

JAMES O'NEILL
Founder of Plattsmouth
by
Mrs., Dora Tidd, a Grand daughter

The O'Neill's are an Irish Clan tracing descent from Niall, early Irish King of the 5th century and known in history and legend as Niall of the Nine Hostages. This king had fourteen sons of whome the O'Neills of later history descended. Daniel O'Neill of the 17th century was a member of the Clanaboye branch of the family and spent much of his early life at the court of King Charles 1st and later became a Protestant. In 1649 he was made a Major General in the English Army and would have succeeded Owen Roe O'Neill as Chief of the O'Neills had it not been for his Protestantism.

Approximately one third of the Protestant population of Ulster migrated to America during the half century preceding the Revolutionary War. Among this migration James O'Neill, father of the subject, came to Pennsylvania settling in Harrisburg, later moving to Hocking County, Ohio, where James O'Neill, subject, was born, September 24, 1815. He married and aquired a farm near his fathers which he sold, and in 1848 with his wife and children came west in a covered wagon and settled in Mills County, Iowa, near Keg Creek. In 1850 he moved to the east bank of the Missouri River and operated a fleet of flatboats to transport immigrants across the river.

In 1853 with Colonel J. L., Sharp and Samuel Martin he had logs brought across the Missouri from Iowa on the ice and the buildings known as the Old Barracks were built and for several years was the outstanding trading post of the new town of Plattsmouth. In 1855 he was granted a charter for a ferry which he operated until 1857.

In October 1854, James O'Neill, Samuel Martin, Columbus Nuckolls, J. L. Sharp, Manley Green and LaFayette Nuckolls organized the Plattsmouth Town Company. In November O. N. Tyson, the surveyor of the Company, assisted by O'Neill laid out and plotted the city of Plattsmouth which approved by a special act of the state legislature, incorporating the city, March 14, 1855. At the same time, the Legislature fixed the boundary of Cass County and designated Plattsmouth as the seat of justices. Early in 1856, James O'Neill built the first school house on Gospel Hill and the first session of the district court of Cass County was held here. He served as a member of the school board, a member of the city council and was a justice of the peace.

James O'Neill died in 1880, leaving eight children. Mrs. Elizabeth Herold, John Henry, W. A., LaFayette, George, Mrs. Lydia Bodien, Frank and Lewis.

William O'Neill, a brother of the subject, also migrated to Mills County Iowa in 1848, acquiring a large tract of land near Old Pacific.

William O'Neill married Millie Jane Quisenberry and had seven children.

James	George	Effie	Elijah	William	Ella	Joe
/	/	Fillmore	/	/	Gilliland	/
Josie	Carrie	Maude	Millie	Agnes		
Harry	Jennie	Anna		Elmer		
Maggie	Joe			Gladys		
Frank	Alma			Grace		
	Bessie					
	MERTON					

The following pages contain the partial genealogy of the House of O'Neill from the time of Nail.

For futher reference see the following publications;

THE BOOK OF LEINSTER

THE ANNALS OF ULSTER

THE ANNALS OF LOCH CE'

HISTORY OF THE VICEROYS OF IRELAND

THE FLIGHT OF THE EARLS

THE O'NEILLS OF ULSTER, THEIR HISTORY AND GENEALOGY
Published by Thomas Matthews. Dublin, 1907.

ENCYCLOPEDIA BRITTANICA

THE O'NEILLS OF ULSTER-----A PARTIAL GENEALOGY

Niall:

Irish King of Ulster, known as Niall of the nine hostages; while on a raiding trip to southwestern England he took several captives, among whom was a sixteen year old boy who later became St. Patrick. After six years of serfdom, Patrick escaped to France where he became ordained. He returned to Ireland and converted Ulster to Catholicism. His use of the shamrock as an illustration of the Holy Trinity led to it's becoming the national symbol of Ireland. St. Patrick died in 463 and Niall in 487.

Eoghan:

Owen. From whom all the O'Neills were descended, formed two branches of the family, Northern and Southern to which all the Kings from the 5th to the 12th century belonged. He was the grandfather of-----

Muircheartach or Murkertagh:

Later anglicized to Murrough. He was the Uncle of St. Columba. The west portion of Scotland, known as Dalriada was conquered by Murkertagh and converted by St. Columba. After the conversion, Murkertagh gave the coronation stone or as commonly called, the Stone of Scone, to the king of Dalriada and it was taken to Scotland. Murkertagh died in 533.

Niall Frassach:

Died 763. Was the father of-

Niall:

Died 791. Was the father of-

Aedh Glundubh--Hugh Finnlaith:

Who was the father of two sons.

Domhnall--Donnell: Was King of Ailech and was killed in battle in 919.

Murkertagh: Was killed in action in a battle against the Norse and was succeeded by his son in 943.

Donnell Ua Niall:

Great grandfather of Aedh--Hugh O'Neill. It was at this time that the name O'Neill was accepted as a surname.

Aedh--Hugh O'Neill:

Was the father of---

Hugh O'Neill:

First Lord of Tyrone. His son

Brian:

Prince of Ulster. Died 1291. Was father of---

Henry:

Lord of ClannAodha Buidhe (Clanaboy or Clandeboye)
William O'Neill was from this branch.

Murkertagh:

Surnamed the Strongminded was the great grandfather of---

Niall Og O'Neill:

Knighted by King Richard the 2nd of England. In an attempt to conciliate the Irish, King Richard conferred knighthood upon the Kings of the royal houses of O'Neill, O'Conner, O'Brien and MacMurrough. All four of these kings were lineal descended from Niall of the nine hostages. This momentous event took place in 1394.

Eoghan:

Grandson of Niall Og. He acknowledged the supremacy of the English Crown. He was chief of the O'Neills until he was deposed by his son in 1455.

Henry: (1463)

Son of Eoghan. He was acknowledged as chief of the Irish kings by King Henry 7th. He was contemporary of---

Neill Mor O'Neill:

Lord of the Clanaboy--father of Brian whose branch settled in Portugal. This branch represents the male line of the ancient Irish Kings of the House of O'Neill.

Conn:

Grandson of Henry. Born 1480, died 1559. First Earl of Tyrone. Was leader of the Irish against the English but made submission to Henry 8th. This was resented by the clan and resulted in a fued between Conn and his son Shane. He also had an illegitimate daughter who married Sorley Boy MacDonnell.

Shane:

Born 1530. Died 1567. His contemporaries:

Turlough Luineach O'Neill:

Earl of Clan Connell was made chief of Tyrone upon Shane's death. He resigned in favor of---

Hugh O'Neill:

1540-1616. Known as the Great Earl. He warred against the British, was champion of the Catholic religion, but made submission to King James. For futher reference read "Flight of the Earls."

Phelim, Sir:

Supported of King Charles first, was succeeded in 1653 by---

Owen Roe O'Neill:

Son of Art who was a brother of Hugh, the great Earl. Read the "Lament for Owen Roe."

Daniel O'Neill:

1612-1664. Member of the clanaboy branch. He spent his early life at the court of King Charles and Queen Henrietta Maria. In order to save his properties from confiscation by the British Crown he renounced his Catholic faith in favor of Protestantism. He was made a Major General in the English army and served at the battles of Marston Moor and Naseby. He would have succeeded Owen Roe as chief of the O'Neills but for his desertion of the catholic faith.

Hugh:

Son of Owen Roe's brother, Art Oge. He was therefore known as Hugh MacArt. As a military leader of the Irish he decisively defeated Oliver Cromwell at the Battle of Clonmel. He died in Spain in 1660.

Gordon:

Son of Sir Phelim. Died 1704.

John O'Neill:

(1740-1798)

Charles Henry St. John O'Neill: (1779-1841).

Brother of---

John Bruce Richard O'Neill (1780-1855).

The importance of the O'Neills came to an end with the death of John, when the direct male line became extinct.

William Chichister: 1813-1883.

First Baron O'Neill. He was the great grandson of Mary Chichester who was the daughter of Henry (1721), who in turn was the great, great, great, grandson of Neill Mor.