

**ECHOES FROM OUT THE
PAST, OR, HISTORICAL
NOTES RELATING TO IRISH
PIONEERS IN AMERICA**

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Echoes from Out the Past, Or, Historical Notes Relating to Irish Pioneers in America by
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HISTORICAL NOTES RELATING TO
IRISH PIONEERS IN AMERICA.

BY

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ECHOES FROM OUT THE PAST.

BY THOMAS HAMILTON MURRAY.

James Bourk, "captain of the brig *Neptune*," is mentioned at Newport, R. I., 1773.

William Welch, "from Ireland," settled in Charlestown, R. I. He was born in 1700 and died in 1786.

Richard Field, "a native of Dublin, Ireland," was long a resident of Newport, R. I., and died in 1769.

Thomas McCartee of Hartford, Conn., is mentioned in the "Lexington Alarm" list of that place, 1775.

An Irishman, John Fitton, settled in Providence, R. I., about 1750. He was a merchant. He died in 1810.

Daniel Byrn was lieutenant in a regiment (1759) raised by act of the General Assembly of Rhode Island.

The records of Nantucket, Mass., contain the following entry: "Betty y^e dau. of Denis Manning was born July y^e 10, 1679."

James Dailey is mentioned in the Revolutionary records as of the corps of Sappers and Miners; was at the siege of Yorktown.

The Chevalier Theobald Dillon was "colonel en second" of the Irish-French regiment of Dillon during the American Révolution.

Stephen Brady was of Col. Obadiah Johnson's Connecticut regiment, 1778. The regiment participated in the battle of Rhode Island.

Constant Maguire "of County Fermanagh," Ireland, settled in Rhode Island prior to 1750, and became prominent in Warwick and East Greenwich.

In 1751-'52, Terence Donnelly was engaged by the town of Newport, R. I., as a schoolmaster. He later conducted a school of his own in that place.

The ship *Sally* arrived at Boston, Mass., in 1763, having been fifty-nine days on the voyage from Ireland. She was quarantined at Boston for smallpox.

A privateer captain in the Revolution was William Malone. He is believed to have been of Newport, R. I. He commanded at one period *The Harbinger*.

John Conley of Stratford, Conn., served in the second troop of Sheldon's Continental Light Dragoons during the Revolution and is mentioned as a trumpeter.

John Flynn of Woodstock, Conn., is mentioned in the Woodstock "Alarm List," 1775. He is also mentioned as a trumpeter in Major Backus' Light Horse, 1776.

Owen Neill of New London, Conn., sustained losses aggregating £91, 14s 6d by the ravages of the British at the time of the latter's attack on New London, 1781.

Bridget Clifford came from Ireland, 1635, in the *Primrose* bound for Virginia. She was accompanied by two of her brothers. She died at Suffield, Conn., in 1695.

Peter Welsh was adjutant during the Revolution of Col. Frederick Weissenfels' New York regiment of levies. He is also mentioned as quartermaster of the regiment.

Thomas Fitzgerald was a midshipman during the Revolution on the Continental frigate *Trumbull*. The latter was built in Connecticut under the authority of Congress.

Patrick Canny, a soldier of the Revolution, was serving at Horse-neck, Conn., in 1782-83. He is mentioned in Stiles' *History and Genealogies of Ancient Windsor, Conn.*

Philip Mullen was fire master of Albany, N. Y., in 1755, and Philip Ryley was in charge of the town clock. (Hon. Franklin M. Danaher in *Early Irish in Old Albany, N. Y.*)

John McGinnis was a New York soldier of the Revolution. He served at one period in Bradt's Rangers. Also in this corps were Edward Early, Richard Kain and Barney Kelley.

Luke Burns, a cordwainer, resided in Providence, R. I., and died in 1788. Jonathan Green, "living near the Mill-Bridge in Providence," was appointed administrator of the estate.

Bryant O'Dougherty was in Salem, Mass., in 1683. At that period there were many Irish in Salem. (Eben Putnam in "Historical and Genealogical Notes and Queries," *Salem Observer*.)

James Kasson, with his father and six brothers, came from Ireland in 1722 and landed at Boston, Mass. He later settled in Voluntown, Conn., removing to Woodbury, Conn., in 1742.

Armand O'Connor was one of the "capitaines en second" of the Irish-French regiment of Walsh during the American Revolution. He is referred to as the Chevalier Armand O'Connor.

Henry Paget, "an Irish gentleman much respected," was admitted a freeman of Rhode Island, 1742. He wedded a daughter of Rev. John Checkley, rector of a church in Providence, R. I.

Thomas Ryan is mentioned in the Connecticut Revolutionary records as a drummer in Captain Brewster's company, Colonel Huntington's regiment (Seventeenth Continental), 1776.

A Rhode Island merchantman, the *Abby*, Capt. John Donovan, was attacked in August, 1752, by a French warship. Captain Donovan met the attack in a spirited manner but was killed.

Maj. Matthew Donovan of the Ninth Virginia regiment during the Revolution died in the service, 1777. The state of Virginia allowed his heirs 6,893 acres. (See mention in Saffell.)

Abbe Dowd, "Irlandais," was a chaplain of the French warship *Le Jason* in the American Revolution. *Le Jason* was of the fleet of Count De Ternay, which was assisting the American cause.

In the Massachusetts force that rendezvoused on "Dedham Plain," for the Narragansett campaign, 1675, was a soldier named Jeremiah Neal. He is mentioned as a sergeant of the sixth company.

Lieut. Hugh McManus and Lieut. John Riley served in the Sixth Regiment, Albany County, N. Y., Militia, during the Revolution. The regiment was commanded by Col. Stephen John Schuyler.

The Connecticut Revolutionary records mention Michael McGee, a soldier who served in Colonel Burrall's regiment of that state. McGee was taken prisoner in "the affair at the Cedars," 1776.

Over fifteen members of Capt. John Giles' company, 1723-'24, were natives of Ireland. The company was engaged operating against the Indians in Maine, and is mentioned in the Massachusetts records.

Tench Francis, son of an Irishman, was born in Maryland, 1732; became attorney-general of the province of Pennsylvania; was captain of the Quaker Blues; subscribed £5,500 in aid of the Patriot army.

David Dowd, soldier of the Revolution, served in a Connecticut light infantry company, under Lafayette, February–November, 1781. The company was commanded by Capt. Samuel Barker of Branford, Conn.

A settler at Sudbury, Mass., Richard Burke, came from Ireland prior to 1650. He married in 1670 and left many descendants. He was one of the earliest Burkes to settle in America of whom we have record.

An early resident of Newport, R. I., was Owen Higgins. His wife was born in 1640. In 1701, his son Richard is recorded as a free man of Newport. (See Austin's *Genealogical Dictionary of Rhode Island*.)

Five ships arrived in Boston Harbor, Aug. 4, 1718, with Irish immigrants aboard. Many of these subsequently settled in New Hampshire. These facts are referred to in Cullen's *Story of the Irish in Boston*.

Daniel Sullivan, born in Ireland, 1717, died in Providence, R. I., 1814. In an obituary notice it is stated that "He had long resided in this town where his integrity and piety secured him confidence and esteem."

Charles McAfferty, "an Irishman," was a soldier of the Revolution and served in Col. Jeremiah Olney's Rhode Island Continentals. He was one of the first to enter the enemy's redoubts at the capture of Yorktown.

Patrick McSherry was an officer in the Irish-French regiment of Dillon during the American Revolution. He is mentioned in that recent work, *Les Combattants Francais De La Guerre Americaine* (Paris, 1903).

James Buchanan, a native of County Donegal, Ireland, came to this country in the brig *Providence*, 1783. He was then in his twenty-second year. His son, James, became president of the United States.

Two members of the Commander-in-Chief's Guard (Washington's), in the Revolution, were James and Robert Blair, both natives of

Ireland. Godfrey's history of the guard furnishes a biographical sketch of each.

"In the discharge of his duty he has at all times proved himself an alert, brave and intelligent officer." The foregoing tribute was paid by Gen. Henry Knox to Lieut. Florence Crowley, a soldier of the Revolution.

Jacques O'Driscoll was one of the "capitaines en second" in the Irish-French regiment of Walsh during the American Revolution. Others of the same rank in the command were Edouard Stack and Charles O'Croly.

Hon. James Sullivan was governor of Massachusetts in 1807 and 1808. He succeeded Hon. Caleb Strong and preceded Hon. Christopher Gore. Governor Sullivan was a brother of Gen. John Sullivan of the Revolution.

Ten ships, bringing nearly one thousand passengers, arrived at Boston, Mass., from Ireland, during the two years, 1736 and 1738. It was at this period, 1737, that the Charitable Irish Society of Boston was organized.

Thomas Quirk, "a brave and fine-looking Irishman," served under Gen. George Rogers Clark in the latter's western campaign. He had been a sergeant and is later mentioned as a major. He was allotted 4,312 acres.

Robert Beers, an Irishman, was slain "y^e 28 March 1676," by the Indians. The tragedy occurred at "the ring of the town," within the limits of what is now East Providence, R. I. Beers was a brick-maker by occupation.

A distinguished officer of the Revolution, Edward Hand, was born in Kings County, Ireland. He came to America in 1767; espoused the Patriot cause, and was successively lieutenant-colonel, colonel, and brigadier-general.

The first funds of Rhode Island College, now Brown University, were obtained in Ireland. The original subscription book is still carefully preserved. (Guild's work on *The First Commencement of Rhode Island College*.)

In 1774 the Second Company, Governor's Foot Guard, of New Haven, Conn., engaged Edward Burke as instructor "in the military exercise." The company is one of the oldest existing military organizations in America.

Gov. Thomas Dongan of New York, an Irish Catholic, visited Milford, Conn., in 1685, to confer with Governor Treat regarding the boundary between the two colonies. Governor Treat terms Dongan "A noble gentleman."

Stephen Decatur, a Genoese Catholic, arrived in Newport, R. I., about 1740-'46; married a woman of Irish lineage; became captain of a privateer. His son, also named Stephen, attained high rank in the United States navy.

Thomas Casey was born in Ireland about 1636. He became a resident of Newport, R. I. In 1692 he and his son Thomas witnessed a deed given by James Sweet of East Greenwich, R. I., to Thomas Weaver of Newport.

Jean Baptiste O'Meara was one of the "lieutenants en second" of the Irish-French regiment of Walsh in the American Revolution. Holding like rank in the regiment were Jacques O'Sheil, George Meighan and Eugene MacCarthy.

On the roster of the British garrison at Albany, N. Y., when the place was reconquered from the Dutch and held for a short time in 1673, appear the names Capt. John Manning, Patrick Dowdell, John Fitzgerald and Thomas Quinn.

Matthew O'Bryan was a Massachusetts soldier of the Revolution. He served in Col. John Crane's regiment of artillery. In one return he is credited with service for 21 months and 25 days as bombardier and 12 months as matross.

Jane Brown was born in Providence, R. I., 1734. Her father, Rev. Arthur Brown, was a native of Drogheda, Ireland. She married Samuel Livermore, who became attorney-general of New Hampshire and United States senator.

Thomas Amory emigrated from Limerick, Ireland, to South Carolina. He removed from the latter place to Boston, Mass., in 1721. The late Thomas C. Amory of Boston, author of the *Transfer of Erin*, was one of his descendants.

Mrs. Grant in her *Memoirs of an American Lady* mentions "A handsome, good-natured looking Irishman in a ragged provincial uniform," named Patrick Coonie, with his wife and children, who settled near Albany, N. Y., in 1768.

Matthew Mease, who was born in Strabane, Ireland, became purser of the *Bonhomme Richard* and served under John Paul Jones