



# Diaspora Stories

Ancestor's Name: *Denis Hartigan Elizabeth Farr*  
*Catherine Hegarty and Daniel Keane/Kane/Cain*  
 Place of birth (if known): *Caheragh Parish, Co. Cork*  
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*Diaspora story is on p. 2*

I agree to submit this story for publication by Skibbereen Heritage Centre.

Signed: *Mary E. Taffola-Cresce*

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## DIASPORA OF THE HEGARTY, KEANE/KANE/CAIN, AND FARR FAMILIES OF CAHERAGH



Catherine Hegarty  
of Letter in Clooncugger,  
Caheragh Parish  
and Georgetown,  
Washington, D.C.

Daniel Keane/Kane/Cain  
of Gortnakilla in Coolboy,  
Caheragh Parish and  
Georgetown, Washington, D.C.



By Mary Elizabeth Toffolo-Cresce

I am writing this on behalf of the descendants of these families in the United States. For many years we have wondered about the origins of our families, a group of wonderful people. Our section of the family settled in Georgetown in Washington, D.C. The above photographs are the best that we have.

We owe a tremendous debt to the work of the heritage center in Skibbereen and to Margaret Murphy, in particular for their tireless work. We also thank Ancestry.com which has given us so much information. And, of course, we thank our grandparents who have passed on to us the stories of their grandparents and great-grandparents who, as it turns out, came from Caheragh and Skibbereen.

Our branch of the Hegarty family in Washington, D.C. is descended from Daniel Hegarty and Elizabeth Farr who lived in Letter in Clooncugger in the parish of Caheragh. My ancestor is their daughter, Catherine, a strong willed young lady who married Daniel Cain/Keane/Kane of Gortnakilla in Caheragh in the U.S. They never left their original houses in Georgetown in Washington, D.C. where they settled in 1858. They were married at Holy Trinity Church in Georgetown. Many of their descendants live all around the Washington, D.C. and Baltimore, Maryland, and Virginia areas.

Thanks to the Skibbereen Heritage Center, my husband and I have been able to walk again on the farm of the Hegarty's, and to read their story in the book, *Is Uasal Ceird*, which was written by Jeremiah Hegarty/Diarmuid O'hEighartaigh, grandson of Daniel Hegarty and Elizabeth Farr, in Irish. *Is Uasal Ceird* is translated as *A Noble Profession*. Fortunately, a member of the family has translated important parts of the book. Diarmuid's story is our story, and it is the story of Ireland. The book is a remarkable social, family, and personal history as Diarmuid was part of the revival of Irish culture and language. The Skibbereen Heritage Center now has a copy of this translation, given by our cousin, Margaret Ryan.

Diarmuid's son from Skibbereen, also Diarmuid, played an important part in the movement to found the Republic of Ireland and was a prominent leader of the new republic. Three members of the Hegarty family of 14 children fought in the Civil War in the United States. Michael and Joseph settled in New Orleans and fought for the South. Three sons and a daughter settled in the northeast. One of these sons fought for the North.

In Washington, D.C. settled Catherine and Henry who have produced some outstanding individuals, including Henry's son, Harry, one of Washington's most prominent attorneys. Catherine Hegarty and Daniel Kane/Keane/Cain died owning 11 houses in Washington. They kept in contact with the Hegarty family in Caheragh. When Diarmuid O'Hegarty, the Irish leader, visited Washington, D.C., the Hegarty family welcomed him.

The Cain/Kane/Keane's and the Farr's of our family, all from Caheragh, have prospered in the United States as well. They seem to have settled most along the northeast coast of the United States. Many of the Farr's settled in Pennsylvania where they went to build a canal.

One of the heartwarming results of this research is that it has brought together the many disparate branches of the family. We have spent many an hour tracking down many the interesting facets of this story. Wherever this family settled, they kept alive the memory of Ireland and its important place in their hearts and in the world. The culture of Ireland, the "Land of Saints and Scholars" is still very vibrant with much to contribute to the world.

These families were very religious, and placed great emphasis on faith, family, and education. We admire their strength of character and wisdom. We appreciate their heritage, and we plan to carry it on to our children and grandchildren. May God be praised.