

“A Family Story of Generations Not Forgotten”

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This story was written by "Grandad John Joe"
For his grandchildren Mia and Nathan O'Sullivan

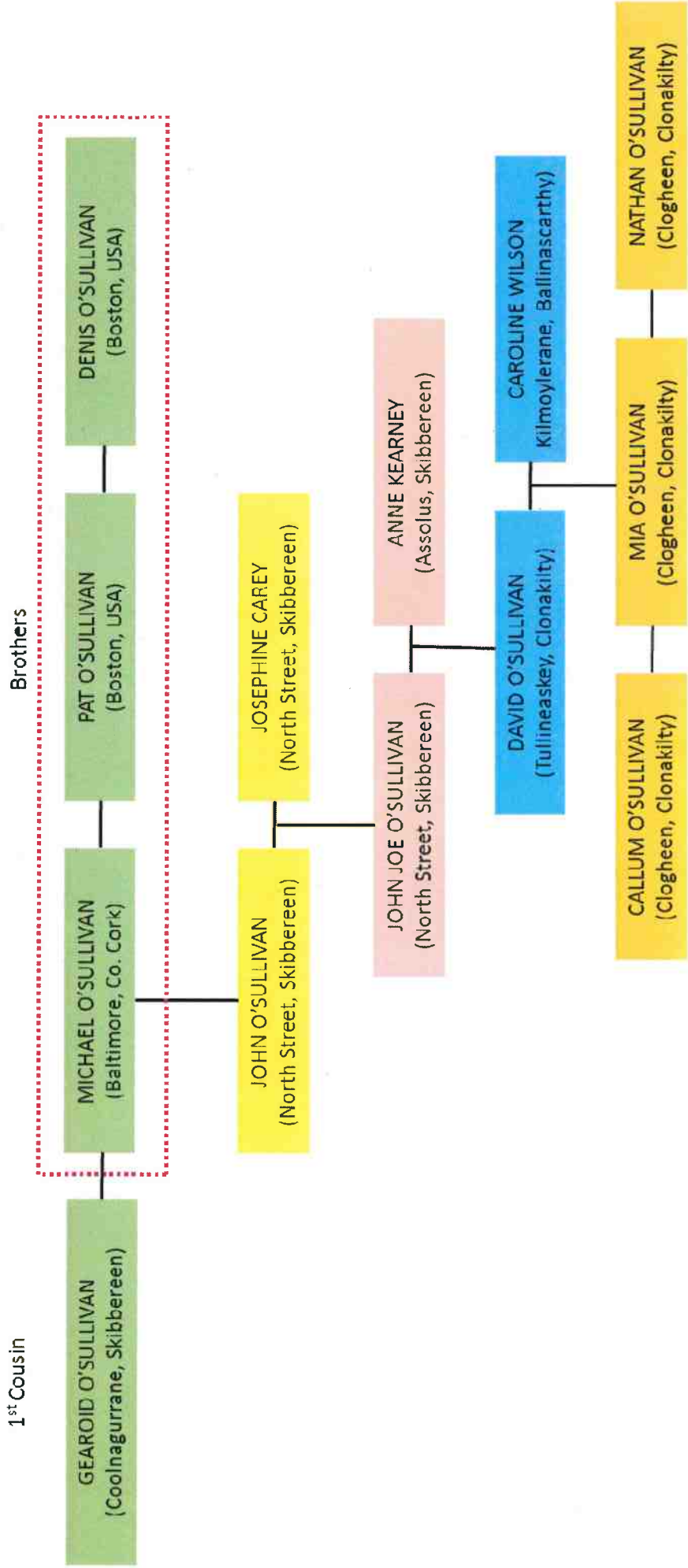
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FAMILY TREE LINK TO STORY



A Family Story of Generations Not Forgotten - O'Sullivan

Once upon a time, in a townland a few miles outside a village called Baltimore, in West Cork, lived a family called the O'Sullivan's. This was in the 1880's to 1900's. They were a very large family, as families went in Ireland at that time. The family consisted of the father and mother as well as three pairs of twins and seven children who all lived together along with the grandparents as well. This story was told to me by my Grandfather and is about my Great Great Grandfather and my Great Great Gran Uncles as well as our 1st cousin 4 times removed.

These were very hard times in Ireland especially after the Famine years. Then in 1914 World War One broke out which made things even harder for the Irish people. Soon after things got a lot worse as in 1916 the Easter Rising against the British rule in Ireland happened. Gearoid O'Sullivan - My 1st cousin 4 times removed and 1st cousin of Pat and Denis O'Sullivan who you will hear more about later, was born on 28 January 1891 was an Irish teacher, Irish language scholar, army officer, barrister and politician. He had the honour of raising the Irish Flag over the General Post Office in Dublin as fighting raged around the Irish rebellion's GPO headquarters and throughout the streets of Dublin during the 1916 Easter Rising.



When the Easter Rising was over and the British and Irish signed the Proclamation of Independence the six counties in Northern Ireland remained under the control of Britain. A lot of Irish people didn't agree with this and had different opinions of what should have been done. This was the beginning of the Civil War in Ireland which started in 1922. There are two main political parties in Ireland today, Fianna Fail and Fine Gael, and these parties are directly linked to the two sides who fought against each other in the Civil War.

A lot of people think the Civil War mainly happened in the Irish Cities and larger towns. However West Cork was badly affected by the fighting between the Irish sides. Possibly one reason for this was that Michael Collins was born in a place called Woodfield, near Clonakilty Town. He was the leader of the Pro-Treaty side and a lot of fighting happened between the two groups. There were even family members fighting other family members as they had opposite opinions about the Treaty.

The O'Sullivan family were also directly involved with the Civil War. Two of the younger brothers, Denis and Pat, were captured by the opposite side and they were imprisoned in Skibbereen. They were to be sent for execution. The night before the execution the two brothers escaped the prison by jumping from a third floor window. They then went on the run for several weeks going from house to house owned by people on the same political side. During this time there were "safe houses" spread all over West Cork. These were also set up throughout the country. The brothers made their way from safe-house to safe-house unnoticed. After several weeks they finally made it to the town of Cobh. This was the main port in the South of Ireland where large shipping liners left destined for the USA primarily but also other countries and continents. Documents, travel papers and passports were organised for the two brothers by their allies to allow them leave Ireland and be allowed enter the USA. With Denis and Pat aboard, the liner left Cobh destined for Boston via Newfoundland, before reaching the American East coast. Their escape from certain execution was successful.

Cobh, Emigration 1900's:



During the long trip to the USA the two brothers met two ladies on board. They went on to marry these ladies and both couples had large families. They were quite successful in life. Denis and Pat had trained as carpenters when they lived in Ireland. They learned their trade constructing timber boats in the boatyards of Baltimore, Co. Cork. They used their trade to work as carpenters on many building projects in Boston.

Many years after their escape from Ireland, one of the brother's, Pat, decided he wanted to visit Ireland once again. Neither brother had returned home in over 50 years having left when they were in their early twenties.

Several letters were sent by Pat to his brothers who were still alive in Ireland to help organise this trip home. One of the brothers, Michael, was still living in Baltimore in West Cork and he had organised with Pat to meet him in one of the public houses in Skibbereen when he arrived. The name of this pub was Gerald O'Brien which is still trading in the town to this day.

When the brothers Michael and Pat finally met for the first time in over 50 years both recognised each other immediately and made the same funny comment "didn't you get very old?" Michael, who lived in Baltimore was our great great grandfather. Aside from being a builder he also had a life-long hobby of horses and carriages. He also worked as a carriage builder and built many sought after carriages for Statesmen and Bishops throughout Munster which would still exist today. He collected his long lost brother Pat in his best horse and carriage. The brothers travelled throughout West Cork looking at the old places they went to as younger men. The harness used on this journey has been handed down from Michael to my great grandfather and now belongs to my grandfather.

Picture of My Grandad and Great Grandad in 1972



Pat and Michael said their goodbyes as Pat's life was now with his family back in USA.

The brothers and their families did live happily ever after and despite the distance of 2,887 miles and the absence of years they never forgot each other. To this day we have relations in USA that we remain in contact with.

Gearoid O'Sullivan died on Good Friday, 25 March 1948 and was given a State Funeral on the following Easter Monday – exactly 32 years after the Easter Rising. Thousands of people lined the streets of Dublin to watch as a horse-drawn carriage carried his coffin – draped in the Tricolor– past the GPO and other landmarks to his final resting place at Glasnevin Cemetery.



I

Once upon a time in a ~~place~~
Townland a few miles outside a
Village called Baltimore in West COAK
there lived a family called the O'Sullivan's
1900, years, ~~time~~, They were a Big
family as families in Ireland at
that time, consisting of 3 PAIRS of Twins
and 7 children and the father & Mother
and perhaps Grand Parents as well.

They were Hard times for Everyone
Especially after the Famine ~~in the 1840's~~
Then in 1914 World War I Broke out
And what made it worse was the 1916
Rising Against the British, When that
was over And the British & Irish
had an agreement About the 32 Counties
of Ireland which did not suit Every Body,
Caused the Civil War in Ireland.

2
What of people thought at the time
that this was only for places
like Dublin & Big Cities, But
strangely enough West Cork was
badly effected, probably because
me Collins was from a place called
woolfield outside Charleville & he was
one of the leaders of one side,
& a lot of conflict went on and even
split up a lot of families, some
members taking opposite sides,

Family The O'Sullivan family were also
involved in the Civil War
Two of the younger Brothers namely
PAT, & Denis, were captured and
imprisoned in Skibbereen,
The night before their execution they
escaped by jumping from a 3rd floor
Building

3

These escape went on for weeks,
There were Houses called Safe Houses
Scattered all over West COAK as the
same with the rest of the country,
The Brothers made their way from
Safe House to Safe House until they
reached COBK, This was the Port
where the Shipping Liners left for
U.S.A. And other countries & Continents
ETC. Documents & Papers & Passports were
got for them by the Right authorities
(Probably not correct.)

The Liner left for BOSTON VIA
New found land, Before reaching U.S.A.
These escape was successful.
They worked there as CARPENTERS as that's
what their trade was having ~~learned~~
Learned these skills in the Boatyard
Boat Building in Baltimore CO COAK.

4.

The two Brothers met 2 Ladies on Board the liner, who they went on to marry. Both had large families who were quite successful in life.

Many many years after their escape probably (50 years) as they were only two very young men at the time, Pat one of the Brothers decided to come back & visit Ireland.

Letters were exchanged with ~~the~~ ^{who were still alive.} these Brothers who still lived in Baltimore, ~~one~~ one of the Brothers called Michael agreed to meet PAT in a BAR in SKIBBEREEN called.

Gerald O'BRIEN (still there) a story has it that when the Brothers Pat & Michael met their comment to each other was the same "DIDN'T you get very old?"

5

Michael O Sullivan. The man that went to SKIBBEREN to meet his Brother Pat, WAS my ~~GRAND~~ great great Grand father.

He always had a good Pony e Gig. at the time as he was a COACH BUILDER. and Built many fine CARRIAGES for BISHOPS e STATOmen throughout Munster, He used his

Best Pony e gig to collect his Brother Pat ^{FROM} SKIBBEREN He ALSO got a new set of Harness made by A Harness & Leather Company known then as "The DAYES Brothers" Harness manufactures in Patrick Street CORK. My grandfather ^{SUNN JOE} who is the grandson of Michael O SULLIVAN still uses that same set of Harness at the CARRIAGE DRIVING classes in the local Shows around CORK County.