Descendants of William O'Brien and Mary Sexton of Watergrasshill, Ireland

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Chapter 1

The O'Briens in Ireland

The family of William O'Brien and Mary Sexton came to America from the town of Watergrasshill in County Cork, Ireland. [1;2;3] The village of Watergrasshill is situated mostly within the civil parish of Ardnageehy and partly within Kilquane, in the larger barony of Barrymore, on the main road between Cork and Dublin. [4] The name Watergrasshill was originally "Watercress Hill," and in Irish is *Cnocán-na-biolraighe* (Knockaun-na-billery). [5]

Watergrasshill was a small town of 801 inhabitants in 1841, when William and his family lived there prior to their emigration to the U.S. By 1871 the population had dropped to 143.^[6] Some of this population loss was likely due to the famine, but the arrival of the railroad may also have played a role. The Great Southern and Western Railway reached the City of Cork in 1849.^[17] Two people performing land valuations included their impressions of Watergrasshill and its transformation. D. Quinn wrote in Feb 1849:

This Town is Poor, but a great deal is done in the way of "Carmen's Stages," it being on the Dublin line to Cork and half way (11 miles) from the latter City to Fermoy – a good deal of benefit is done the Town by these persons —^[16]

J. Montgomery wrote in Dec 1852 and sometime prior:

2 coaches & Bianconis¹ can pass through the village daily & change Horses here – one or two individuals are thus making pretty well by this – by the rent for stabling &c – & when the railway to Cork is finished, it will lose a good part of this advantage —

It has lost a great deal of it now – (1852) but it is the best of the little villages in this neighborhood although poor enough – Poor Rates are low – only 1/7th for 1832 & none at all in 1837 – Those made a moderate valⁿ. considering these circumstances. ^[16]

¹Charles Bianconi was an Italian entrepreneur who operated passenger coaches between cities throughout Ireland.^[17]

There are few Irish records available covering the early 19th century. Civil registration of births, marriages, and deaths didn't fully occur in Ireland until 1864. [8] Census records prior to 1901 were mostly lost in a 1922 fire at the Public Records Office. [9] However, there are O'Briens in Watergrasshill who appear in name directories and Griffith's Valuation records from the time period when William's family lived in the area. It's possible that these sources may reveal some small details about the family's life in Ireland.

F. Jackson's County and City of Cork Post Office General Directory, 1842–43 includes a "William O'Brien, gent." with a seat at "Transtown mills" and post town at "Watergrass hill." [10] Land valuation records for Trantstown in 1847 and 1850 show a John O'Brien leasing a paper mill, house, offices (outbuildings), and land from Lady Augusta Henrietta Fitzgerald. [11;12] A revised valuation in July 1850 indicates that John O'Brien no longer resided there, and that the mill became idle in 1847. [13] Residents in Trantstown reported that a Mr. O'Brien owned the mill and employed many people there, but he sold his house when the mill closed down. [14] The timing of John O'Brien's departure from the mill property around 1850 coincides with the arrival of William O'Brien's family in Boston.

There is no William O'Brien who appears in the valuation records as occupying land in Trantstown. It's possible that John O'Brien was William's son, and that he took over the running of the mill from his father. There is a "W^m. Brien" listed in the town of Watergrasshill who was leasing a house with a yard and garden. The Feb 1849 revision has William's name crossed out and the word "Vact." written, indicating that the house was vacant and William had moved away. ^[15] There are no other William O'Briens or similar name variants listed in Watergrasshill, although other [O']Briens in town include Denis, Owen, Patrick, and Margaret. [add citation]

Watergrasshill was a poor town in the 1840s that was largely sustained by horse travel between Dublin and Cork. With the loss of that business to the railway, the effects of the famine, and the closure of the paper mill in nearby Trantstown, it made sense for the O'Brien family to look for new opportunities in America.

[include a description of Griffith's Valuation, House Books, etc.]
[add context for Potato Famine driving emigration]
[include maps locating Watergrasshill within Ireland and showing local area]

Chapter 2

Name and Lineage

O'Brien is the Anglicized spelling of the surname *Ua Briain* in Classical Irish, and *Ó Briain* in Modern Irish. The *Ua* or *Ó* part of the name means a "grandson" or generally any descendant of the named person. In this case, O'Brien derives from the first name of Brian Boru (born c. 941 and died 23 Apr 1014), High King of Ireland. Boru's descendants formed one of the major dynasties in Ireland. [18]

Brian Boru was born a member of the Dál gCais clan (Dalcassians). This clan controlled much of what is now County Clare in Ireland. ^[19] Due to modern genetic testing, it is possible to determine whether a living person is a descendant of Brian Boru, a member of his clan, or an unrelated O'Brien who came from a family that adopted the surname. This is facilitated by the Y-DNA testing of Brian Boru's direct descendant, Sir Conor O'Brien, 18th Baron Ichiquin. ^[20]

Unlike other chromosomes, the Y chromosome is passed from father to son without significant recombination. This means that a living man's Y-DNA is nearly identical to that of his direct male line ancestor from many generations in the past. While rare, mutations on the Y chromosome do occur. These variations are called single nucleotide polymorphisms, or SNPs. It is possible to map groups of people onto branches of a tree based on the SNPs they have in common. These branches are known as haplogroups, and they're named after the Y-DNA mutation that defines them. [21]

The Y-DNA testing of Sir Conor O'Brien has revealed that Brian Boru's Dalcassian clan and its descendants are located within the R-L226 haplogroup. Furthermore, Brian Boru's defining mutation places him and his descendants in the sub-group of R-L226 known as FGC5659. There is another group of non-Dalcassian O'Briens known as the "Northwest Irish/Lowland Scots" O'Briens, who are in haplogroup R-M222. [20]

A Y-DNA test of William O'Brien's male line^[29] reveals that there is no relation to either the Dalcassian or Northwest Irish O'Briens. William's branch is located within haplogroup R-Y11179. This haplogroup does not

have ancient Irish origins but can be traced back to the Anglo-Norman family with the surname "Barry" that occupied large parts of County Cork subsequent to the English invasion of Ireland in the 1100s. ^[27] More recent research indicates that these Barrys were probably from the Hainaut region of what is now Belgium, rather than French Normandy. ^[26]

Several websites provide age estimates to determine when William O'Brien's line may have split off from the Barry family. The closest match on FTDNA is a man with a Barry surname. FTDNA's "TiP Report" estimates that the Barry match and William O'Brien's descendant have a common ancestor within the past 8 generations at 60.41% likelihood, within 12 generations at 90.11% likelihood, and within 18 generations at 98.28% likelihood. On the website *YFull*, which allows uploading Y-DNA kits for additional analysis, the closest match is the same Barry individual from the previous comparison. YFull predicts that the two matches have a most recent common ancestor at a median of 425 years ago with 95% certainty, placing the common ancestor around the year 1600. [31]

Somewhere in William O'Brien's ancestry, the O'Brien name was assigned to (or adopted by) a man of Barry descent. This is known as a non-paternity event (NPE). It is likely impossible to determine when or how this occurred, as useful records in Ireland rarely go back far enough past the early 1800s. However, the Barry family had a major presence in the area where William came from, receiving grants of land in County Cork from the English king and the title Earl of Barrymore. [28] More information may arise as additional men submit Y-DNA tests and the timeline for the O'Brien/Barry split can be further narrowed. It is also important to note that the Y-DNA results only pertain to the direct male line. William's descendants still have Irish roots, owing to the Irish spouses of his children. William's own mother is unknown, but it's quite likely she had ancestral Irish origins.

[include haplogroup tree showing O'Brien branches vs Barry branches] [more background on Barry history in County Cork]

Chapter 3

First Generation

3.1 William O'Brien

1. **WILLIAM¹ O'BRIEN** was born probably in County Cork, Ireland, about 1791. [32] He died in Boston, Massachusetts, 28 December 1856, [34] and was buried at North Cambridge Catholic Cemetery, Cambridge, Massachusetts. [35] He married, likely in County Cork, **Mary Sexton**. [37;38;41;42] No further information about Mary is known.

William may be the William O'Brien listed in the 1842 Cork County Directory as owning Trantstown Mills, a paper mill close to the village of Watergrasshill. [10]

In 1855, William was living in Boston's North End neighborhood with his son Edward, his daughter Abigail, and three of his grandchildren. [32;68] William does not appear in the 1850 census. Since Edward immigrated to Boston in 1851^[1], it's likely that William arrived with him at that time. William's wife Mary does not appear in any census records from this time. She may have died in Ireland before 1851, or not accompanied her husband to America for reasons unknown.

William only lived in Boston for five years before dying of pleurisy. He was living at 207 North Street in the North End at the time. [34]

Children of William¹ and Mary (Sexton) O'Brien, all likely born in Water-grasshill:

- i. Ann² (O'Brien) Dailey, b. abt. 1813^[43]; d. 23 Sept. 1898; m. Michael Dailey. [41] Unknown if she had any children. She does not appear until the 1880 census, when she was living with her brother Edward. She may have arrived in the U.S. sometime between 1870–1880. No record of husband Michael Dailey being in the U.S.
- 2 ii. Abigail (O'Brien) Dooley, b. abt. 1815; m. Michael Dooley.
- 3 iii. John O'Brien, b. abt. 1820; m. 20 Nov. 1853, Mary Mahoney.
- 4 iv. Edward O'Brien, b. 10 Oct. 1822; m. Bridget Linnehan.

- 5 v. Mary (O'Brien) Ward, b. abt. 1828; m. 31 Oct. 1850, David Ward.
- 6 vi. Michael O'Brien, b. 15 Dec. 1832; m. (1) 10 July 1854, Bridget Colbert; m. (2) 19 April 1874, Mary Field.

Chapter 4

Second Generation

4.1 Abigail (O'Brien) Dooley

2. **ABIGAIL² (O'BRIEN) DOOLEY** (*William*¹) was born probably in Watergrasshill, County Cork, Ireland, about 1815. [33] She died in Boston, Massachusetts on 4 January 1897 [38] and is buried in Holy Cross Cemetery, Malden, Massachusetts. [39] She married, likely in County Cork, **MICHAEL DOOLEY**. [38] He was born probably in County Cork. [40] Michael died sometime before 1 May 1865, [44] possibly on 1 January 1857, [45] and is buried in North Cambridge Catholic Cemetery, Cambridge, Massachusetts. [36]

Children of Abigail² and Michael Dooley, both likely born in Watergrasshill:

- i. Hannah³ (Dooley) (Cooney) Cusick, b. prob. Watergrasshill abt. 1837;^[134]
 d. Boston 14 June 1911;^[138] m. (1) 14 Aug. 1859, Jeremiah Cooney;^[136] m. (2) 5 Oct. 1884, Michael Cusick.^[137] No known children.
- 7 ii. Margaret E. (Dooley) (Simonds) Fernald, b. 27 Dec. 1840, m. (1) William Simonds; m. (2) 21 Aug. 1873, Robert A. Fernald.

4.2 John O'Brien

3. **John² O'Brien** (*William*¹) was born probably in Watergrasshill, County Cork, Ireland, about 1820. [49] He died in Boston, Massachusetts on 22 April 1863 [47] and is buried in Catholic Mt. Auburn Cemetery, Watertown, Massachusetts. [48] He married **Mary Mahoney** on 20 November 1853 at St. Mary's Church, Boston. [49] She was born in Ireland about 1829 [50] –1832 [51] to James [51] or Patrick [50] and Mary (_____) Mahoney. [50]

John arrived in the U.S. sometime prior to his marriage to Mary Mahoney in November 1853. He appears in the 1860 federal census in Boston's North End neighborhood, living with wife Mary and four children. Also living with the family was Amelia Rease, age 19, born in Pico W. P. [65] (this is

probably Pico Island in the Portuguese Azores). Other nearby families are listed with servants born in the Portuguese Azores, indicating that Amelia may have been a servant for the O'Brien household.

John was living at 35 Fleet Street in the North End when his son John Joseph was born in 1861. His occupation was listed as "grocer." [67;68] John's brother Edward lived at the same address, and Edward's son Edward was born just nine weeks after John's son John Joseph. [67]

Four of John's children died of tuberculosis¹ in the ten years between 1879 and 1889, as had John himself in 1863.^[47] This illness disproportionately affected Irish immigrants in Boston:

...[t]he death rate from consumption was greatest among the colored, and among the white ... it was greatest among those whose mothers were born in Ireland or who were themselves natives of Ireland, being more than 3 times the corresponding rate for those whose mothers were born in the United States, and almost double the rate for those who were themselves natives of this country.^[69]

Children of John² and Mary (Mahoney) O'Brien, all born in Boston and all except for John Joseph O'Brien buried at Catholic Mt. Auburn Cemetery, Watertown, Middlesex County, Massachusetts:^[48]

- 8 i. William³ O'Brien, b. 9 Nov. 1854; m. 27 Sept. 1881, Julia T. McCarty.
 - ii. Mary O'Brien, b. 11 Jun. 1856; [53] bap. St. Stephen (Boston) 13 June 1856; [54] d. 18 March 1883 (phthisis). [55]
 - iii. James Edward O'Brien, b. 1 Feb. 1858;^[57] bap. St. Mary (Boston) 3 Feb. 1858;^[58] d. 11 April 1879 (consumption). Occupation frame polisher,^[59] perhaps working at brother John Joseph's frame shop.
 - iv. Ellen "Nellie" O'Brien, b. 27 Aug. 1859; [61] bap. St. Stephen 28 Aug. 1859; [61] d. 1 Oct. 1882 (phthisis). [62] There does not seem to be a civil birth record for her.
- 9 v. John Joseph O'Brien, b. 29 Jan. 1861, m. 6 Feb. 1890, Emma A. Mahoney.
 - vi. Margaret O'Brien, b. 18 May 1862; [85] bap. St. Stephen 19 May 1862; [85] d. 23 Oct. 1863 (marasmus). [63]
 - vii. Anna O'Brien, b. bet. 19 Aug.–18 Sept. 1863; [64] d. 28 Feb. 1866 (bronchitis). [64]

4.3 Edward O'Brien

4. **EDWARD² O'BRIEN** (William¹) was born in Watergrasshill, County Cork, Ireland, on 10 October 1822.^[1] He died in Boston, Massachusetts, on 25

¹The terms "phthisis" and "consumption" were used at the time to describe what is now called tuberculosis. ^[66]

August 1881^[95] and is buried at Holy Cross Cemetery, Malden, Middlesex County, Massachusetts.^[39]. He married **Bridget Linnehan**, probably in County Cork, Ireland, sometime before immigrating to the U.S. in June 1851.^[1;70] Bridget was born in Ireland about 1831, the daughter of Andrew Linnehan and Ann (_____) Linnehan. She died in Boston, Massachusetts, on 5 April 1867 of pneumonia at the age of 36.^[71]

Edward's profession is listed as "teamster." [88,92] Prior to the use of motorized vehicles, this term referred to a person paid to transport goods by horse-drawn wagon. [94]

Edward lived at first in Boston's Roxbury^[78] and North End^[81] neighborhoods. In 1870 he paid \$3,000 for the property at 185 London St. in East Boston.^[88;89] Edward acquired a second East Boston property in 1874, when he purchased 307 Havre St. for \$3,325 at public auction.^[75;76] Both properties were passed onto Edward's heirs upon his death, although the combined value was only \$3,700 at that time.^[73] His heirs still held title to the properties until at least 1922,^[90] when the 185 London St. property was being rented out as apartments.^[91] Edward's niece, **Frances Elizabeth³** (**O'Brien) Wickens**, lived there for a time.^[93] Edward's daughters, Annie M. and Margaret, continued to live at the house on 307 Havre Street up until their deaths in the 1930s.^[82;63] The properties were likely important sources of wealth for multiple generations of the O'Brien family.

Living with Edward in 1880 were his adult children Annie, Margaret, and Edward J., his sister Ann² (O'Brien) Dailey, and niece Delia J. Graham, the daughter of Bridget's sister Mary. Edward's household also included Michael Malanny, age 65, and his wife Ann, age 62, although their connection to Edward is not known. [72] None of Edward's children ever married.

There is a large monument at Holy Cross Cemetery in Malden marking where Edward is buried along with his wife Bridget, sister Ann, three of his children, and several extended family members. The plot is located at North Monument Ave., Path 17, Grave 34 East (see map in the appendix). [87;39]

Children of Edward² and Bridget (Linnehan) O'Brien, all born in Boston:

- i. Mary Ann³ O'Brien, b. 13 Oct. 1852;^[78] bap. Holy Cross (Boston) 16 Oct. 1852;^[79] d. 25 Nov. 1852;^[80] bur. North Cambridge Catholic Cemetery, Cambridge, Middlesex County, Mass.^[35]
- ii. Ellen O'Brien, b. 27 Nov. 1853;^[60] bap. Holy Cross 3 Dec. 1853;^[61] d. 10 March 1857;^[62] bur. North Cambridge Catholic Cemetery.^[36]
- iii. Ann Maria "Annie" O'Brien, b. 9 Nov. 1855;^[83] bap. St. Stephen (Boston) 17 Nov. 1855^[84]; d. 24 May 1937;^[82] bur. Holy Cross Cemetery.^[39] She was appointed administratrix of father Edward's estate after he died intestate.^[73]
- iv. Margaret A. "Maggie" O'Brien, b. 22 Aug. 1859; [85] bap. 29 Aug. 1859; [85] d. 6 March 1933; [63] bur. Holy Cross Cemetery. [39]

v. Edward J. O'Brien, b. 7 April 1861;^[81] d. 7 Jan. 1884 (typhoid fever);^[86] bur. Holy Cross Cemetery.^[39]

4.4 Mary (O'Brien) Ward

5. Mary² (O'Brien) Ward (William¹) was born probably in Watergrasshill, County Cork, Ireland, about 1828. [96] She died in Boston, Massachusetts, on 23 March 1908 [42] and is buried at Holy Cross Cemetery in Malden, Middlesex County, Massachusetts. [39] She married **David Ward** in Boston on 31 October 1850. [96] David was born in Mayfield, Fulton County, New York, about 1822 to David and Mary A. (_____) Ward. [97] He died of cancer in Boston on 19 December 1881. [97]

David Ward was a cook. He was working at "Quincy House" in 1876, [98] "Maverick House" in 1877, [99] and at a saloon in 1880. [100] David and Mary purchased the property at 101 Bennington St. in East Boston for \$2,200 in 1871. [101;102]

Children of Mary² (O'Brien) Ward and David Ward, all born in Boston:

- i. Mary Ann³ Ward, b. 24 July 1851;^[103] bap. Holy Cross (Boston) 27 July 1851;^[103] d. 6 Jan. 1854.^[104]
- ii. Sarah Ward, b. 9 Dec. 1853;^[105] bap. Holy Cross 17 Dec. 1853;^[106] d. 10 April 1873 (meningitis).^[107]
- 10 iii. Hannah (Ward) Flynn, b. 13 Sept. 1860; m. 23 Sept. 1885, John J. Flynn.

4.5 Michael O'Brien

6. MICHAEL² O'BRIEN (William¹) was born in Watergrasshill, County Cork, Ireland, on 15 December 1832. [2] He died in Boston, Suffolk County, Massachusetts, on 25 June 1891 [37] and is buried at Holy Cross Cemetery, Malden, Middlesex County, Massachusetts. [36] He married, first, BRIDGET COLBERT on 10 July 1854, [108] and second, MARY FIELD on 19 April 1874. [110] Bridget Colbert was born in Ireland about 1832 to Patrick and Ellen (_____) Colbert. [108] She died in Boston on 21 October 1873 of phthisis (tuberculosis) [109] and is buried with the family of Michael's brother, John J. O'Brien, at Catholic Mt. Auburn Cemetery, Watertown, Middlesex County, Massachusetts. [48] Mary Field (aka Mary Feely) was born in Ireland about 1845 [110] to Patrick Field and Mary Sheehan. [111] She died in Boston on 6 January 1915 and was buried at Holy Cross Cemetery. [111]

Michael was an oysterman or oyster opener. [112;116] In 1871 he purchased the property at 243 Border St. in East Boston for \$3,600. [113;114] He may have been operating a ferry service from this waterfront location. [115]

[add burial info]

[children with same name]

Children of Michael O'Brien and Bridget (Colbert) O'Brien:

i. Ellen³ "Nellie" O'Brien, b. bet. 2 Jun 1857–1 Jun 1858; [117;118] d. unk.

Very few records are available for Ellen. Her most likely date of birth was 16 July 1857, parents listed as Michael and Bridget, address at 30 Ferry St. in Boston. [119] This corresponds with a baptismal record at St. Stephen in Boston on 18 July 1857, parents Michael O'Brien and Bridget Colman. [120] "Colman" could be a misspelling of "Colbert." Ferry St. and St. Stephen Church place the family near Michael's other siblings in Boston's North End neighborhood. [122]

No plausible marriage or death records for Ellen have been found. She was alive as of 1891 as she appears on the list of father Michael's heirs in his probate file. [121]

- ii. Mary Ann O'Brien, b. 18 Aug. 1859; $^{[123]}$ d. 10 June 1861. $^{[124]}$
- 11 iii. Michael O'Brien, b. 24 March 1864; m. (1) 4 July 1883, Lillian A. Allen; m.(2) 13 April 1899, Mary A. Macdougall.
- 12 iv. Frances Elizabeth "Fannie" (O'Brien) Wickens, b. 16 Dec. 1866; m. 1 Jan. 1891, John B. Wickens.

Children of Michael O'Brien and Mary (Field) O'Brien:

- v. Mary O'Brien, b. 10 Nov. 1875; [125] d. 20 Nov. 1875. [126]
- vi. John Joseph O'Brien, b. 30 Oct. 1876; [127] d. 21 Sept. 1881. [128]
- 13 vii. Edward Francis O'Brien, b. 30 Oct. 1879; m. 23 June 1909, Mary Frances Gill.
 - viii. Francis Joseph "Frank" O'Brien, b. 17 Mar 1883; [129] bap. Most Holy Redeemer (East Boston), 18 March 1883; [130] d. 1 May 1914. [131]

Frank worked first as a gas fitter ^[132] and then was a meter tester for the New Bedford Gas & Edison Light Co. ^[131;133] He was living at 95 S. Sixth St. in New Bedford, Bristol County, Massachusetts, when he died. ^[133] He never married. ^[131]

Chapter 5 Third Generation

Chapter 6

List of Persons

- 1. William¹ O'Brien
- 2. Abigail² (O'Brien) Dooley
- 3. John² O'Brien
- 4. Edward² O'Brien
- 5. Mary² (O'Brien) Ward
- 6. Michael² O'Brien
- 7. Margaret E.³ (Dooley) (Simonds) Fernald
- 8. William³ O'Brien
- 9. John Joseph³ O'Brien
- 10. Hannah³ (Ward) Flynn
- 11. Michael³ O'Brien
- 12. Frances Elizabeth³ (O'Brien) Wickens
- 13. Edward Francis³ O'Brien

Notes

- [1] Edward O Brien primary declaration of intention (1854), no. 487, District of Massachusetts; Record Group 21: Records of the District Courts of the United States; National Archives at Boston, Waltham, Massachusetts; viewed at "Massachusetts, State and Federal Naturalization Records, 1798–1950," database with images, Ancestry.com (https://www.ancestry.com/: viewed on 23 Mar 2020), image 858.
- [2] Edward O Brien petition for naturalization (1868), Massachusetts Superior Court, Suffolk County; Oct term 1868 (Letters L–Z), Film # 007795438, viewed at "Primary and final declarations of intention and naturalizations, 1864–1888 and card index 1856–1884," database with images, FamilySearch (https://www.familysearch.org/ark: /61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS9H-83DG-G): viewed on 23 Mar 2020), image 1859.
- [3] Watergrasshill & Glenville Parish (Watergrasshill, Ireland), "Historical Baptisms from 1836–1901," database, "Margaret Dooly" baptism, 27 Dec 1840; Watergrasshill & Glenville Parish Archives.

 http://www.wghparish.ie/index.php/archives/
 baptisms-1836-1901/easytablerecord/1-baptisms/7008: viewed on 17 Apr 2019.
- [4] Samuel Lewis, *A Topographical History of Ireland*, vol. 2 (London: S. Lewis & Co. 1837), 695.
- [5] Patrick Weston Joyce, *Irish Local Names Explained* (Dublin: The Educational Co. of Ireland, Limited, 1922), 93.
- [6] Census of Ireland, 1871, Part 1, Vol. 2 (Dublin: Alexander Thom, 1873), 140; viewed at Histpop The Online Historical Population Reports Website (http://www.histpop.org/): viewed on 23 Mar 2020.
- [7] Central Statistics Office (Cork, Ireland) "Census 2011 Population Classified by Area," 36; accessed at *Central Statistics Office*

- (https://www.cso.ie/en/media/csoie/census/documents/census2011vol1andprofile1/Table_5.pdf): viewed on 23 Mar 2020.
- [8] John Grenham, *Tracing your Irish Ancestors* (Dublin: Gill Books, 2019), 1.
- [9] Ibid., 18.
- [10] F. Jackson, The County and City of Cork Post Office General Directory, 1842-43 (Cork: F. Jackson), 125; viewed at Cork City Libraries (http://www.corkpastandpresent.ie/places/ streetandtradedirectories/ 1842-3jacksonscountycityofcorkpogeneraldirectory/): viewed on 23 Mar 2020.
- [11] "Perambulation Book, County of Cork, Barony of Barrymore, Parishes of St. Michaels, Templeusque, and Killaspugmullane," Parish of Killaspugmullane, Townland of Trantstown, p. 22 (hand-written), No. 22a, John OBrien, dated 4 Aug 1847; viewed at "Ireland, Valuation Office Books, 1831–1856," database with images, FamilySearch (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-L94N-1CR6: viewed 26 Mar 2020), film #007246728, image 109.
- [12] "Perambulation Book, County of Cork, Barony of Barrymore, Parish of Killaspugmullane," Townland of Trantstown, No. 7a, John O'Brien, dated 26 Jul 1850; viewed at "Ireland, Valuation Office Books, 1831–1856," database with images, FamilySearch (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-L94N-1CR6: viewed 26 Mar 2020), film #007246728, image 118.
- [13] "1st House Book, County of Cork, Barony of Barrymore, P. of Killaspugmullane (Revised)," Townland of Trantstown, p. 5 (hand-written), No. 7a, John OBrien, original date Aug 1847, revised date 27 Jul 1850; viewed at "Ireland, Valuation Office Books, 1831–1856," database with images, FamilySearch (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-894J-SZCB: viewed 26 Mar 2020), film #007246783, image 420.
- [14] Bina Harte, "The Old Paper Mill of Trantstown," recounted to the author by Jeremiah Harte, The National Folklore Collection, UCD, The Schools' Collection, Volume 0382, p. 31; viewed at *dúchas.ie* (https://www.duchas.ie), The Schools' Collection > Co. Cork > Cnoc na Biolaraighe, image 31.
- [15] "House Book, Town of Watergrasshill, County of Cork, Barony of Barrymore, Feby 1849," Houses in Town of Watergrasshill, Parish of

Ardnageehy, Townland of Tinageragh, No. 44 (original), Lot 29 (revised), Wm Brien; viewed at "Ireland, Valuation Office Books, 1831–1856," database with images, FamilySearch (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-994N-YC62: viewed 26 Mar 2020), film #007246869, image 442.

- [16] "House Book, Town of Watergrasshill, County of Cork, Barony of Barrymore, Feby 1849," title page; viewed at "Ireland, Valuation Office Books, 1831–1856," database with images, FamilySearch (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-994N-YCXK: viewed 27 Mar 2020), film #007246869, image 433.
- [17] Brian Igoe, "Charles Bianconi and The Transport Revolution, 1800 1875," blog post, published 14 Dec 2012; The Irish Story (https://www.theirishstory.com/2012/12/14/charles-bianconi-and-the-transport-revolution-1800-1875/: viewed 27 Mar 2020).
- [18] O'Brien Clan Foundation, "Brian Boru: Historical View," webpage, O'Brien Clan Foundation (https://www.obrienclan.org/historical-view.html: viewed on 29 Mar 2020).
- [19] O'Brien Clan Foundation, "Brian Boru: Early History," webpage, O'Brien Clan Foundation (https://www.obrienclan.org/early-history.html: viewed on 29 Mar 2020).
- [20] Dennis O'Brien, "The DNA of Clan O'Brien (Dennis O'Brien)", recorded presentation and slides, Genetic Genealogy Ireland 2016 conference, posted on *YouTube* 29 Oct 2016 (https://youtu.be/wp-1bfxaXYs: viewed on 29 Mar 2020).
- [21] Blaine T. Bettinger and Debbie Parker Wayne, *Genetic Genealogy in Practice* (Arlington: National Genealogical Society, 2016), 23-25.
- [22] E. Barry, *Barrymore : records of the Barrys of County Cork from the earliest to the present time, with pedigrees* (Cork: Guy and Co. Ltd., 1902), 1.
- [23] Ibid., p. 17.
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- [33] 1855 Massachusetts state census, Suffolk County, population schedule, Boston, ward 1, p. 60 (left side), dwelling [blank], family 549, for Abby Dooley in Edward O'Brien household; accessed at "Massachusetts, State Census, 1855," database with images, Ancestry.com (https://www.ancestry.com/: viewed on 29 Mar 2020), Suffolk > Boston Ward 01 > image 33.
- [34] Massachusetts Town and Vital Records, Death Records, 1856, no. 4206, William O'Brien; accessed at "Massachusetts, Town and Vital Records, 1620-1988," database with images, *Ancestry.com* (https://www.ancestry.com/: viewed on 29 Mar 2020), Boston > Deaths, 1856 > image 96.

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- [36] Diana Berberena, Catholic Cemetery Association of the Archdiocese of Boston, letter to Gavin E. O'Brien, received 11 Jul. 2019. Michael Dooley: North Cambridge Catholic Cemetery, Range 14 East, Grave 96 Ellen O'Brien: North Cambridge Catholic Cemetery, Range 17 West, Grave 124 Michael O'Brien: Holy Cross Cemetery, 28 North Maple, Grave 27 West
- [37] Massachusetts Vital Records, Death Records, 1891, no. 4862, Michael O'Brien; accessed at "Massachusetts, Death Records, 1841-1915," database with images, *Ancestry.com* (https://www.ancestry.com/: viewed on 29 Mar 2020), _Pre 1903 > 1891 > image 1303.
- [38] Massachusetts Vital Records, Death Records, 1897, no. 121, Abigail Dooley; accessed at "Massachusetts, Death Records, 1841-1915," database with images, *Ancestry.com* (https://www.ancestry.com/: viewed on 29 Mar 2020), _Pre 1903 > 1897 > image 1431.
- [39] Carol Gordon, Catholic Cemetery Association of the Archdiocese of Boston, emails to Gavin E. O'Brien in Apr. 2019. Holy Cross Cemetery plot locations as follows. Ann (O'Brien) Dailey: North Monument, Path 17, Grave 34 East Abigail (O'Brien) Dooley: North Monument, Path 12, Grave 38 East Mary (O'Brien) Ward: North Monument, Path 12, Grave 38 East
- [40] Abigail (O'Brien) Dooley and Michael Dooley had two children in County Cork, Ireland, prior to their immigration to the United States.
- [41] Massachusetts Vital Records, Death Records, 1898, no. 7910, Ann Dailey; accessed at "Massachusetts, Death Records, 1841-1915," database with images, *Ancestry.com* (https://www.ancestry.com/: viewed on 29 Mar 2020), _Pre 1903 > 1898 > image 1832.
- [42] Massachusetts Vital Records, Death Records, 1908, p. 576, no. 2762, Mary Ward; accessed at "Massachusetts, Death Records, 1841-1915," database with images, *Ancestry.com* (https://www.ancestry.com/: viewed on 29 Mar 2020), 1908 > Boston > image 2737.
- [43] 1880 U.S. census, Suffolk County, Massachusetts, population schedule, Enumeration District (ED) 576, East Boston, p. 24, Havre Street, house

no. 307, dwelling no. 153, family no. 267, Ann Dailey in household of Edward O'Brian; accessed at "1880 United States Federal Census," database with images, *Ancestry.com* (https://www.ancestry.com/: viewed on 30 Mar 2020), Massachusetts > Suffolk > Boston > 576 > image 24.

- [44] 1865 Massachusetts state census, Suffolk County, population schedule, city of Boston, ward 1, dwelling 1570, family 3692, for Abby Duley in William Simonds household; accessed at "Massachusetts, State Census, 1865," database with images, *Ancestry.com* (https://www.ancestry.com/: viewed on 29 Mar 2020), Suffolk > Boston Ward 01 > image 203. Abigail's marital status is listed as "widowed."
- [45] Massachusetts Vital Records, death records, 1857, no. 7, Michael Dooley; accessed at "Massachusetts, Town Clerk, Vital and Town Records, 1626-2001," database with images, FamilySearch (https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-L975-M988: viewed on 30 Mar 2020), Suffolk > Boston > Deaths 1856-1857 > image 351. He is listed as "married" but wife's name is not included. Age 36. Address is 12 Pearl Pl.
- [46] City of Boston, Suffolk County, Massachusetts, marriage records, 1853, no. 2642, John O'Brien and Mary Mahoney; accessed at "Massachusetts, Town and Vital Records, 1620-1988," database with images, *Ancestry.com* (https://www.ancestry.com/: viewed on 31 Mar 2020), Boston > Marriages, 1853 > image 157. John is listed as 33 years old and Mary as 24.
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- [48] Bill McEvoy, compiler, "Sand Banks Cemetery Project," Excel spreadsheet of plot locations, sourced from burial books and cemetery lot cards of the Catholic Archdiocese of Boston; accessed at *The Historical Society of Watertown*(http://historicalsocietyofwatertownma.org/HSW/: viewed on 31 Mar 2020), Resources > Sand Banks Cemetery Project > downloadable Excel spreadsheet.
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- [118] 1880 U.S. census, Suffolk County, Massachusetts, population schedule, Boston, Enumeration District (ED) 578, p. 2, dwelling 8, family 16, Nellie O'Brien in Michael O'Brien household; accessed at "1880 United States Federal Census," database with images, Ancestry.com (https://www.ancestry.com/:viewedon9Apr2020), Massachusetts > Suffolk > Boston > 578 > image 2. House is at 243 Border St.
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- [127] Massachusetts Vital Records, birth records, 1876, no. 4509, John Joseph O'Brien; accessed at "Massachusetts, Birth Records, 1840-1915," database with images, Ancestry.com (https://www.ancestry.com/: viewed on 9 Apr 2020), _up through 1910 > 1876 > image 973.
- [128] Massachusetts Vital Records, death records, 1881, no. 6616, John O'Brien; accessed at "Massachusetts, Death Records, 1841-1915," database with images, *Ancestry.com* (https://www.ancestry.com/: viewed on 9 Apr 2020), _Pre 1903 > 1881 > image 982. Cause of death: Diphtheria. Address: 243 Border St.
- [129] Massachusetts Vital Records, birth records, 1883, p. 38, no. 1669, Edward Francis O'Brien; accessed at "Massachusetts, Birth Records, 1840-1915," database with images, *Ancestry.com* (https://www.ancestry.com/: viewed on 10 Apr 2020), _up through 1910 > 1883 > image 1071. The name in this birth register is likely an error. "Edward Francis O'Brien" is the name of his older brother, and he was baptized as "Francis Joseph O'Brien."

[130] Most Holy Redeemer (East Boston) Baptisms, 1883-1900, p. 2, Franciscus Joseph O'Brien; accessed at "Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston Records, 1789-1920," database with images, AmericanAncestors.org (https: //www.americanancestors.org/DB2726/rd/55184/2/1424603942: viewed on 10 Apr 2020). Sponsors: Jeremiah Field and Mrs. Ann Daley.

- [131] Massachusetts Vital Records, death records, 1914, p. 377, no. 725, Frank J. O'Brien; accessed at "Massachusetts, Death Records, 1841-1915," database with images, *Ancestry.com* (https://www.ancestry.com/: viewed on 10 Apr 2020), 1914 > New Bedford.
- [132] 1900 U.S. census, Suffolk County, Massachusetts, population schedule, Boston Ward 1, Enumeration District (ED) 1160, p. 12, dwelling 150, family 260, Frank O'Brien in Mary O'Brien household; accessed at "1990 United States Federal Census," database with images, *Ancestry.com* (https://www.ancestry.com/:viewedon10Apr2020), Massachusetts > Suffolk > Boston Ward 01 > District 1160 > image 24.
- [133] W. A. Greenough & Co., compilers, New Bedford and Fairhaven Directory (Boston: W. A. Greenough & Co., 1913), p. 772, Frank J O'Brien; accessed at "U.S. City Directories, 1822-1995," Ancestry.com (https://www.ancestry.com/: viewed on 10 Apr 2020), Massachusetts > New Bedford > 1913 > New Bedford, Massachusetts, City Directory, 1913 > image 774. "O'Brien Frank J meter tester 125 Middle h 95 S Sixth" see also p. 1010 (image 1014) of the same directory for the full name of the New Bedford Gas & Edison Light Co. located at 125 Middle St.
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- [135] Massachusetts Vital Records, *Index to Deaths*, 1911 1915, *Cassibo Enemark*, vol. 60, Hannah (Dooley) Cusick, 1911 vol. 13 p. 631; accessed at "Massachusetts, Death Index, 1901-1980," database with images, *Ancestry.com* (https://www.ancestry.com/: viewed on 10 Apr 2020), 1911-1915 > Cassibo Enemark > image 302.

[136] Massachusetts Vital Records, marriage records, 1859, no. 1734, Jeremiah Cooney and Hannah Doolly; accessed at "Massachusetts, Marriage Records, 1840-1915," database with images, *Ancestry.com* (https://www.ancestry.com/: viewed on 10 Apr 2020), _Up Through 1910 > 1859 > image 666.

- [137] Massachusetts Vital Records, marriage records, 1884, no. 2686, Michael Cusick and Hannah Cooney; accessed at "Massachusetts, Marriage Records, 1840-1915," database with images, *Ancestry.com* (https://www.ancestry.com/: viewed on 10 Apr 2020), _Up Through 1910 > 1884 > image 1030.
- [138] Massachusetts Vital Records, death records, 1911, p. 631, no. 5659, Hannah Cusick; accessed at "Massachusetts Deaths, 1841-1915," FamilySearch
 - (https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HY-DT59-PGR: viewed on 11 Apr 2020), 2393942 (004283225) > image 2213.