

FROM FRIENDS OF ST. BRIDGET'S FOUNDATION - NOLAN SETTLEMENT  
 Family Profile - Donohoe & Peters Page 7 IA

Written by Mary Donahue O'Connor

Patrick and Michael Donohoe, brothers who married sisters Catherine and Ellen Peters, farmed and raised families in Graham Twp., Johnson Co Iowa. Patrick and Michael were born in the years 1825 and 1833 in the area of Castletown Geoghegan, Co West Meath, Ireland to parents James Donohoe and Mary Cunningham. The name has had all sorts of spellings from the most original O'Donnchadha to Donougher, Donohier, Donahon, O'Donoghue, Donohoe, Donohue to Donahue; it is all the same family. Three other children, Joseph, John and Mary Donohoe were also found on the Baptist lists in nearby Co Offaly where church records were kept. Mary Donohoe may have died as an infant. Their mother, Mary Cunningham, came to America and died about 1853 in the area of Monmouth, Warren Co IL.

CC:  
 PAT  
 GEN  
 JACK  
 TOM  
 BOB  
 JOHN  
 KATH  
 CATH  
 (MAI  
 DON  
 DAVID  
 JOEY  
 JERRY  
 JIM  
 GEORGE



Patrick Donohoe

Quote from his granddaughter, Mary A. Donohoe Devine, "Patrick Donohoe came (to America) by way of the West Indies to New Orleans when 20 years of age. (1840s) Worked with the slaves weeding sugar cane, also was a slave whipper." Another account of Patrick's voyage states that Patrick was a stowaway on the ship leaving Ireland bound for New Orleans by way of the West Indies. After Patrick was caught, he was required to pay for his voyage by whipping slaves. Another source states that he was a slave driver from New Orleans to St Louis where slaves were sold. Patrick may have not worked with slaves for long because he was in the North by early 1850s. He came up the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers into Kentucky where he hoed and plowed tobacco for his living. He went into Illinois and worked for the Mormons on the prairie. He met the rest of his brothers in Burlington, Iowa.



Michael & Ellen (Peters) Donohoe

Michael Donohoe arrived in New Orleans from Ireland about 1853; went to Ohio and Illinois, lived in Clear Creek Twp., Iowa City and finally in 1859 settled in Graham Twp. Johnson Co according to his biography in *History of Johnson County Iowa, 1883*. Michael Donohoe died in March 1918 and Ellen Peters died in November 1914. Both are buried at St. Joseph Cemetery, Iowa City.

Brothers Joe and John Donohoe later settled in St. Joseph, MO and in time lost almost all contact with the family. In the early days however Joseph Donahue is listed as a godfather in 1859 to Johanna Dwyer in St. Joseph, MO. She was daughter of Michael Dwyer and Mary Peters, sister of Catherine and Ellen Peters Donohoe of Johnson Co Iowa.



Joseph Donohoe

This Donohoe family is not to be confused with Patrick Peter Donohoe of Co Tipperary who married Mary-Ellen Kessler. However, descendants of this Donohoe family live on the same land in Graham Twp. formerly owned by the Donohoe's of Co West Meath.



Catherine Peters

Catherine and Ellen Peters were sisters from Strogue Twp., Castleiney, Co Tipperary born in 1828 and 1835. Their parents were John Peters and Judith/Johanna Maher. They and other Peters family members came to America through New York on the Ship *Fidelia* in July 1853. Other siblings, John, James, Daniel and Mary Peters Dwyer, and the mother, Judith/Johanna Maher Peters also settled in Johnson County. (Researchers are trying to learn if there is a family connection between Judith/Johanna Maher Peters and old Michael Maher of Johnson County, born 1801 in Co Tipperary.) In 1854 John Peters married Catherine Butler in Springfield, Clark Co, Ohio. There are signs of another branch of these Peters in Clark Co, Ohio.

FROM FRANK LYONS

ALTHOUGH I KNEW MOST OF THIS, MANY DETAILS WERE NEW TO ME - ESPECIALLY ALL OF THE SPELLINGS OF "DONOHOE" STARTING WITH "O'DONNCHADHA" (IRISH/GAELIC SPELLING?), I ALSO DID NOT KNOW NAMES OF MY GREAT, GREAT GRANDPARENTS DONOHOE/CUNNINGHAM.

Patrick Donohoe in 1855 married Catherine Peters in Iowa City. Michael Donohoe in 1856 married Ellen Peters in Iowa City. Their children were double cousins. Both families' oldest child was named James Donohoe. Both these boys would leave Iowa about 1909 for less green pastures in Clay and Yankton Counties in southeast South Dakota. One was known as Little Jim and the other as Big Jim.

Catherine Peters Donohoe died in March 1889 and is buried at St. Bridget's in the Nolan Settlement. Patrick Donohoe remarried in 1891 to a widow, Catherine Gleason Grimes. According to land and abstract records of Johnson Co it seems that Patrick Donohoe shifted or sold about 400 acres of his land in Graham Twp. to three of his four children in February 1891, six weeks before the marriage. Catherine, the new wife, states in a deed that these transactions were made without her knowledge and consent. She took all three Donohoe children to court for fraud. By 1893 the courts dismissed the plaintiff's petition stating that these were all legal transactions. The 1900 and 1905 census shows Patrick Donohoe and Catherine, his second wife in the same household in Iowa City with her daughter, Lizzie, from her first marriage. They must have patched up their little land quarrel. Patrick Donohoe died in September 1906 and is buried at St. Bridget's in the Nolan Settlement.

#### Children of Patrick Donohoe and Catherine Peters

1. James J. Donohoe, 1858 - 1936 m. Margaret Welsh (Little Jim)
2. Mary Donohoe, 1860 - may have died in infancy
3. John G. Donohoe, 1862 - 1950 m. Alice R. Burns
4. Johanna Donohoe, 1865 - 1934 m. John Burns
5. Daniel Donohoe, 1867-1949 m. Julia Fitzpatrick



Little Jim Donohoe and wife Margaret Welsh

#### Children of Michael Donohoe and Ellen Peters

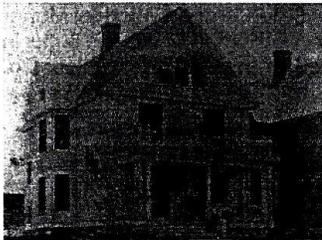
1. James A. Donohoe, 1857 - 1946 m. Mary Beecher (Big Jim)
2. Mary Ann Donohoe, 1859- 1935 m. John Beecher
3. Johanna Donohoe, 1861 - 1938 m. Mike Beecher
4. Bridget Donohoe, 1863 - 1931 m. Thomas Cusack
5. Catherine Donohoe, 1865 - 1921
6. Ellen Donohoe, 1868 - 1888 (Sister M. Emma)
7. Michael Donohoe, 1870 - 1871
8. Margaret Donohoe, 1872 - 1911 m. John Lynch
9. Rosetta Donohoe, 1874 - 1934 (Sister Basilian)
10. John Donohoe, 1876 - 1951 m. Mary Welsh
11. Alice Donohoe, 1881 - 1973 m. John Ryan



Big Jim Donohoe and wife Mary Beecher

These two families became even more related. There was a triple marriage between Donohoe and Beecher families. The three Beechers were children of John Beecher and Johanna Welsh. The parents of Margaret Welsh Donohoe were Michael Welsh and Ann Holloran/Halloran. (Some Welsh families in Johnson County knew her as Ann Holland.) Johanna Welsh and Michael Welsh were siblings.

Michael Donohoe's home in Section One Graham Twp. is still there and is occupied by Bill and Sharon Zimmerman Braddock. Bill is a descendant of Patrick Peter Donohoe of Co Tipperary.



Legend says the Donohoe Brothers of Co West Meath in retirement built homes side-by-side in Iowa City; they were torn down years later to make room for the post office in Iowa City.

Michael & Ellen (Peters) Donohoe home in Iowa

NOTE TO BOB  
LYONS - CAN YOU  
PUT THIS IN THE  
WILLIAMMARYLYONS.COM

**In Sympathy**

God called **26** members of our St. Bridget's family home since our last Memorial Day Newsletter.

Buried at St. Bridget's Cemetery:

Vincent Leonard, son of John & Loretta (Maher) Leonard

d. 12/8/15 79

Mildred Suchomel, daughter of Frank & Ema (Ciha) Suchomel

d. 4/17/16 97

Buried elsewhere:

Gary Kloubec, husband of Dolores (Martin) Kloubec d. 5/19/15 69

Mary (Crock) Maher, widow of Clarence Maher d. 5/23/15 97

Carol Seydel, daughter of Leo & Mary (Donovan) Chopek

d. 6/4/15 86

Mark Worrell, son of Alfred & Darlene (Woode) Worrell

d. 6/15/15 52

Lawrence Edward Dvosky, son of Edward & Blanche (Shepard) Dvorsky

d. 6/22/15 78

Robert Miller, son of John & Marie (Fuhrmeister) Miller

d. 7/5/15 92

Marvine Donohoe, daughter of James & Laura Griffen Donohoe

d. 7/5/15 79

Victor W. Renville, husband of Carol Brack

d. 8/18/15 81

Peggy Knight, sister of Ann Kunkel

d. 10/4/15 49

Janice (Krall, Isabel) Hazelett, widow of Richard Krall

d. 10/22/15 74

Margaret Crane Lyons, sister of Bob Crane, daughter-in-law of William & Mary (Donohoe) Lyons

d. 11/2/15 78

Janice Miller Kohler-Wise, sister of Joe Miller

d. 11/2/15 67

Daniel J. Tayler, son of Jack & Veronica (Russell) Taylor, grandson of Dr. Ed &

Johanna (Wall) Russell

d. 11/24/15 61

Scott Jones, husband of Jane Kasper

d. 12/3/15 53

Robert "Bob" Sueppel, brother of William Sueppel

d. 12/24/15 81

Melissa Nerad, sister-in-law of Kevin & Nan Nerad

d. 1/2/16 52

Robert Schulte, husband of Marlene (O'Brien) Schulte

d. 1/12/16 84

Maxine Mary Basten Zimmerman, mother to Aaron & (Loretta) Basten

d. 2/8/16 97

Mary Mulherin, daughter of Jerry & Mary (Colgan) Mulherin, granddaughter of Ellen (Wall) Mulherin

d. 3/6/16 96

Robert G. "King" Moore, widower of Genevieve Denny

d. 3/7/16 84

Laura Jean (O'Neil) Buck, daughter of Leo & Rose Marie (Delaney) O'Neil

d. 3/9/16 55

Mrs. Eileen Fitzgerald Donohue, mother to Mary (Wayne) O'Connor

d. 3/14/16 92

Ryan Meade Sleichter, son of Camela Meade & Charles Sleichter III, grandson of Eugene "Chick" & Pat Meade

d. 4/7/16 36

Ruth Donovan, daughter of Edward & Elizabeth (Foraker) Donovan

d. 4/8/16 92

*What we once enjoyed and deeply loved  
we can never lose  
For all that we love deeply  
becomes a part of us*