, Bridget, after their parents died. She even moved to Minneapolis with Bridget in 1908.
3. Michael, age 16, who was in school.
4. Winnie (Winnifred Towey), age 10, who also was in school.

The 1895 Census for Winona shows the family of Thomas and Bridget Towey in the lower portion of the page. Tom is age 48, employed in mining and Bridget is 35, employed as a wife. Their four children include Mary, age 16, (my mother); Agnes, age 12;

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and Willie, age 8; all three of whom are students. Joseph, age 5, has no occupation. Also living in this home is Mary Towey, age 80; Maggie Towey, age 33; and Bernard Towey, age 24. All three of these are listed as domestic. Mary would be the original mother that came from Ireland with her five children, Maggie would be a sister of Bridget and Bernard is not identified any further. However, it seems likely that he would be related somehow because Joe Towey was born Joseph Patrick Towey and took Bernard as his confirmation name. Later he changed his name to Joseph Bernard Towey. This may have been done informally. All the above people lived at 369 West King Street at the time of this 1895 Census.

DEATH RECORDS:

The death records for Patrick and Mary Towey were found in a book known as the Register of Deaths, in the County of Winona, State of Minnesota. Patrick Towey died January 26, 1890, at the age of 71 of pneumonia in the City of Winona. You will note that no parents are identified on this record. According to the family he was an orphan, but obviously he had parents. They still have not been identified. Mary Towey died July 29, 1898, at the age of 84 of senility in the City of Winona. On this form her parents are listed as Patrick and Catherine Towey, both of whom were born in Ireland. This is the new information obtained recently by Dick Towey. Her occupation is listed as "retired."

Two other people are listed on this Death Register with Pat Towey. One is a Patrick Towey who died October 16, 1889, at the age of 40 and the cause of death is listed as killed by falling. It also is shown that he was a laborer. His parents are not identified and it is not known how he might be related to our family. Most likely he came from Ballaghaderreen since he was living in Winona. The second name of interest is James Tuohy, who appears to have died April 14, 1891, age 45(?), who appears to have died as a suicide in Wisconsin. His parents are listed as James and Ellen Towey. Very likely he came from Ballaghaderreen as well, however it is not known what connection