



# Diaspora Stories

Ancestor's Name: ...Dennis Donovan.....

Place of birth (if known): ..Leap or Skibbereen.....

Your Name:..Doran Warren Francis Donovan.....

Contact (optional):...meetdwd@gmail.com.....

Dennis Donovan, born about 1793 in Leap or Skibbereen married Cathering Crowley, born about 1793. They had many children, including Timothy Donovan, born in 1831, who in 1850 came to Abington Massachusetts, in the United States. (Part of Abington became Rockland.) He worked in making men's shoes and his son, Alfred Warren Donovan, born in 1868, worked in the shoe business with his father. This collaboration became E. T. Wright & Company, makers of Wright Arch Preserver Shoes for men. Alfred Warren was it first president. His son Alfred Francis, born in 1897 worked in the business and became president, as did his son Alfred Lyons Donovan, born in 1935. The company was sold in the 1990s. Henry Lyons Donovan worked as an investment manager. Doran Warren Francis Donovan worked as advertising/marketing executive for small to medium-sized financial institutions. Catherine-Mary Donovan worked in publishing.

## Diaspora Story for Dennis Donovan.

The earliest information we have on our line of the Donovan Family, starts about 1793, when Dennis Donovan was born probably in Leap, which is near Skibbereen. We do not know the names of his parents, except it is possible that Bartholomew Donovan may be Dennis' father. This is based on research done by Margaret Murphy, Staff Historian at the Skibbereen Heritage Society. There are records for the townland of Carhoogariff, Leap that show a Bartholomew Donovan. Dennis married Catherine Crowley in 1807. They had eight children. Records before 1832 are generally not available. We do have a certified copy of their eighth child, Bartholomew Donovan, who was born in Leap (?) in 1832, in the parish of Kilmacabea.

Dennis died in 1845 in Leap/Skibbereen and his wife Catherine died in 1873 in Abington, MA.

Their son, Timothy, was born in Leap? In 1833.

See information about him after the "Tree" below.

## Outline Descendant Report for Dennis Donovan

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- ..... 1 Dennis Donovan
- ..... +Catherine Crowley
- ..... 2 Timothy Donovan (1833 - 1905) b: 27 Dec 1833 in Skibbereen, County Cork, Ireland, d: 01 Dec 1905 in Rockland, Plymouth, Massachusetts
- ..... +Margaret A McGorisk (1832 - 1914) b: 01 Apr 1832 in Carickmacross, County Monaghan, Ireland, d: 27 Apr 1914 in Rockland, Plymouth, Massachusetts, m: 05 Jul 1854 in Charlestown, Suffolk, Massachusetts
- ..... 3 Alfred Warren Donovan (1868 - 1944) b: 02 Sep 1868 in Abington, Plymouth, Massachusetts, USA, d: 29 Mar 1944 in Rockland, Plymouth, MA, USA
- ..... +Mary Frances Sullivan (1874 - 1941) b: 25 Jul 1874 in Dedham, Norfolk, Massachusetts, USA, d: 1941 in Quincy, Norfolk, Massachusetts, USA, m: 26 Dec 1891 in Dedham, Norfolk, Massachusetts
- ..... 4 Ruth Warren Donovan (1892 - 1991) b: 24 Sep 1892 in Rockland, Plymouth, MA, USA, d: 08 Mar 1991 in Lowell, Middlesex, MA, USA
- ..... +Doran Stephen Lyons (1895 - 1969) b: 02 Oct 1895 in North Adams, Berkshire, MA, USA, d: Jul 1969 in Lowell, Middlesex, MA; Bur:Tewksbury; St Mary's cem
- ..... 5 Henry Warren Lyons (1924 - 2006) b: 27 Jan 1924 in Lowell, Middlesex, MA, USA, d: 27 Aug 2006 in Chelmsford, Middlesex, Massachusetts; Pine Ridge cem.
- ..... +Winifred R"Winnie" Runtton (1928 - 1996) b: 03 Dec 1928 in USA, d: 29 Nov 1996 in Chelmsford, Middlesex, MA, USA
- ..... 6 David A Lyons (1949 - 1999) b: 07 May 1949 in , MA, d: 09 Sep 1999 in Worcester, Massachusetts
- ..... 6 Robert Lyons b: , MA
- ..... 5 Alfred Thomas"Tommy" Lyons (1927 - 2014) b: 28 Feb 1927 in Lowell, Middlesex, MA, USA, d: 18 Nov 2014 in , , USA; possible
- ..... +Julia Shea (1928 - ) b: Abt. 1928
- ..... 6 Richard W Lyons (1947 - 1977) b: 14 Feb 1947 in MA, d: 26 Jun 1977 in Plumas, California
- ..... 6 Doran Stephen Lyons (1948 - ) b: Abt. 1948 in , MA
- ..... 6 Alfred Lyons (1950 - ) b: Abt. 1950 in , MA
- ..... 6 Peter Michael Lyons b: , MA
- ..... 6 David Lyons
- ..... 6 Ann Lyons b: , MA
- ..... 4 Alfred Francis Donovan (1897 - 1954) b: 27 Apr 1897 in Rockland, Plymouth, Massachusetts, USA, d: 25 Oct 1954 in Beverly, Essex, Massachusetts, USA
- ..... +Ellen A Lyons (1899 - 1992) b: 10 Jun 1899 in North Adams, Berkshire, MA, USA, d: 20 Sep 1992 in Boston, Suffolk, MA, USA
- ..... 5 Catherine Mary Donovan (1933 - ) b: 27 Aug 1933 in , MA
- ..... 5 Alfred Lyons Donovan (1935 - 2010) b: 06 Jun 1935 in MA, d: 11 Aug 2010 in Chestnut Hill, Middlesex, MA, USA
- ..... +Anne Fuller (1937 - 2000) b: 29 May 1937 in MA, d: 21 Sep 2000 in MA
- ..... 6 Alfred L Donovan JR (1967 - ) b: 26 Aug 1967 in MA
- ..... 6 Diana Reynolds Donovan (1968 - ) b: 24 Sep 1968 in MA
- ..... +Andrew J Walbert (1967 - ) b: 27 Oct 1967, m: Sep 2000
- ..... 7 Charlotte Brooke Walbert (2004 - ) b: 24 Jul 2004
- ..... 6 Blair Fuller Donovan (1969 - ) b: 16 Oct 1969 in , MA
- ..... +Peter E Alexander (1965 - ) b: Abt. 1965, m: 15 Aug 2000
- ..... 7 Shelby Donovan Alexander (2001 - ) b: 01 Jun 2001
- ..... 7 Peter Digby Alexander (2004 - ) b: 08 Apr 2004
- ..... 7 Charlotte B Alexander
- ..... +Walbert
- ..... +Melinda B Tucker (1936 - ) b: Abt. 1936
- ..... 5 Henry Lyons Donovan (1939 - ) b: 15 Feb 1939 in Boston, Suffolk, MA, USA
- ..... +Lucy E Davis (1932 - ) b: Abt. 1932, m: 31 Oct 1959
- ..... 6 Alfred Francis Donovan (1960 - ) b: 30 Apr 1960 in Portland, , ME
- ..... 6 Lincoln Davis Donovan (1962 - ) b: 27 Apr 1962 in , MA
- ..... 6 Henry Lyons Donovan JR (1966 - 1966) b: 1966 in North Andover, Essex, Massachusetts, USA, d: 06 Sep 1966 in Rockland, Plymouth, MA, USA; Bur: Holy Family cem
- ..... 5 Doran Warren Francis Donovan (1941 - ) b: 30 Nov 1941 in Boston, Suffolk, MA,

USA

..... +Susan Gardner (1944 - ) b: 10 Feb 1944  
..... 6 Doran Lyons Donovan (1969 - ) b: 04 Jul 1969 in , , FL  
..... +Karen Elise Shelton (1968 - ) b: 09 Nov 1968  
..... 7 Trevor Doran Donovan (1999 - ) b: 02 Dec 1999  
..... 7 Elise Lyons Donovan (2002 - ) b: 19 Feb 2002  
..... 6 Nina Harris Donovan (1971 - ) b: 16 Dec 1971 in FL  
..... +Matthew J McKinnen m: 12 May 2001  
..... 7 John Webster McKinnen (2004 - ) b: 10 Aug 2004  
..... 7 Elizabeth Davis McKinnen (2006 - ) b: 14 Oct 2006

Note: Nina Harris McKinnon was born in Beverly, MA

The attached biographical sketch on Mr. Alfred W. Donovan was taken from "Representative Men and Old Families of Southeastern Massachusetts"

Volume III

Published by J. H. Beers & Co. of Chicago, Illinois

1912

(This sketch begins on Page 1167 of the book)

ALFRED W. DONOVAN, one of the best known among the younger shoe manufacturers of New England, president and general manager of E. T. Wright & Co., incorporated, shoe manufacturers, of Rockland, and a most progressive citizen of that town, is a native of Rockland, Mass., born Sept. 2, 1855.

Timothy Donovan, father of Alfred W., was a native of Ireland, born Dec. 27, 1831, in County Cork, where he passed his childhood. He was still in his teens when he left his home to take up a seafaring life. After a few years before the mast he decided to try the New World, and coming to America in 1850 landed in New York. Having two brothers, Daniel and Michael Donovan, in Abington, Mass., he came on a visit to them and made up his mind to remain. He took up the shoe business as a life vocation, learning the trade of shoemaking, at which he found employment first with James Bigelow. Later he was with Ira Blanchard, William G. Perry, Joseph Dill and others, engaged in the manufacturing of shoes. He spent a short time in Stoneham, where he also worked at his trade, returning again to East Abington (now Rockland), where he ever after made his home. In 1869, after working as a journeyman for some time, he started into business for himself. Taking the shoes after the vamps were fitted he finished them ready for the treas, employing quite a number of hands and turning out what would now be called forty-eight cases per day. He carried on this business for twelve years, when he retired from active work, passing the remainder of his life in retirement in Rockland, surrounded by his children and grandchildren. There he died Nov. 30, 1905, and was buried in the Catholic cemetery at Abington. Mr. Donovan was a man who won the respect of all who knew him for his integrity and honorable character, and was a good citizen in every sense of the word. He left a name honored and respected by all classes. He was a staunch Catholic, and in politics a Democrat of the old school.

On July 5, 1854, in Charlestown, Mass., Mr. Donovan married Margaret McGorisk, who was a native of County Monaghan, Ireland, born in June, 1835, and came to America in 1851. Mr. and Mrs. Donovan celebrated their golden wedding on July 5, 1904, at their home in Rockland, surrounded by their children and grandchildren. They lived together over fifty-one years and were blessed with a family of sixteen children, eight of whom are still living, viz.: Frances, who married Loring Wright, of Rockland; Louise, who married Frank Ransom, and resides in Brockton; Alice, who married Irving N. Mann, of Hanover, Mass.; Alfred W., mentioned below; Ernest, who makes his home in East Weymouth, Mass.; Joseph, who resides in New York; Paul, a teacher in the old Elliott school, Boston, who makes his home, however, in Rockland; and May, who married Hugh Walls, Jr.,

and resides in Rockland. Mrs. Donovan, the mother, is still living and resides in Rockland. In religion she is a fervent Catholic.

Alfred W. Donovan spent his boyhood days in Rockland, where he attended the public school, and there he has always made his home. He worked from early boyhood in the shoemaking business with his father, and later became superintendent of the E. T. Wright Company plant, in August 1896, becoming a member of the firm. The business was conducted under the name of E. T. Wright & Co., and Mr. Donovan was superintendent of the factory until, in 1906, it was incorporated under the laws of the State of Massachusetts as E. T. Wright & Co., Incorporated. Mr. Donovan was then elected president and general manager of the concern, and Elwin T. Wright was elected treasurer. Mr. Donovan has given to the shoe manufacturing business the best of that enterprize and enthusiasm for which he is noted. He is a thorough shoemaker, familiar with all the branches of the business, executive as well as manufacturing, and he is as much interested in his salesmen and other employees as he is in the mechanical equipment of his establishment or the standard of its products. This company manufactures the "Just Wright" shoes, which are known throughout the length and breadth of this country, and are also shipped to many foreign countries.

Aside from his business, though its demands are great, Mr. Donovan finds time to devote to his native town and his townspeople. He is a member of the Commercial Club of Rockland, and for the past seven years has served in the office of president of the club, during which time, under its auspices and encouragement, many improvements have been made in Rockland and a perceptible impulse has been given to business enterprise. He was one of the organizers of the Rockland Trust Company, of which he is a director, vice president and member of the executive committee; he is also a trustee of the Rockland Savings Bank, and a director of the Rockland Co-operative Bank. Mr. Donovan's interest in Rockland, its growth, its progress and its people has made him popular with all classes, for he believes in leaving nothing undone that would bring success and prosperity to the community, and he has the energy to put his principles into practice. He is a member of the Boston Chamber of Commerce, member of the State Board of Trade (of which he is vice president), president of the Boot and Shoe Club of Boston, director of the New England Shoe and Leather Association of Boston, and director of the National Association of Boot and Shoe Manufacturers, of Rochester, N.Y. He is a member of the Catholic Club, of New York, and a member of the Massachusetts Real Estate Exchange, of Boston. Fraternally he belongs to Rockland Council, Knights of Columbus. He takes a deep interest in the temperance cause, having for a quarter of a century been a member of St. Alphonsus Total Abstinence Society. In political faith he is a staunch Republican and he has been a firm believer in the principles



Alfred Warren Donovan died in 1944. His son, Alfred Francis Donovan, became as President of E.T Wright & Co., the maker of the Wright Arch Preserver Shoes, as did his son Alfred Lyons Donovan.

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of the party as interpreted by McKinley, Roosevelt and Tatt. A man of ideas and the faith to promulgate them, unlimited in resource and able to command attention, he is a forceful and polished speaker as well as a mighty worker - an acquisition to every cause with which he allies himself.

Mr. Donovan was married in Dedham, Mass., Dec. 26, 1891 to Mary F. Sullivan, native of Dedham, daughter of Cornelius and Hannah Sullivan. They have had two children: Ruth Warren, born in 1893, who is a graduate of the high school of Rockland; and Alfred Francis, born in 1897, who is still attending school. The family are members of the Holy Family Catholic Church. They occupy the beautiful house near the Rockland high school which Mr. Donovan built in 1909, and which, from an architectural standpoint, is one of the finest residences in town.

The family sold the business in the 1980s.

Henry Lyons Donovan worked in investment management. Doran Warren Francis Donovan worked in marketing and advertising for small to medium sized financial institutions. Catherine-Mary Donovan worked in publishing.