



Tir na nog

The McGlinchey of Inishowen and Cambridge

Marian Mathison Desrosiers

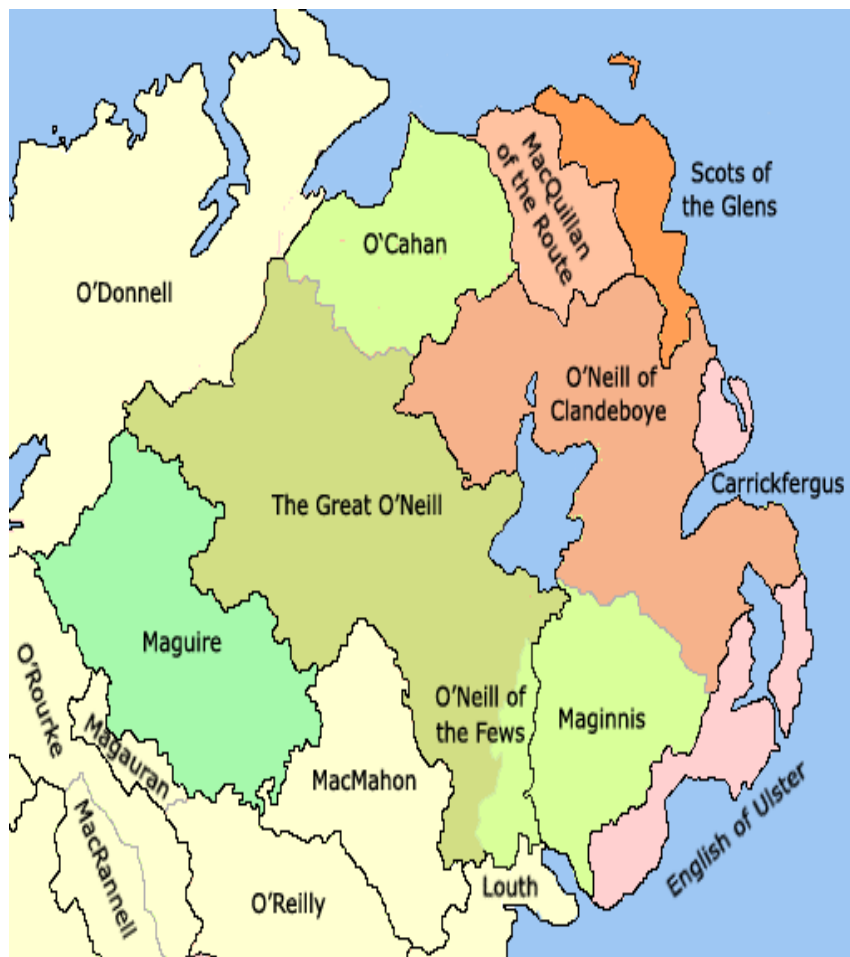
It's not for the love of gold I go, and it's not for
the love of fame,
But fortune might smile on me, and I might
win a name.

Irish immigration song "The Shores of Americay"

Irish Roots

In the North of Ireland

Lands of O'Donnell and O'Neil Before and After Kinsale

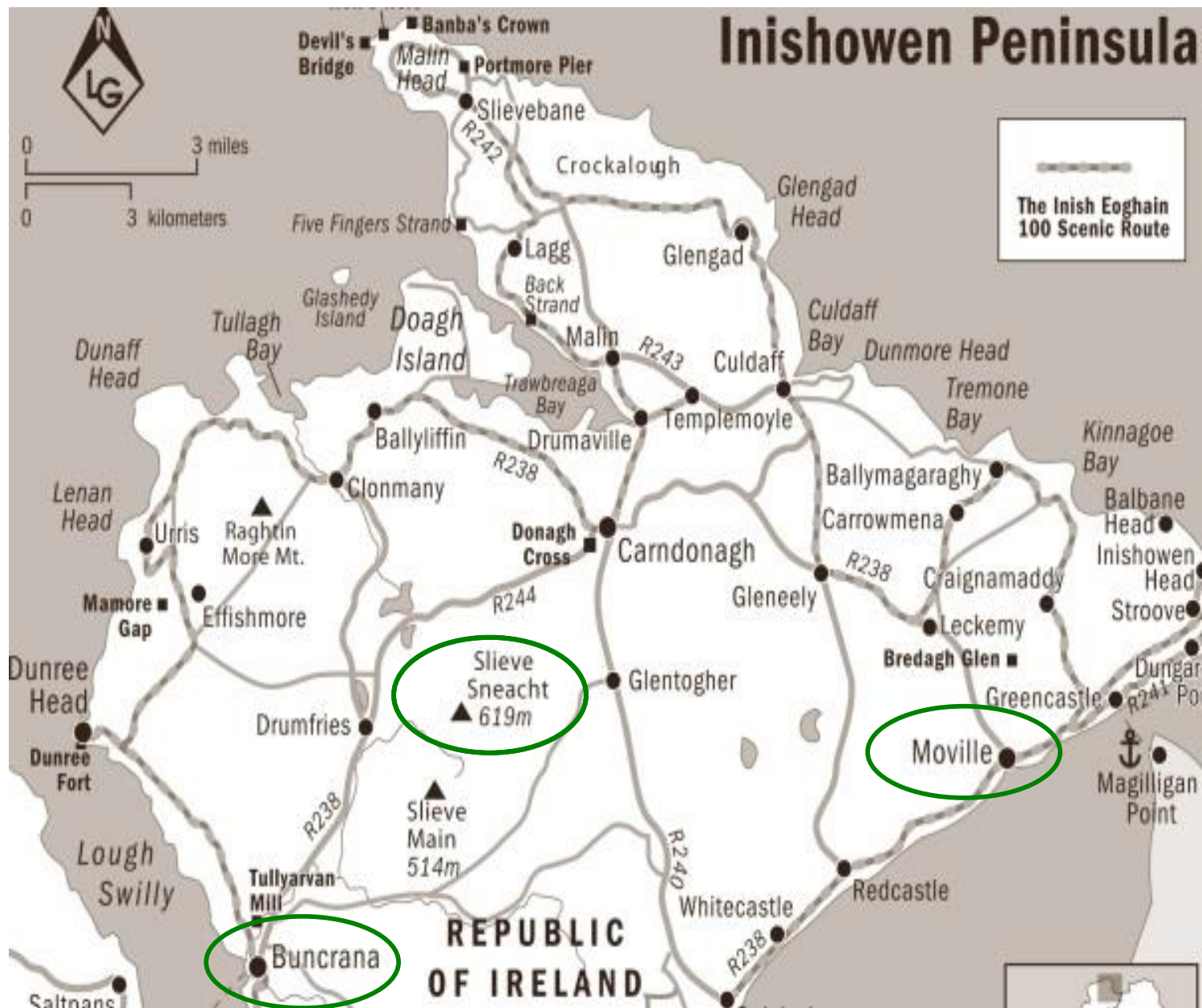


McGlinchey

- Originally from Tyrone
- Supported O'Donnell and O'Neil in the Nine Years' War against Queen Elizabeth's attempts to conquer the Irish
- With the Flight of the Earls to the Continent in 1607, the McGlinchey fled to the Inishowen, the northern peninsula in Donegal, a remote and isolated area.

Inishowen Peninsula in Donegal





Buncrana from the King's Ring Fort

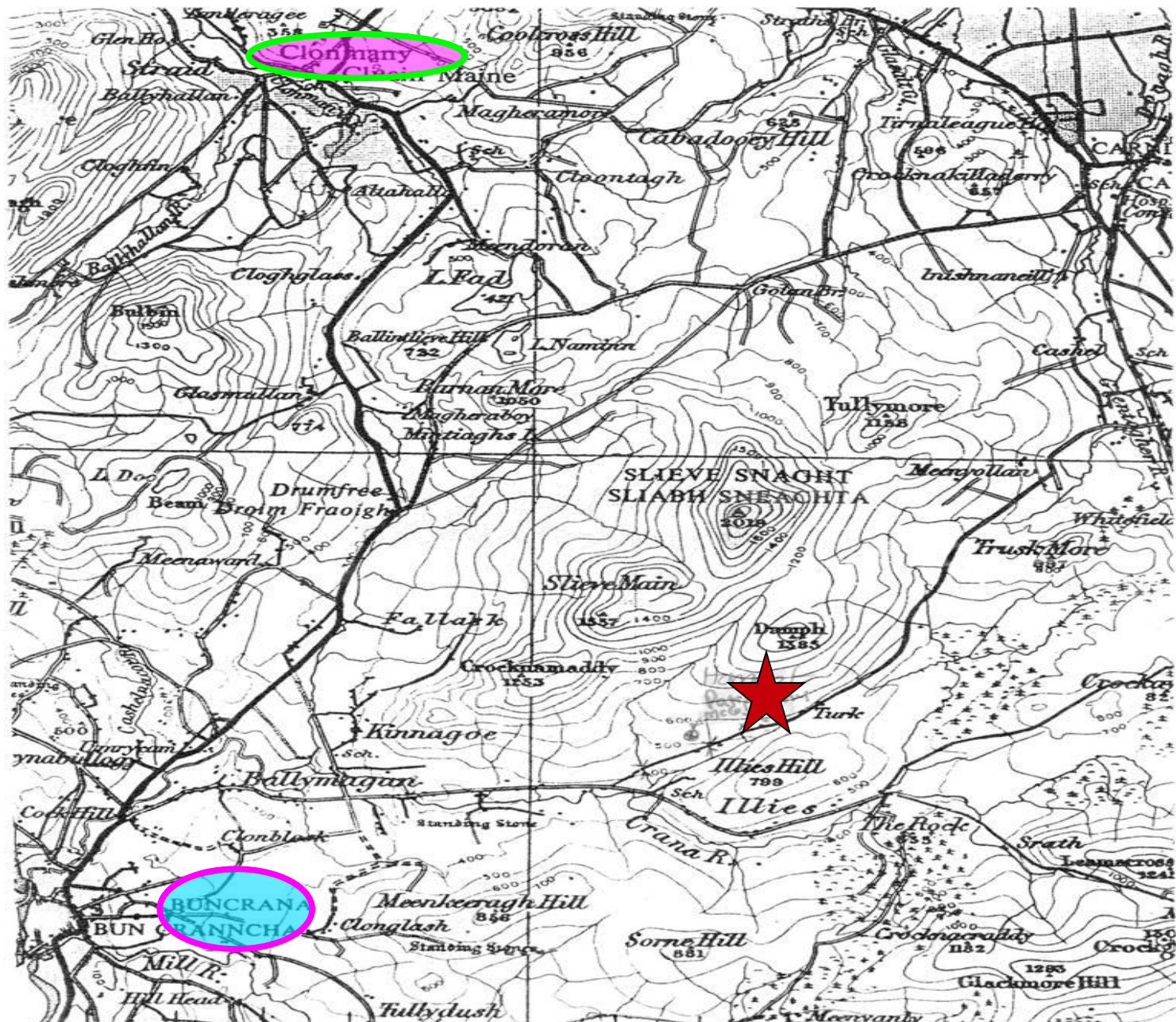


Slieve Snacht (Snowy Mountain)



Near the Isle of Doagh





Vistas Near Meentacallagh



Keeping the Faith

Under England's Penal Laws

Religion in Inishowen

- Most towns had both Church of Ireland (Anglicans) and Catholics
- After 1778 some Penal Laws ended.
- Catholic churches could be built, but not closer than one mile from the city; the first laws prohibited stone construction.

St. Mary's Church near Buncrana



- The Catholic Church attended by the McGlinchey and McGowan families was constructed in the 1840s
 - Located on Cock Hill at the road to Carndonagh and by the bridge to Tullyarvan Mill (used for grinding corn then for making sail cloth)
- Bell Tower added in 1910.

My Ancestors Eliza and Patrick McGlinchey

- Eliza McGowan (1817-1882) of Tullyarvin married Patrick McGlinchey (1817-1848) of Meentacallagh in 1837.
- They raised sheep on the land around their house near Slieve Snacht. The home did not have windows or door as each of those were taxed. McGlinchey did pay tax as he was listed on the Hearth Rolls, an English law, which taxed the hearths (fireplaces) of the Irish.
- His father is listed in a census of those men who owned land in the Parish of Lower Fahan. By English law they paid one tenth of their income to support the Church of Ireland.
 - *Tithe Applotment Book, Lower Fahan Parish, Co Donegal (1829)*

Ruins of Eliza and Patrick McGlinchey Home from 1838



Cutting Peat to Fuel the Fires



McGlinchey Life

- Fishing in the streams, harvesting potatoes and oats, tending sheep, whose wool was used for homespun blankets and clothing.
- View of Northern Ireland from Moville wharf



Patrick McGlinchey (1817-1848)

- In 1840s the family traveled to Scotland; he worked as potato lifter and cut stone in the quarry
- Died in a quarry accident in Grenock in 1848 at the age of 31.
- Eliza returned 100 miles over water to Ireland with her five children; my ancestor was the oldest boy, Andrew, age 9.
- Her parents, Catherine and James McGowan, an innkeeper, took them into their home.

Pursuit of the Gold

A New Life in America

The Famine of 1845-1852



- While the potato (praties) failed due to fungus, one million Irish died; two million left Ireland;
- 130,000 went to Boston
- One quarter to one half a million tons (wheat, oats, barley) a year left Ireland bound for England.
- This hardened Irish resentment toward England.

Woodham-Smith,
The Great Hunger

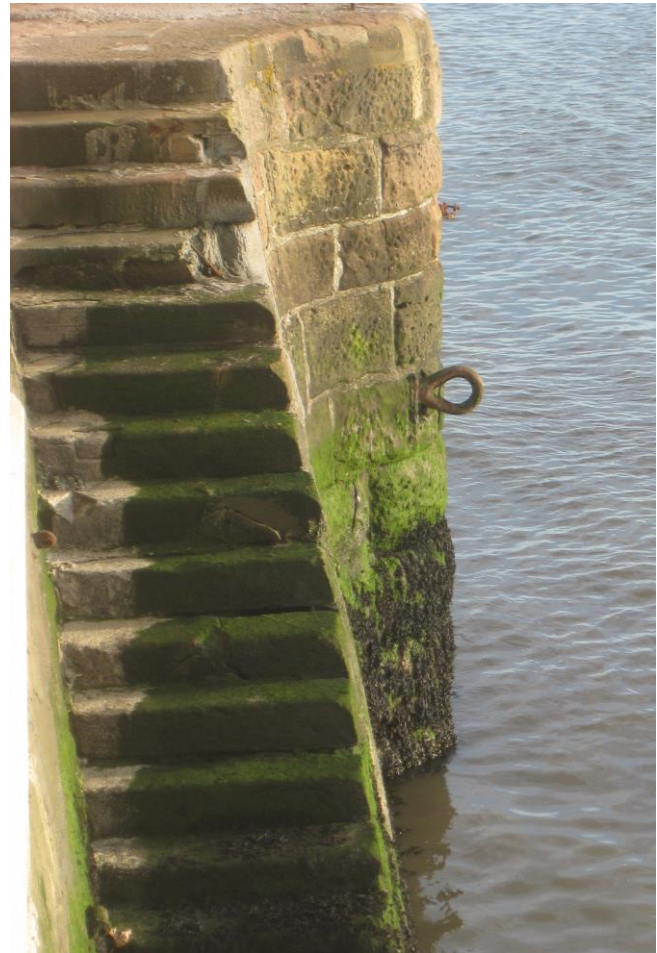


Eliza's Decision

- Before 1850 in the Inishowen, thousands left, including cousins Dever, McDevitt and Doherty, and three of Eliza's sisters.
- Eliza was enterprising and optimistic about a future in America for her young family.
- It would mean leaving her children in the care of her parents and then later bringing them to Boston.

Liverpool Landing

- In 1850 widow Eliza McGlinchey walked 20 miles to Moville with her brothers, Daniel, James, Thomas, William, and John McGowan
- They traveled 200 miles by steamer to Liverpool



View of the Mersey River, Liverpool en route to Boston



Liverpool to Boston July 1850



- Packet Ships carried mail and emigrants year round, taking six weeks to cross the Atlantic
- Eliza McGlinchey, alone, aged 33, said goodbye forever to the land of Ireland

Family

Finding a place and
Earning money to send for
children and parents

Arrival on “The Parthian”

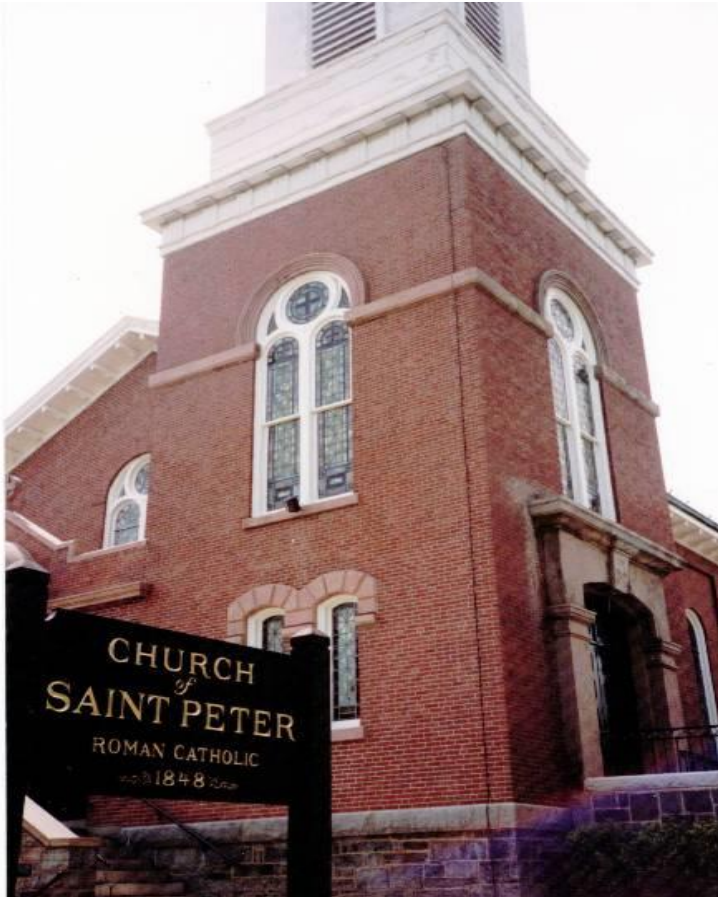
9 July 1850

- When Eliza arrived, her sister Hannah McGirr, housekeeper for Rev. Manasses Dougherty, met her at Battery Wharf, Boston
- Dougherty assisted Eliza and her brothers in finding housing near Harvard Square

*City of Cambridge
Street Directories*



Family and Faith in Cambridge



- Rev Manasses Dougherty (1816-1877) founded St. Peter's Church, Concord Ave, Cambridge (1848)



The McGlinchey in Cambridge, MA 1850s

- Eliza's brothers helped build Harvard University structures, worked on the streets and docks
- One brother, James McGowan, owned a blacksmith shop near Winthrop Square

Cambridge Street Directories

- The McGowan brothers and Eliza pooled their money in 1853 to send her brother Daniel to Buncrana for Eliza's five children (ages 5 to 14) and the two McGowan grandparents who were in their sixties.

Passenger Lists to Boston, MA

Old Cambridge near Harvard Square



Cultural Contrasts: Cambridge and the Inishowen

- Plentiful foods
- Coal fired stove
- Large elms lined paved street
- Georgian mansions on Brattle Street
- Swimming, boating on the Charles River
- Paige *The History of Cambridge (1877)*
- Scarcity and lack of variety of food
- Peat as fuel
- Fieldstone home, dirt floor, thatched roof
- Scarcity of trees
- Mountains and hills covered with sheep

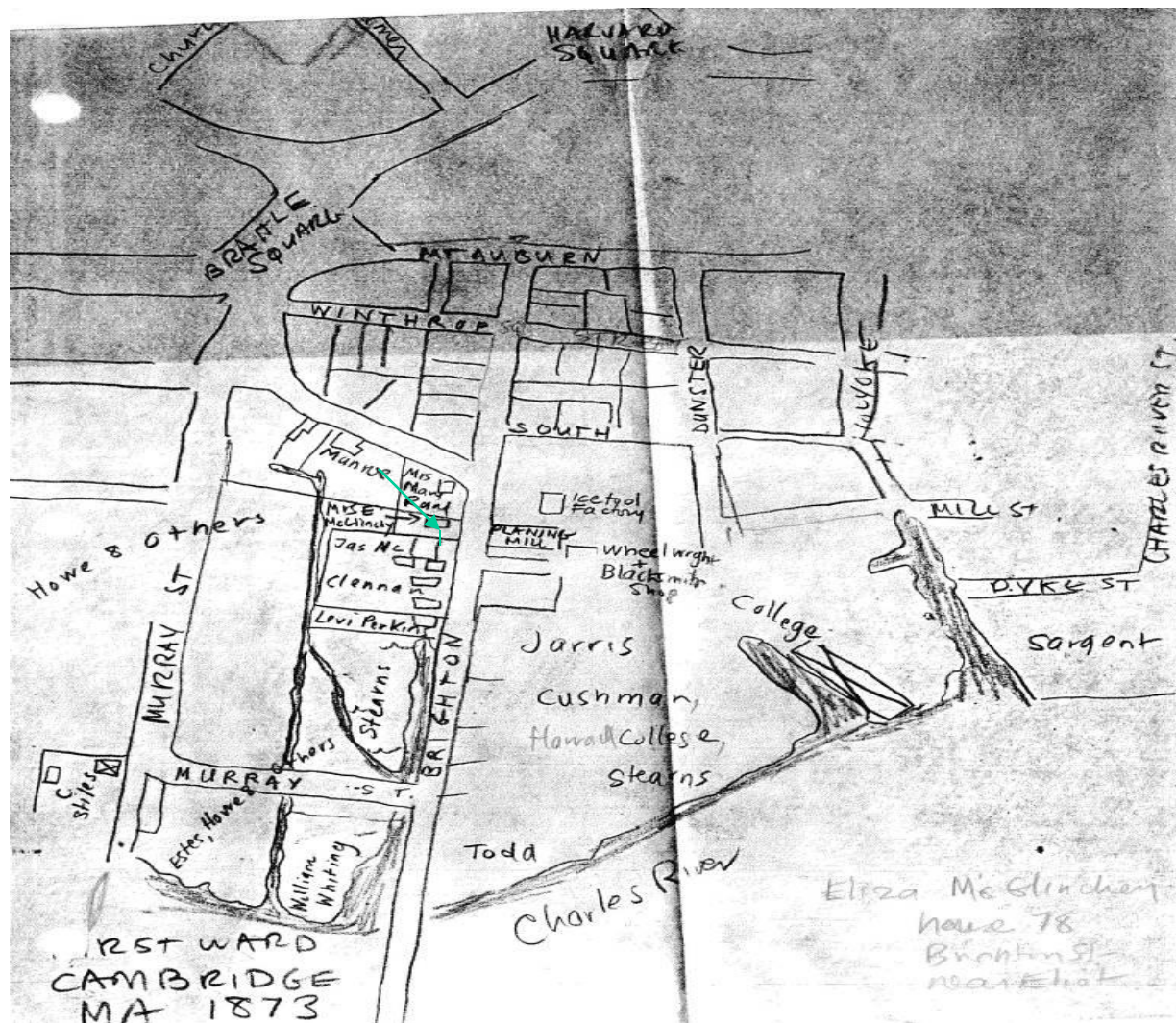
Eliza McGlinchey, Homeowner and Businesswoman

- By 1859, Eliza owned a boarding house at 1 Brighton Street near the Bridge over the Charles River. She trained Irish girls to be servants and cooks.

Craigie Map of Cambridge, 1859

- By 1873 she owned a house on land that is today the site of the John F. Kennedy School of Government. The average price of a home was \$1600 so home ownership showed how far she had come from her first days as a Famine Immigrant.

Hopkins First Ward Map of Cambridge 1873



Becoming an American

Politics, Jobs, the Civil War, Gold
Rush and Farming in the West

Politics in America When Andrew McGlinchey aged 13 Arrives

- The Know Nothing Party was anti-Catholic and wanted to extend the amount of time it took immigrants to become citizens and voters. They also wanted to prevent foreign-born people from ever holding public office.
- In 1853, Nativists in Maine tarred and feathered Jesuit Rev. Bapst, later first President of Boston College
- In the 1854 elections, the Know Nothing Party won in the elections and control state governments in MA, RI, NH, CT, and CA

Ancient Order of Hibernians

- An organization of Ireland founded in America in 1836
- Provided fellowship and charity for famine immigrants
- 1857: AOH members repulsed an attack on Holy Redeemer Church in East Boston by Nativists led by the Angel Gabriel, a fanatic with a trumpet; a cousin, grocery store owner Cornelius Doherty, joined the defense.

O'Dea, *History of the AOH* (1898)

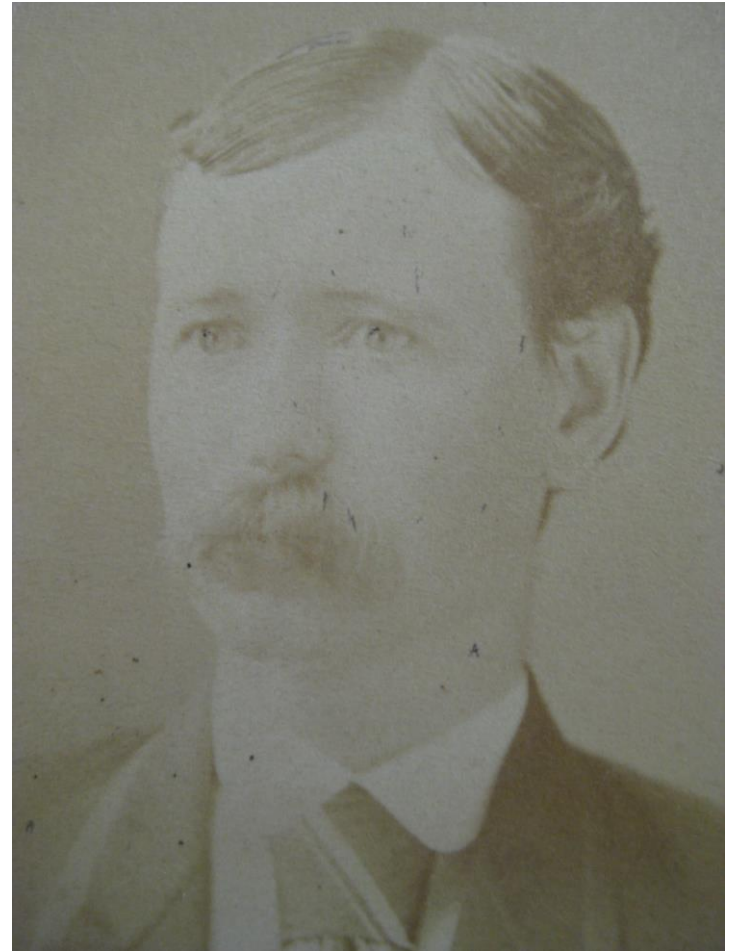
Work for the Irish

- East Cambridge industries: glass works, soap making, tanneries, and rope works
- North Cambridge: brick making and cattle yards.
- Irish women-40% worked as servants
- Old Cambridge: Riverside Press was a major employer of Irish, increasing their status as skilled craftsmen

Diner *Erin's Daughters in America* (1983)

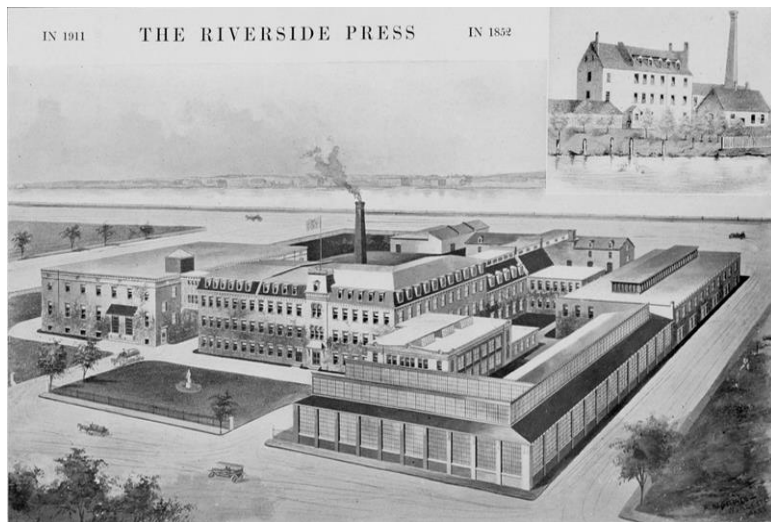
Andrew McGlinchey (1839-1897)

- Eliza's son came to Cambridge in 1853; he went to school on Garden Street
- Andrew worked at the Riverside Press from 1854-1862.
- He became a naturalized American citizen in 1858.



Riverside Press (1852), later Houghton Mifflin Company

- Andrew walked along the Charles River salt marshes from his home near Harvard Square to work near Central Square
- Andrew worked as a loader, office boy, compositor (typesetter), binder of fine leather, and creator of marbled paper at the Riverside Press 1854-1861.
- He worked 52 hours a week, six days a week.
- Motto for work: “be frugal, punctual, industrious.”

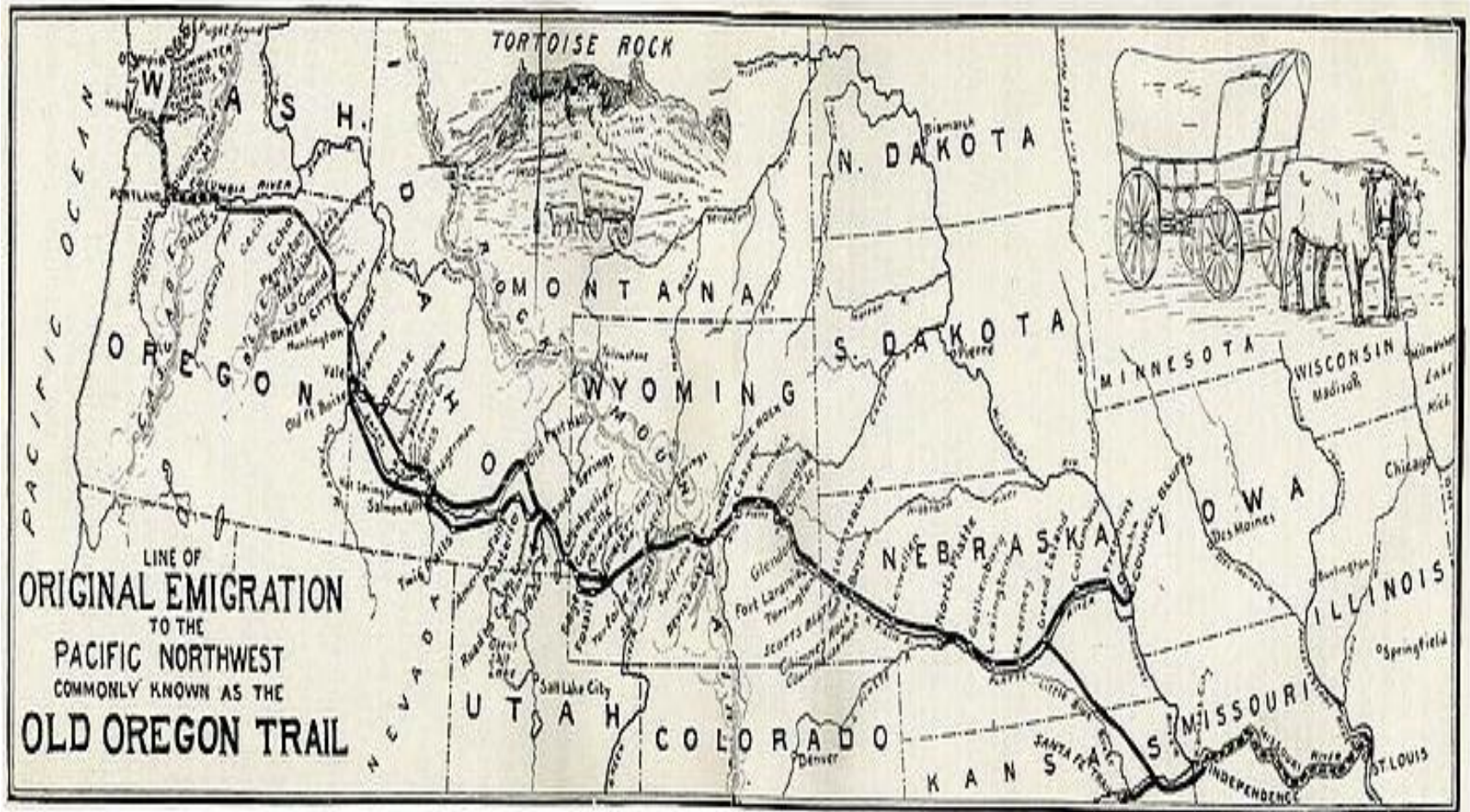


Riverside Press (1899)

1861: Army or Mining?

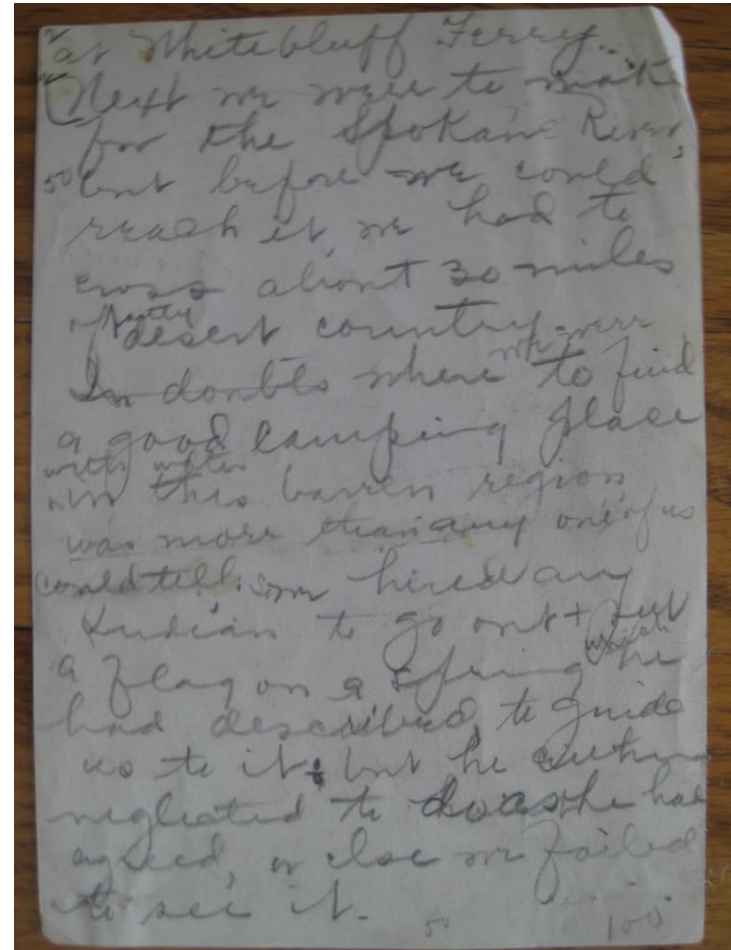
- While his younger brother, James, joined the 29th Irish Regiment and fought in the Civil War, Andrew, who had read in the *Cambridge Chronicle* about the biggest Gold Rush in Canada's history, headed West.
- From Boston to St. Louis by railroad then by wagon train on the Oregon Trail over 2000 miles, passing through eastern Kansas, to which 20 years later he would return to farm.

Oregon Trail from MO to WA



Gold in the West!

- At 22, Andrew arrived in WA and by pony headed north to Spokane in Eastern Washington and into British Columbia with Nez Percé Indian guides.
- McGlinchey, *Account of a Gold Miner* (1896)



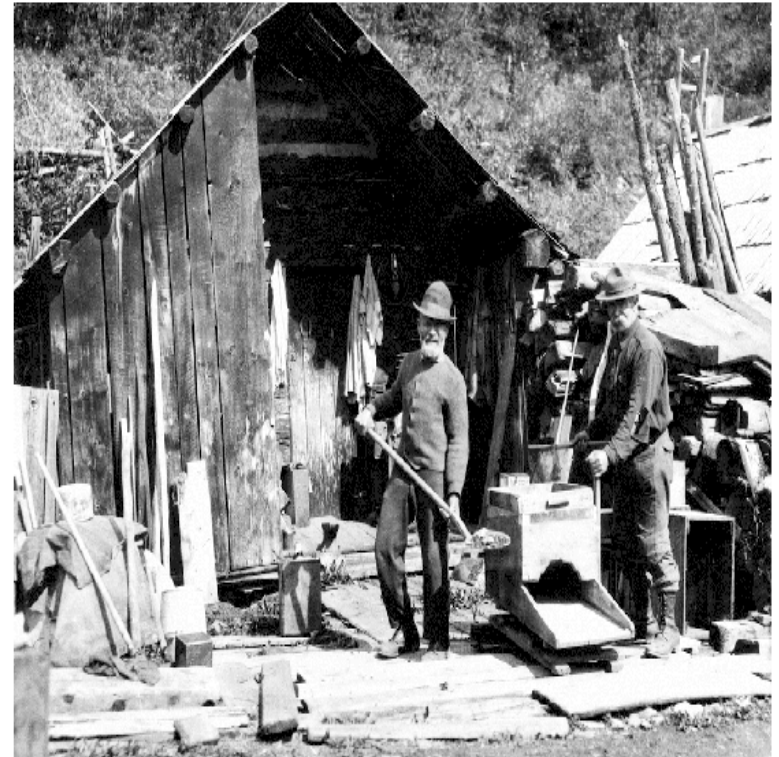
at Whitebluff Ferry.
Next we were to make
for the Spokane River
but before we could
reach it, we had to
cross about 30 miles
of ^{open} desert country.
In doubt where to find
a good camping place
with ^{water} in this barren region
was more than any one of us
could tell. I hired an
Indian to go out + put
a flag on a spring ^{which} he
had described to guide
us to it, but he ^{eventually}
neglected to do as he had
agreed, or else we failed
to see it.

Barkerville, British Columbia

Gold Rush 1860s



Courtesy of BC Archives collections - Call Number: B-06314
Web: www.bcarchives.gov.bc.ca Email: access@www.bcarchives.gov.bc.ca
(C) - Provided for Research Purposes Only - Other Use Requires Permission



Title: Prospectors, Barkerville

The Caribou Gold Rush

- From WA state miners traveled by pony north into Canada and along the Caribou Road to Quesnel and then by water and road to Barkerville (600 miles)
- Miners lived in tents except in winter when they rented rooms in Barkerville; there was card playing, gambling, firearms, saloon girls.

Laut, *The Caribou Trail* (1922)

- Andrew McGlinchey made money sluicing and panning for gold in the rivers of British Columbia

9 Athens Street 1867

- He purchased the house with \$4200 from the Gold Rush
- Eight room triple-decker home with inside water closets and well in the cellar
- Built by George Lyons on Winthrop estate near Harvard Square



Ann Kelly (1847-1918)



- She was 20, a cousin of Andrew; her grandfather John Kelly was brother of Andrew's grandmother, Catherine Kelly
- Her stepfather was Thomas McGowan, Andrew's uncle
- Married on 20 Aug 1867 in St. Peter's by Rev. Manasses Dougherty; Andrew was 28.

Improvements in Cambridge Lifestyle in the 1870s

- Lighting of streets with gas
- Transportation by electric trolley down Mass Avenue eight miles to Boston
- Telephone lines in many neighborhoods
- Public library, technical high school and Latin High School
- Workers in factories made furniture, pianos, engines, and rubber hoses.
- City water and sewage

Paige, *The History of Cambridge* (1877)

Cambridge Cultural Changes

- Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology opened to the public
- Science exhibits at the Agassiz Museum
- Fogg Art Museum
- Sanders Theater
- St. Patrick's Day Parade

Merrill, *Cambridge Sketches* (1896)

Andrew McGlinchey in 1879

- Worked for 20 years for the Riverside Press, which is noted for its book design and excellence whether of dictionaries or Dickens
- Owned his own 2000 square foot home with five bedrooms and three water closets
- Father of three children, ages one to nine
- Longs for the Irish rural life of his youth

Return to the Pastoral Life of Farming in an Irish Community

- A *Boston Pilot* article encouraged Irish living in cities to go West, to return to rural life which would be healthier than the city
- He bought a 160-acre wheat farm for \$640.
- In 1879, at the age of 40 Andrew McGlinchey asked his two uncles Cornelius and Tristram McColgan to take care of his Cambridge home.
- Andrew and Ann loaded their three children (ages 9, 7, and 1) and Ann's iron stove on the train to Lawrence, Kansas.

KANSAS



How Did I Find McGlinchey in Kansas?

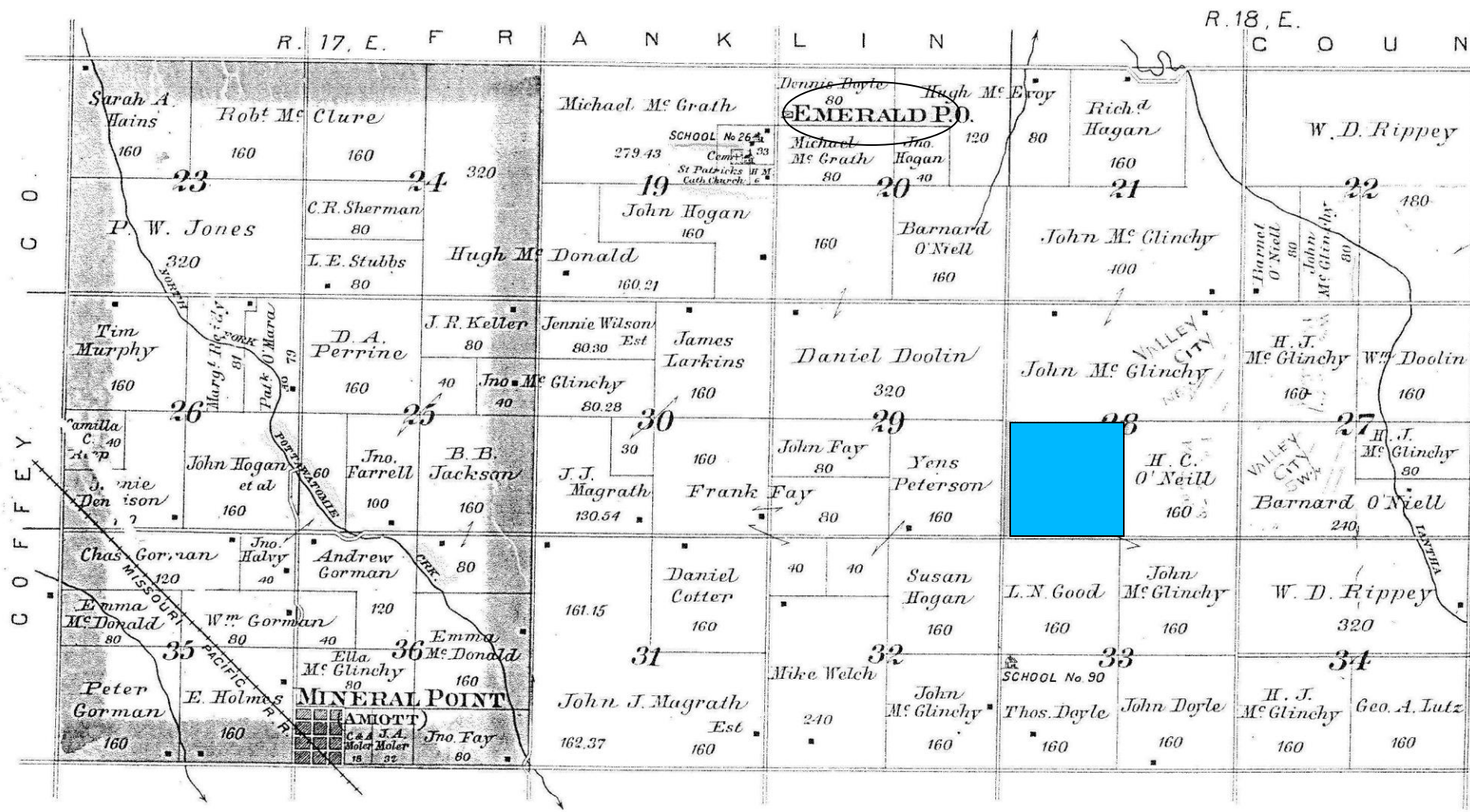
- Federal Census of 1880 for Emerald, Kansas
- Records of the Anderson County Historical Society
- Garnett Court House: Warranty Deed of 1879
- Township map of 1901

1901 MAP

TOWNSHIP 19 SOUTH RANGE 17 & 18 EAST

Scale 2 Inches to the Mile.

of the



Eastern Kansas Homestead

- They lived in a wood framed house; pine lumber was ferried across the river from western Missouri
- Water was pumped from a well (unlike Cambridge that had city water)
- Fuel for the stove was buffalo chips; buffalo still roamed freely
- Wood from Osage orange or elm was most used for heating
- Constant dust storms and insects

Driscoll, *Kansas Irish* (1943)

Life in Eastern Kansas



- Children walked five miles to school and to church, St. Patrick's, Emerald, KS
- When Ann gave birth to Joseph; closest doctor 12 miles away!
- 10 year old Andrew fell off the porch; Ann sewed up his head cut with a needle from her sewing, sealing it with lamp kerosene.

Kansas and the Wild West in 1879

- Abilene was 100 miles north west of Emerald; Wild Bill Hickok controlled the gunfighters.
- Wichita was 120 miles southwest of Emerald; Wyatt Earp controlled cowboys from the Chisholm Trail.
- Dodge City was 260 miles west of Emerald: Earp and Bat Masterson kept the peace in this town on the Western Trail, a branch of the Chisholm Trail

Eliza McGlinchey, Irish and American

- Andrew's hard working immigrant mother, Eliza McGlinchey died at 65 in 1882.
- She was buried by family in the same cemetery, Mt. Auburn, as Dorothea Dix and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow were buried that year.



McGlinchey and Locke Bookbinders Boston, MA 1885



St. Paul's School, Cambridge 1889



- McGlinchey helped raise money to build the grammar school run by the Sisters of St. Joseph.
- Andrew McGlinchey taught Sunday School
- The parishioners were Irish as were the pastors.

McGlinchey Family 1890



Education

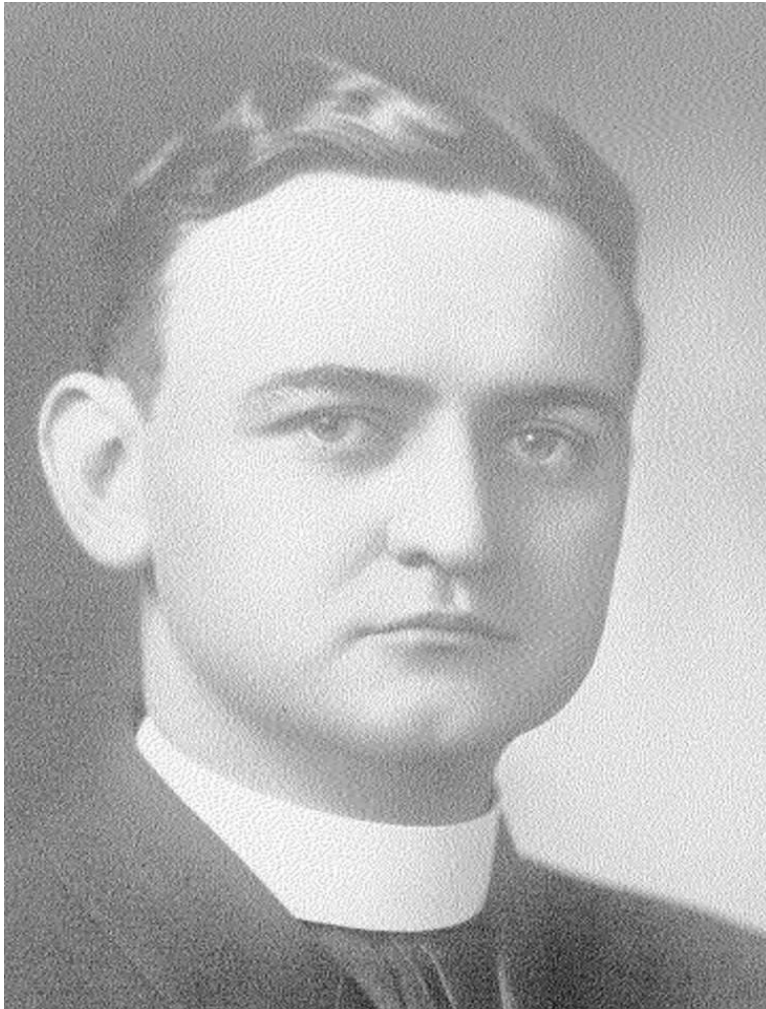
Importance for Success of Sons
and Daughters of Famine
Immigrants

Family and Education

- In 1897, when Andrew McGlinchey died at 58, his son James at 24, took on two jobs to pay for the education of his siblings 19, 15 and 9.
- Elizabeth graduated from Radcliffe (1899) with a major in French and taught school.



Monsignor Joseph McGlinchey (1882-1959)



- Entering BC High when his father died
- Class of 1902 at BC
- 1911: visited Irish relatives in Meentacallagh
- Director of Missions, Propagation of the Faith for 16 years
- Pastor of St. Mary's Lynn for 30 years

Remembering the Famine Irish St. Paul's 1923 Dedication

- The marble relief “The Annunciation” was a gift of Father Joseph McGlinchey in honor of his parents Andrew and Ann, who yearly sponsored the Confirmation Classes.

Wills, *Catholics of Harvard Square* (1993)



Harry McGlinchey SJ (1888-1918)

- 1906 Boston College
- 1916 Missionary in Bombay, starting schools
- Taught boys baseball, basketball with equipment sent from Boston area parishes.
- Taught drama and band
- Died in Karachi of the plague at 30

Yankee Xavier



James McGlinchey (1872-1932)



- With his girls he emphasized the importance of study habits and curiosity for learning
- He also paid for music, oratory and dance, while working as a salesman for typewriters, books and Simplex products

Sarah Clark McGlinchey (1876-1959)

- Born in Boston, Sarah Clark was a secretary to an executive of Remington Typewriter Co. in Charleston, MA
- She married James McGlinchey in St. Mary's in 1909 with Reverend Joseph McGlinchey officiating



The McGlinchey Girls of Cambridge, MA in the 1920s

- Genevieve (1911-2004)
- Grace (1913-1989)
- Anne (1919-1975)

James dies in 1932 at 59,
leaving Genevieve to help
her sisters become
Radcliffe Graduates with
advanced degrees



Genevieve McGlinchey Mathison (1911-2004)

- Aunt Hannah from Carndonagh told her Inishowen stories
- She learned Irish dance and music from the nuns at St. Paul's
- She visited Buncrana in 1978 taking the journey home to find her roots



Counties of Ireland 1847

