



Diaspora Stories

Ancestor's Name: William and Mary Ann O'Flaherty
Place of birth (if known): ? McMahon
Your Name: Shirley Ripley Grantier
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My great-great-great grandfather, William McMahon, and his young bride, Mary Ann O'Flaherty, emigrated to New York City around 1847-1848. He was born in 1831 and Mary Ann in 1830. I believe they were married in Dublin and possibly set sail in Cork, but I don't know in which county (ies) they were born.

They stayed for a short while with William's brother in NYC, but by around 1850 they were living in Corning, NY, my native city.

In Sept of 1861, William enlisted in the US Army. Sadly, he was killed in Spotsylvania, VA, on May 12 1864. It was possibly during the Battle of Po River or the Battle at the Wilderness.

What O'William most likely did not know at the time of his untimely death at age 33 was that his wife Mary Ann had died the year before in Corning, leaving 4 young children orphaned. The children were Thomas, Mary Ann, James and Jessie. Thomas, the eldest, went to work at Corning Glass Works at age 11 to support his siblings. Thomas is my great-great grandfather.

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

Signed: Shirley R. Grantier
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