

# Diaspora Stories

Ancestor's Name: JOHN J. CAROLAN - 6-23-1838  
Place of birth (if known): BALLYJAMES DUFF, CTY CAVAN  
Your Name: MRS THOMAS P. CAROLAN  
Contact (optional): PANALAN46@GMAIL.COM

John Carolan, together with brothers James and Terrence, came to America about 1850 from County Cavan. We believe another brother and sister stayed in Ireland. The family story is that John was paid to be a substitute for another man who was drafted in Union Army during U.S. Civil war. Believing this was a rich man's war and poor man's fight, he deserted and went to Iowa where he became a successful farmer as well as post master in Bluffton Township. We still have muzzle loading pistol he was required to carry. The gun was broken when he got it from Civil War veteran, but John always said the regulations did not require the weapon had to shoot. John died on April 7, 1926. His obituary in Research, Iowa newspaper reported he was a "beloved character."

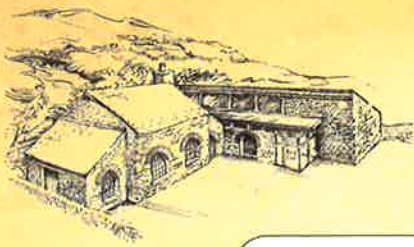
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I agree to submit this story for publication by Skibbereen Heritage Centre.

Signed: Pamela Carolan

Date: 9-7-18

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# Diaspora Stories

Ancestor's Name: JOHANNA CASEY (CAROLAN)  
Place of birth (if known): BALLYVOURNEY PARISH  
Your Name: MRS. THOMAS P. CAROLAN  
Contact (optional): pamalan46@gmail.com

The date of Johanna's birth in Ballyvourney Parish is questionable. Her grave in Bluffton, Iowa shows 1835, but birth records show a brother born that year only one month apart. She may actually have been born in 1831, but took 4 years off her age when she married John J. Carolan on 3/5/1865 in Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin. She died Nov. 15, 1904, 22 years before her husband. She bore six children, all of whom were living at her death.

Her obituary in Decorah, Iowa Journal reads: "She bore her illness bravely and uncomplainingly; a good pure soul returned to its maker."

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Signed: .....

Date: .....

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Your great grand - parents,  
both were born in Ireland.

JOHN JERMIAN

Decorah Journal  
Decorah, Iowa  
Wednesday, 14 April 1926  
Age: 88  
Cause:  
Page 1 Column 2

JOHN CAROLAN

John Carolan, a resident of Winneshiek County for 61 years, passed away at his home in this city last Wednesday, April 7, 1926, after an illness of 8 days of grip. The funeral was held Friday at the Catholic Church of this City. Rev. M. Hogan officiating. Burial was made in the cemetery of Saint Bridget's Church in Bluffton.

Among those in attendance at the funeral were Mr. and Mrs. Pete E. Kelly and son Emmett of Dubuque; Mr. and Mrs. T.J. Carolan and children of Bonair; and Mr. and Mrs. Will Magner of Waukon. The funeral was attended by a large concourse of people of Winneshiek County, who came to perform the last act of respect and esteem for the aged gentleman.

John Carolan, was the son of Phillip and Mary Carolan. He was born June 23, 1838, in County Cavon, Ireland. When a young man he came to America; and in 1865, came to Winneshiek County. On March 3, 1865, at Praire due Chien, he united in marriage with Johanna Casey, who died many years ago. To them were born six children, all living. They are Bridget (Mrs. John Drew of Decorah), Catherine (Katie Mrs. Will Magner of Waukon), Ellen (Nellie Mrs. P.E. Kelly, of Dubuque), Mary (Maymie) Carolan, of Decorah, Thomas J. Carolan, of Bonair, and Phillip J. Carolan, of Bluffton Township.

The death of John Carolan marks the passing of one of the very few remaining early settlers of Bluffton Township. Only two or three survive.

Mr. Carolan, began farming in Bluffton Township, in 1865, and made a success of that business by industry and intelligence. He lived in Bluffton Township, until four years ago, when he and his daughter, Mary moved to Decorah.

Mr. Carolan, was always a student of public affair, being uncommonly well posted in political matters. He was honest and upright, and he was held in the highest esteem

wherever he was known. He was kindly and generous, and had many friends. He lived to nearly 88 years of age, but till his last illness he was in very good health. His death has removed a family figure and a beloved character and many mourn his passing.

Decorah Journal  
Decorah, Iowa  
Tuesday, 22 November 1904  
Age: 68  
Cause:  
Page 4 Column 4

JOHANNA CASEY

DEATH OF MRS. JOHN CAROLAN

Last Tuesday night at 8 o'clock occurred the death of Mrs. John Carolan of Bluffton, and in the death of this good woman Winneshiek County loses one of her pioneers and most highly respected mothers.

For five weeks she had been critically ill with peritonitis which caused her death. She was a woman who bore her illness bravely and uncomplainingly, and in her death a good pure soul returned to its maker.

The deceased was a native of County Cork, Ireland, and in about her 68th year. She was married in Ohio to John Carolan, and with her husband came to Winneshiek County in 1865 settling in Bluffton where they have ever since resided.

Six children blessed this happy union, all of whom are living, and with the bereaved husband have the sympathy of numerous friends in the loss of a true wife and christian mother, the children are Thomas of Bonair; Phillip of Bluffton; Bridget (Mrs. John Drew) of Madison Township; Katie (Mrs. William Magner) of Allimakee County; Nellie (Mrs. Pete Kelly) of Bluffton and Miss Mary (Mayme) living at home.

The funeral occurred Thursday, from the Catholic Church at Bluffton, Rev. Father Hawe officiating.

Interment being in the Bluffton Cemetery.

1831?  
1835?  
Ballyvourney  
PARISH  
F-PATRICK  
M-CATE  
HER LIGHTY

Potato FAMINE - 1845-53  
AGE 23 - ENROLLMENT (CONSCRIPTION ACT)  
MARCH 1863.