

The Saga of the McAloon family from Corragunt

This is the story of the children of Catherine and Joseph McAloon from Corragunt, Co Fermanagh. Catherine died in 1917, at the young age of 27, on the birth of her ninth child. As a result, her children were shared out to relatives to be cared for. Ultimately 6 of the children emigrated to the United States, and some family contact was lost. This is the story of the children reconstructed from available records.

Context – the McAloon family

Joseph McAloon (Joe) lived in Corragunt and ran shops at either side of the Fermanagh Monaghan border at Knockatallan from the early 1900s until his death in 1947 and thrived on the business opportunities (smuggling!) that this presented.

He married Catherine Murphy in 1907. She was just 17 and Joe was 27 years old. During the following decade Catherine had nine children and died on the birth of her youngest child, Daniel, in 1917. One child, John, had died in 1914, so Joe was left with eight children under the age of nine when Catherine died. Several of children were brought up to relatives in Fermanagh and Monaghan.

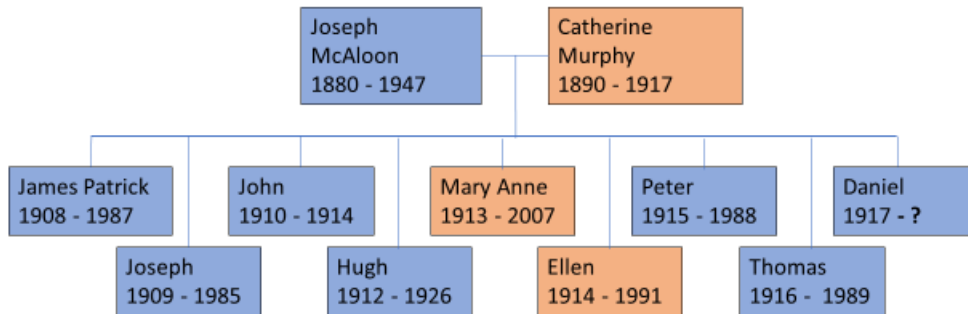
The Murphy Connection

Catherine was our Grandmother Ellen's paternal 1st cousin, and Joseph McAloon was her maternal 2nd cousin once removed. So, although there were family connections, there was no direct link family link between Catherine and Joseph.

Here is Joe and Catherine's headstone.



Joe and Catherine's children



James Patrick (1908 – 1987)

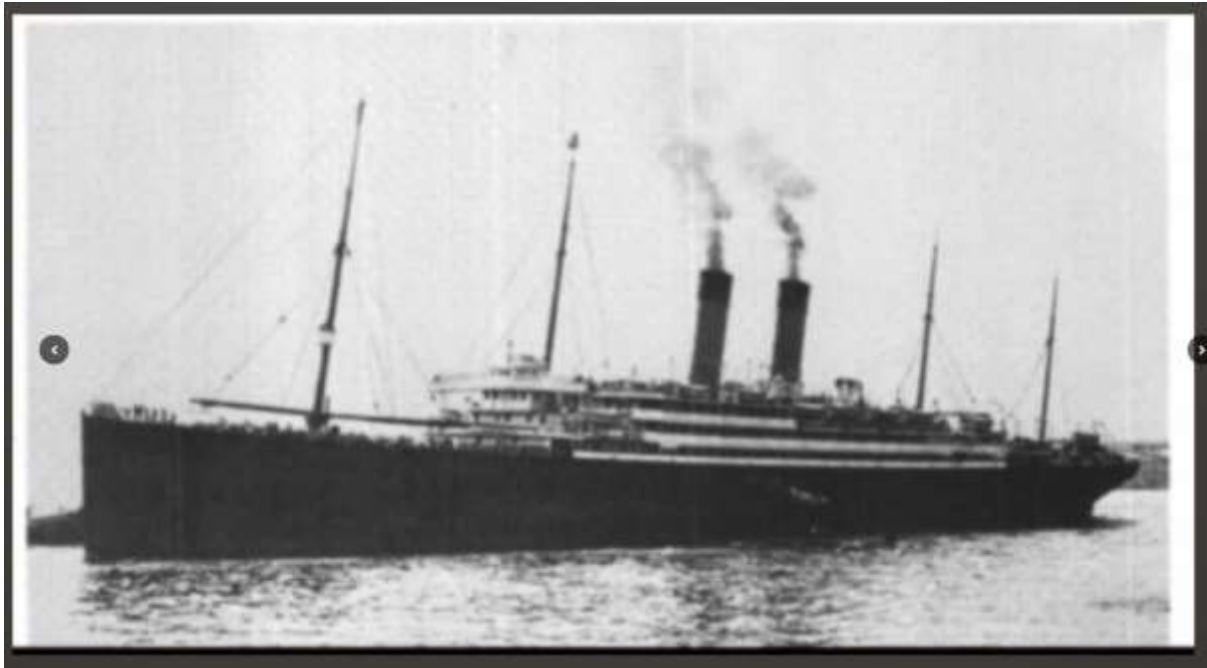
James Patrick was the eldest child, just nine years old when his mother died. He married Mary Bridget McAleer in 1947 from nearby Cornaguilla and lived in Corragunt. Life for them was very difficult during the 'troubles'. James Patrick took over the shop on the North side of the border from his father. Smuggling went on, mostly in the middle of the night, cigarettes from the South and flour and butter from the North. Their house was almost at the border crossing. The bridge nearby was regularly blown up. When this happened the windows in the house and shop would be broken. Many attempts were made to re-build the bridge again but each time this happened the British Army would blow it up again and each time the windows would be blown in. The shop no longer exists.

James Patrick and Bridget had 5 children – Brigid, James Joseph, Katherine, Gerald and Ann. Brigid married Michael Robinson and they live in Northamptonshire today. Katherine also lives in Northampton. Gerald and Ann are both married, still live locally near Corragunt and each have three children. James Joseph died and is buried in Roslea with a Munday headstone (The McAloons were often known locally as the Mundays).

Joseph (1909 – 1985)

Joseph was eight years old when his mother died. We don't know which relative cared of him as a child. In 1930, when he was 21, he set off with his sister Mary (known as May) for the USA. They probably had never been away from the home area before they set off on this major voyage! Their father paid for their passage and their 2nd cousin, Ellen Maguire from Derrygellia, travelled with them.

They embarked on the Cedric on 26th April 1930 from Liverpool, Here is a photo of the Cedric from that time:



It was a 21,000-ton ship operated by the White Starline; it was getting to the end of its service in 1930, so it may have been fairly basic— it was scrapped in 1932. Joseph arrived in New York on 6th May 1930, and his initial destination in the US was to a cousin, Michael Connolly, in E 124th St in New York.

He made his way to Providence, Rhode Island, before 1935. There appear to be strong family connections with Providence. In 1935 he is recorded living at 34 Tanner St, an address shared with some other family connections (discussed below). Initially Joseph worked as a porter in department store, but by 1940 both he and May had positions working together in the Catholic seminary in Providence.

Joseph applied for naturalisation as an American citizen on 13 July 1934. Here is a photo of him from his application!



We also know from the application that he was 5'7" tall with blue eyes.

Joseph married Mary Ann McCafferky in 1941. Mary Ann was originally from Roscommon and was living in the Pond St area with her sister before marrying Joseph. Here is a photo of Mary Ann from her Naturalisation application in 1930.



He probably had to leave the job in the seminary when he got married. He remained living in Providence, Rhode Island for the rest of his life and worked in the steel industry as a sheet metal work worker or smelter.

Joseph and Mary Ann had nine children. Mary Ann died 1965 and Joseph in 1985 and they are buried in St Anne's cemetery in Providence.



[John \(1910 – 1914\)](#)

John was born on 4th of December 1910, (although the birth was not registered until June 1911). He is recorded on the McCallon headstone. No other records have been found.

[Hugh \(1912 – 1926\)](#)

Hugh was born on 9 December 1911 he is also remembered on the family headstone. He died on 11 March 1926 from an intestinal obstruction – he was only 14.

Death full view

[Report an amendment](#)

[Order certificate](#) >

Image

52	20 26 March Corregal	Hugh McDon	Mrs Beckle	14 year	James Don	Intestinal obstruction this 24th causative	Joseph is Don Father Present at death Corregal	South March 19 26	J. J. Dwyer Registrar
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Registration details

Mary (1913 – 2007)

Mary (May) was 4 years old when her mother died, and just 17, when she emigrated with Joseph to the U.S. in 1930. She initially went to stay with a cousin, Margaret Cassley, who lived in New York (the address is difficult to decipher on the records). She moved with Joseph to Providence, and worked with him in the seminary there, until he got married in 1941. She married Harrison (Harry) Allwine in 1951. Just before her marriage May took a trip back to Europe with her younger sister Ellen. They departed New York on 7th September 1950 on the QE2 and stayed in Europe for 6 weeks, returning via Southampton on 17 October 1950. It is possible/likely they visited home around that time

May's husband, Harry Allwine, was from a family that go back many generations in Ohio. He attended a Catholic school and here is a photo from his school yearbook.



He was drafted in 1940 and enlisted in the Navy in 1942. He remained in the Navy until he retired in 1961. May and Harry moved to Baltimore, Maryland and had two children, Francis and Florence. They remained in Maryland until Harry died in 1997. May lived until 2007 and is buried with her

husband in Cedar Hill Cemetery in Pennsylvania. Francis died in 1993, Florence is married and still living.



Ellen (1914 – 1991)

Ellen was only three when her mother died. Joseph and May organised a position for her in the seminary in Providence, Rhode Island so, when she was 23 years old she departed from Belfast on the Cameronia arriving in New York on 6th December 1937. Her immigration record shows she was going directly to join May and Joseph in the seminary in Providence.

HEAD-TAX STATUS <small>(This column for use of Government officials only)</small>	NAME IN FULL		Age		Sex	Calling or occupation	Able to—			Nationality, (Country of which citizen or subject)	Race or people	Place of birth	
	Family name	Given name	Yes	Mon.			Read	Read what language (or if none, signed, or who present)	Write			Country	City or town, State, Province or District
	McAloon	Ellen	23		F	Domestic	Yes	English	Yes	British	Irish	Northern Ireland	Rosslea

No. on List	The name and complete address of nearest relative or friend in country whence alien came, or if none there, then in country of which a citizen or subject.	Final destination <small>(Should future permanent residence)</small>		By whom was passage paid? <small>Write also full name, address and telephone number of person who paid, or name, address, occupation, rank, or position, if government or military.</small>	Whether ever before in the United States, and if so, when and where? <small>(Last residence only)</small>			Whether going to join a relative or friend; state name and complete address, and if relative, exact relationship
		Foreign country (the port of departure)	In U. S. A., its territories or possessions State City or town		Yes or No	Year or period of years	Where? Date of last departure	
1	Father Joseph McAloon Carragant, Rosslea.		Provid R.I. once	Self	No			Cathedral Rectory, 28 Pond Street, Providence, R.I.

She worked as a cook at the seminary. Ellen applied for US citizenship on 28 February 1944, so we know she was 4'11" with blue eyes and brown hair, but, sadly, we don't have a photo! Ellen did not get married. She remained in Providence until 1949 at least. When she travelled to Europe with her sister May in 1950, she used May's address in Baltimore, Maryland and the next record we have is her death on 9th December 1991 in Far Rockaway, Queens, New York.

Peter (1915 – 1988)

Peter was just two years old when his mother died in 1917. Peter grew up with his Aunt Mary Anne and Uncle James McCaffrey, and their children, in Corcloghey, Co. Tyrone. Some of the McCaffrey children emigrated to the U.S. in the early 1930s and Peter's Aunt and Uncle followed their children to New York in 1935. Peter then joined them, at the age of 22, departing Belfast on 15 March 1937, just 9 months before his sister Ellen. His passage was paid for by his uncle James.

The 1940 census records show Peter living with his the McCaffrey family in New York and working as a bartender. His brother Joseph organised a position for him in the seminary in Providence, so he moved there later in 1940.

He became a US citizen and we know from his application that he was 5'5" tall with blue eyes and fair hair. Peter married Mary Gorman in Providence in 1949. Mary and Peter and Mary had five daughters. The family moved to Baltimore, Maryland sometime after 1952. Mary died in 1972 at the relatively young age of 56. Peter remarried Dorothy Davies, (herself a widow) sometime later.

Dorothy died in 1980. Peter clearly didn't like living alone, because when he died on 6 August 1988, he was accompanied by his "beloved companion Inez diPaolo"! He is buried in Baltimore Maryland with his first wife. Here is his obituary from the Baltimore Evening Sun and the Baltimore Sun of 9th August 1988.

Peter McAloon Charities worker

A Mass of Christian burial for Peter McAloon, a retired employee of Associated Catholic Charities, will be offered at 10 a.m. today at St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church, 101 Church Lane in Texas.

Mr. McAloon, who was 73 and lived in the TABCO Towers Apartments in Towson, died Saturday after an apparent heart attack on a train to New York City.

He retired five years ago after working for Catholic Charities since coming to Baltimore more than 30 years ago.

A native of Roslea, Ireland, he came to this country as a young man, settling first in Providence, R.I.

Twice a widower, he was first married to the former Mary C. Gorman, then to the former Dorothy I. Davis.

He is survived by five daughters, Mary A. Bruce of Waldorf, Claudia M. Garner of Carney, Frances P. Stump of Hampstead, Catherine T. Jemski of Baltimore and Margaret M. Diller of Parkton; two sisters, Ellen McAloon of New York City and Mary Allwine of Gaithersburg; a brother, Thomas McAloon of Astoria, N.Y.; and 12 grandchildren.

McAloon

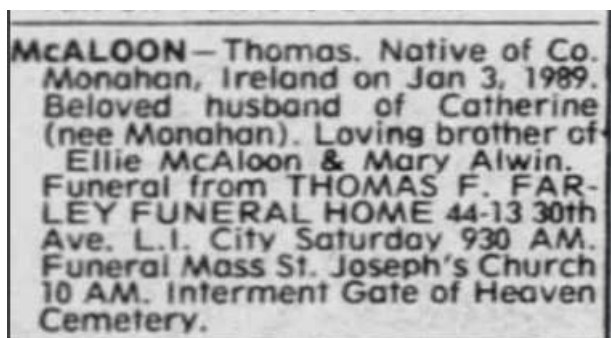
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On August 6, 1988, PETER, the beloved husband of the late Mary C. McAloon (nee Gorman) and the late Dorothy I. McAloon (nee Davis), beloved companion of Inez DiPaolo, devoted father of Claudia M. Garner, Mary A. Bruce, Frances P. Stump, Catherine T. Jemski and Margaret M. Diller, brother of Ellen McAloon, Mary Allwine and Thomas McAloon. Also survived by 12 grandchildren.

A Christian Wake Service will be held at the Ruck Towson Funeral Home, Inc., 1050 York road (beltway exit 26S) on Tuesday at 7 P.M. A Mass of Christian Burial will be Celebrated in St. Joseph Texas Church on Thursday at 10 A.M. Interment in Dulaney Valley Memorial Gardens. Friends may call on Tuesday and Wednesday from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 P.M. Contributions to The American Heart Association would be greatly appreciated by the family.

Thomas (1916 – 1989)

Thomas was a baby of 15 months when his mother died. We don't know a lot about Thomas. We don't know where he lived or what he worked at before he emigrated in 1950, at the age of 33. He departed from Cobh on 8 January 1950 on the "Franconia". His initial address in the US was with the rest of the family at Pond Street, in Providence. He appears to have settled in New York because he applied for naturalisation there in 1955. He married Catherine Monaghan from Tattymoyle, Co. Tyrone in New York in 1957. We don't know much more about Thomas until his death in 1989 in New York. Here is his obituary.



Daniel (1917 - ?)

Daniel was the youngest child. He remained in Ireland and married Mary Deery and they had three children Joseph, Daniel and James. Daniel took over the shop at the south side of the border, which is still in operation. Daniel Jr's son John Tom runs the shop today.



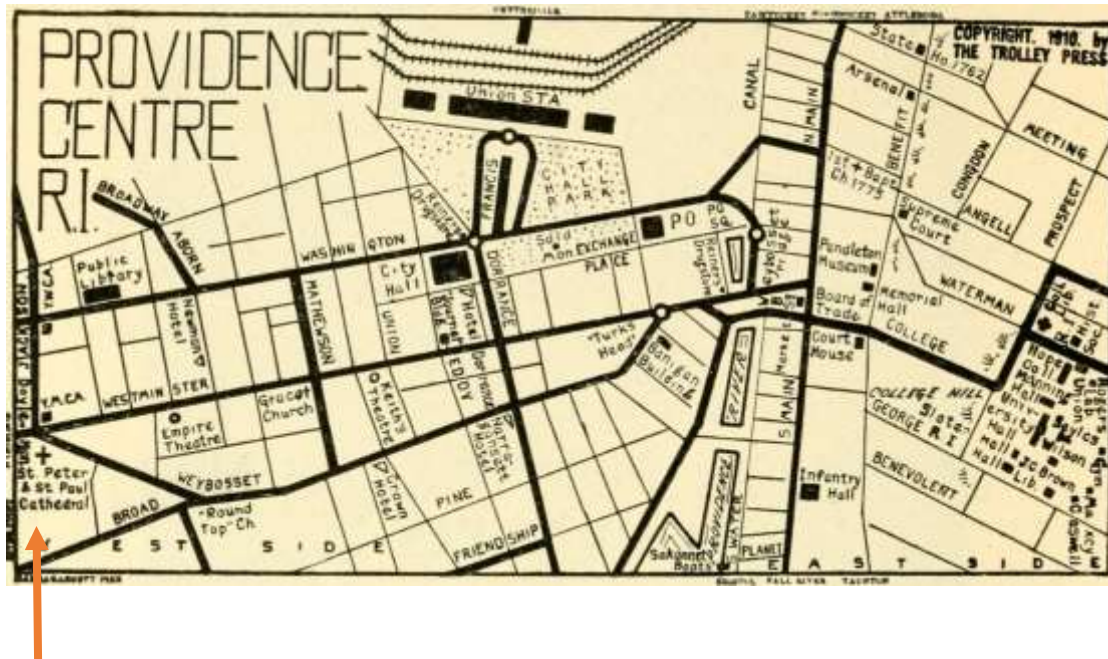
The Providence Connection

I think it is interesting to see through the records that the family stayed together and made a new home for themselves, mainly in Providence, Rhode Island. Further research is needed to identify all the connections that made them choose Providence, but it is clear that previous generations of the McAloons and Murphys were already settled there by 1900. From initial research we can verify that Joseph stayed at 34 Tanner St in 1935, an address shared with a niece of a Mrs Catherine Beggan nee Murphy from Fermanagh. We know that Catherine Murphy of Corragunt married Patrick Beggan

in 1884. More research is needed to confirm the exact links with the family, but it is highly probably they are cousins.

Here is some background on Providence from Wikipedia. *The Rhode Island city of Providence has a nearly 400-year history. Providence thrived in the late 1800s, with waves of immigrants bringing the population from 54,595 in 1865 to 175,597 by 1900. According to one journalist Mike Stanton, "Providence was one of the richest cities in America in the early 1900s." The decline of manufacturing devastated the city during the Great Depression, but the city eventually attained economic recovery through investment of public funds.*

The city began to see a decline by the mid-1920s as industries shut down, notably textiles. Providence's downtown was also flooded by the New England Hurricane of 1938. The city saw a further decline as a result of the nationwide trends with the construction of highways and increased suburbanization. From the 1950s to the 1980s, Providence was a notorious bastion of organized crime. The city's experienced a sort of Renaissance in the late 1970s and early 1980s, as \$606 million of local and national Community Development funds was invested throughout the city and the declining population began to stabilize. Here is a map in 1900



Pond Street (about here, of which only a stub now remains) was a neighborhood in the West End, very close to the cathedral and had its heyday in the 19th Century, as a home for immigrant labor. "Urban renewal" programs, dramatically reshaped and displaced the largely immigrant, undercapitalized neighborhood during the 20th century. Currently the Pond Street area is still home to a workforce of immigrants -- but a very insecure home, given the potential future development of the city.