

REMEMBERING THE FAMINE: THE MCGLINCHEY OF INISHOWEN AND CAMBRIDGE

By Marian Mathison Desrosiers, PhD for the Museum of Newport Irish History on 18 Jan. 2012 at LaForge Casino, Bellevue Ave., Newport, RI

SLIDE 1 Irish Famine Memorial Boston, MA, Dedication of 28th of June 1998

My mother Genevieve McGlinchey Mathison was invited to the dedication by Thomas J. Flatley who paid for the statues created by sculptor Robert Shure to honor 1 million emigrants who came to America during the Famine, or Great Hunger. The statues are in the park across from Old South Church. 7000 attended that day. I began to research our family history in 1990.

SLIDE 2 Title

SLIDE 3 Irish Roots

My goal today is to share with some stories about my Irish roots, the importance of Faith, Family, Hard Work, Adventure and Education for the Irish immigrant seeking to becoming American and returning to celebrate being Irish. As we travel the journey tonight, I will share some of the ways I confirmed the family stories, including insight gained from my own trip to Ireland.

SLIDE 4 Lands of O'Donnell and O'Neil Before and After Kinsale

These Irish Earls fought the English for 9 long years before the decisive battle at Kinsale 1601-1602 on the Southern coast. The Flight of the Earls to the Continent was to regroup and try to return with support of French or Spanish armies. Both leaders lost their lives and their lands. The English reconfigured the area into new counties and invited settlement by Protestants.

SLIDE 5 McGlinchey

As allies who stayed behind, McGlinchey fled Tyrone and tried to find the most remote part of Ireland the Inishowen peninsula.

SLIDE 6 Where is the Inishowen in Donegal?

From their homeland north into Donegal into the northern most places in Ireland where O' Doherty lived.

SLIDE 7 Places on the Inishowen peninsula

Buncrana to the south with a road to Clonmany in the northwest; a road to Carndonagh in the north past the highest mountain of that land, the Snowy Mountain; a road from C to Moville, departure point for Scotland and Liverpool.

A small neck connects the peninsula to Donegal with Lough Swilly to the West and Lough Foyle toward Northern Ireland and Londonderry.

Malin Head is a rocky barren promontory.

The next slides have views of the land from my journey back to Ireland in 2005.

SLIDE 8 From the Ring Fort at 200 meters built first in the sixth century with a view of both Loughs

SLIDE 9 Slieve Snaght-the mountain covered with snow for the wintry months with cairns on top as many Irish mountains where people made pilgrimages for prayer

SLIDE 10 Near Isle of Doagh-note the power of the sea on the Irish in this region is but a few miles walk

SLIDE 11 Ordnance Survey Map showing Buncrana, the road by Meentaghcallagh to Carndonagh McGlinchey lived in M the place marked by my pen. Only six families live in this area today.

SLIDE 12 Vistas

SLIDE 13 Keeping the Faith

The Penal Laws of King James I barred Catholics from holding office, fined them for not going to Protestant services, and led to execution of priests

SLIDE 14 Religion in Inishowen

Penal laws lifted in the eighteenth century after Irish participation as soldiers in British army in the American Revolution. Building of Catholic houses of worship was allowed but restricted to one mile from town.

SLIDE 15 St. Mary's Buncrana

I have been to the church and many McGlinchey are buried in the adjacent cemetery.

SLIDE 16 My ancestors Eliza and Patrick

Both were born in the earlier famine of 1817.They lived the first decades of their lives on the rolling heather covered hillsides near coast and mountain.

SLIDE 17 Ruins of the home- directions from Father McGlinchey.

When I arrived to the more modern (1920s) home Michael McGlinchey was on his tractor. He invited me in put on the tea, took out some biscuits, stoked the peat and began telling stories of life in the valley---true Irish hospitality. He told us to walk up the hill behind the house and we would find the ruins of the old home. Just secure the gate he said so the sheep don't get out.

SLIDE 18 Peat

SLIDE 19 McGlinchey life- the Merville Wharf exists today.

For a time working in Scotland helped them avoid some of the problems of the Irish blight and famine.

SLIDE 20 Patrick's short life

I was able to confirm this family history by researching the local quarry in Grenock and asking if they had a burial of an Andrew McGlinchey who might have been buried there after the 1847 birth of their fifth baby Catherine and before the 1850 departure of Eliza to America.

They had a record of his burial in common ground in May of 1848.

SLIDE 21 Pursuit of the Gold**SLIDE 22 The Great Hunger 1845-1852**

The famine hit parts of the South more extremely than the north. It continued longer in the south where the population was denser on small farms.

SLIDE 23 Eliza's decision- What does a widow do? Remarry? Find a job? Go to America? What to do with five children? Three of her five older sisters had left already, Hannah, Catherine, and Christina. Only Letitia never left Ireland. All five of her brothers were going. There were groups of young people, cousins Devers, McDevitts, Kellys, Dohertys, mostly unmarried, who hoped for a better life of opportunity.

SLIDE 24 Liverpool Landing

They walked to Moville-How did I know this? I looked at the possible points of departure for Inishowen emigrants who went by boat to Liverpool.

The history of Liverpool by the way is one of heavy Irish immigration to work there and in Manchester from the early 1800s. By the time of the Emancipation in 1825 the largest group of residents was fast becoming the Irish, which led to a building of Catholic churches all over the city.

Travel was 100 miles by water to Liverpool.

These are the river side stairs for vessels coming into and out of Liverpool.

SLIDE 25 Mersey River View with the Brick buildings of the mid nineteenth century on the other shore

SLIDE 26 Liverpool to Boston in packet ships

The immigration museum gives you a first-hand experience with an exhibit. Posters with the sailing dates and costs for the packet ships are posted. A full-size model of the inside of the ship shows the quarters for sleeping and eating below decks. You can read first-hand accounts of the travel hardships over the six weeks.

Even if you do not know the year or month you can view the Passenger Lists at the National Archives or at the Mormon Centers, or in my case the Boston Public Library. Eventually you will find almost everyone with the ship, the date of arrival and with whom they traveled.

SLIDE 27 Family**SLIDE 28** Arrival of Eliza into Boston

We have no photographs of Eliza. But we do have her prayer book, with her name handwritten, indicating she could read and write. That she was literate we noted in the Federal Census.

SLIDE 29 Importance of Rev. Manasses Dougherty

From the records of the Boston Archdiocese I learned of his founding of churches. However, they had no record of his ordination until I learned that he studied in the seminary of St. Sulpice in Montreal and I

wrote to them for the details. Since Boston had no seminaries and especially since he was a late vocation to the priesthood, he went to Canada with the support of Bishop Fitzpatrick.

SLIDE 30 McGlinchey Family in Cambridge-Pooling economic resources and sending for the children and parents

I found them in the passenger lists: James and Catherine McGowan in the 60s, the children were Catherine age 5, Patrick 7, John 9, James 11, and Andrew 13.

How do I know what they all were doing-Cambridge Street Directories indicated on which street they lived, whether boarding or owning, and their jobs.

SLIDE 31 Old Cambridge near Harvard Square

Harvard U Massachusetts Hall from 18th century, marshlands near Charles River,

Tory Row with Longfellow's Georgian mansion all close by the McGlinchey living on Dunster St

SLIDE 32 Cultural contrasts: Cambridge and Inishowen life

Lucius Paige wrote a history of Cambridge that describes life for the McGlinchey. One additional item I could mention is that there were regular cattle drives from Cambridge across the river to Brighton where the animals were butchered. Cambridge was still rural although the population had expanded way beyond the 8000 there when Eliza and her brothers arrived in 1850. By 1890 there would be 100,000.

SLIDE 33 Eliza homeowner and businesswoman

Both homes were near the mud flats-a pretty, bad stench at the time before the river was dammed.

Her boarding house was a place to train young girls to become servants.

40% of single Irish women immigrants had this job Hasia Diner *Ireland's Daughters*

SLIDE 34 City Map showing location of Eliza McGlinchey in 1873 on Brighton St.

SLIDE 35 **Becoming American: politics, war, gold rush, homesteading**

SLIDE 36 Politics in MA with Know Nothing Party

Once you became a citizen, life was better.

For Andrew that was 1858 when he went through the process of naturalization.

SLIDE 37 Ancient Order of Hibernians

People joined forces to repulse the Nativists

SLIDE 38 Work for Irish immigrants

SLIDE 39 Andrew McGlinchey arrives

At 13 when Andrew boarded the SS Parlemer for Boston, he set out on the first of many of his life's adventures, which would take him to the Western frontier, mining and the wheat fields of Kansas. America's opportunity was limitless.

Yet Boston was teeming with poor and homeless and sick Irish-5000 were sent to Deer Island for quarantine. He felt lucky to be in Cambridge a rural area of no more than 8000 residents.

Eliza his mother made sure that all the children went to school as required by Massachusetts law. When she read an advertisement for a job on the loading dock of the Riverside Press, she directed Andrew to the business that would define his professional life.

SLIDE 40 Riverside Press helps Irishmen

SLIDE 41 Join the army or go mining?

In 1861 when the Civil War broke out, Andrew McGlinchey's younger brother James aged 19 joined the 29th Irish Regiment out of Boston; his McGirr and Doherty cousins joined the 9th Regiment.

Not Andrew who had learned of the greatest gold rush of the 1860s that led 25,000 prospectors north of the border. Not as great as the 49 rush in CA, nevertheless over \$1million in gold a year came out of this mining adventure.

SLIDE 42 Oregon Trail Missouri to Washington

SLIDE 43 Gold Rush in the West

Read the following memoir: The Experience of a Miner, Andrew McGlinchey

“In the Spring of the year 1864, the narrator started with a party of miners to go to the headwaters of the Kootnai or Great River in British Columbia. In the early part of March 1864, we started from the small town of Umatilla in the Columbia Range with provisions and tools enough to load 18 Indian ponies, which with our riding ponies made about 30 head of horses.

The first few days we traveled northeast and crossed the Columbia River at White Bluff Ferry. Next, we were to make for the Spokane River, but before we could reach it, we had to cross about 30 miles of partly desert country. We were in doubt of where to find a good camping place with water, so we hired an Indian to go out and put a flag on a spring, which he had described. This would guide us to it. But he either neglected to do as we asked, or we failed to see it.

At any rate we drove our heavily laden down pack horses until long after sundown. Then we had to make a dry camp for the night and tie our horses to the packs, lest they retrace their steps back to where we started. By this time our thirst was so great. All we could think of\or dream of was water.

Early the next morning we got up, loaded our horses, and rode off but we had traveled about two miles when one of our dogs that had been scratching around for water came back dripping wet. “Water,” we all shouted as we eagerly hurried on. Soon we found a small creek, called Cow Creek, where we quenched our thirst and our tired horses waded in up to their stomachs. There we camped for the rest of the day.

The next day we continued northeast early and at noon met a party of Spokane Indians, one of whom we hired to guide us beyond the Spokane River. Under the guidance of the Indian, we traveled on until the middle of the afternoon when we halted and camped for the day. Here the land was pretty, timbered

with pine trees, among which were a number of ponds surrounded by long rock walls. The ponds were frequented by wild ducks, so I took my shot gun to try my luck.

I had been out about two hours without killing any game and it started to rain. I decided to go back to camp but by some unexplainable reason I got turned round and traveled in an opposite direction for several miles, stopping every little while and shouting in hopes that some of my shouts would be heard by my friends in camp. Completely tired out, I looked for a suitable place to spend the night but as I had not taken a match to light a fire, I anticipated little comfort.

However, it occurred to me that I might possibly start a fire with the powder in my gun, so drawing the shot from my gun, I tore a piece of my cotton handkerchief and used it for a wad. Then I gathered some dry pine needles and fired my gun on the ground. Fortunately, it was burning quickly. I got down on my knees and by using my mouth as a bellows, I easily made a fire which was in time a big fire. I gathered some dry bark and this I laid on the ground in front of the fire; I lay my body round. I kept warm enough to get a few hours of sleep.

At daybreak, I gave up and climbed to the top of a lofty pine tree to get a view of the country. From that I located approximate landmarks that had been visible during our last day's journey. Toward this I took my course; every little distance I was shouting. After a mile or so I was answered by a shout from our Indian guide, who had been sent by my friends to find me.

He came galloping on his pony and saw me. He then reached into his bosom and pulled out a flat cake of bread which he offered me. Naturally, I did not like the pocket from which he pulled it and I declined. However I was glad to get behind him on the pony and in a short time was in camp with my friends. Next day we all arrived safely at the Spokane River in the vicinity of what is now Spokane City.”

SLIDE 44 Caribou Trail: British Columbia Gold Rush

SLIDE 45 Life in a Mining Camp

SLIDE 46 9 Athens Street, Cambridge
purchased with money from the gold rush in British Columbia

SLIDE 47 Ann Kelly marriage

SLIDE 48 Improvements in Cambridge Lifestyle in 1870s

SLIDE 49 Culture

SLIDE 50 1879 Mid-life crisis

SLIDE 51 West to Kansas by train

SLIDE 52 Kansas Map showing towns

SLIDE 53 How did I find the farm?

SLIDE 54 Township Map showing McGlinchey Farm

SLIDE 55 Homesteading in 1880s

SLIDE 56 Life in Eastern KAN photos

SLIDE 57 Wild West of Earp and Hickock

SLIDE 58 Eliza McGlinchey dies
After living three productive decades in America.

SLIDE 59 Andrew McGlinchey Bookbindery in Boston

SLIDE 60 St. Paul's Church, Cambridge, MA

Andrew and wife Ann Kelly McGlinchey helped establish St. Paul's Church. He taught Sunday School

SLIDE 61 McGlinchey Family Vacation

Cambridge was growing electric trolleys ran along Mass Ave to Boston. Boston had elected its first Irish mayor Hugh O'Brien in 1884. Even the Irish went on vacation to Revere, Hull and Nahant.

SLIDE 62 Education

SLIDE 63 Family and Education: Elizabeth McGlinchey

Death of Andrew at 58 Andrew died of a stroke in his spacious Athens St home.

His business partner balanced the company books and took control of the business, leaving nothing to McGlinchey's wife and children. The responsibility fell to James aged 24 to help. He became a father figure for three younger siblings. Elizabeth age 19, Joseph age 14, and Henry age 8.

SLIDE 64 Msgr. Joseph McGlinchey

Joseph received his Doctor of Divinity degree from the American College in Rome in 1907, returning to St. Paul's Cambridge as assistant pastor. James helped to fund his studies and his priesthood requirements for religious vestments. His worldwide missionary tours and books raised the income for the Propagation of the Faith from \$28,000 in 1911 to \$2 million in 1928. At his funeral Mass prelates from all over the country attended including Cardinal Spellman and of course Cardinal Cushing. Cushing said of Father Joseph: "I would not be here today as Archbishop of Boston if it were not for the fact that he started me on my way. If I have been able to do anything in charities, missions, and educational work, it was made possible originally by Monsignor McGlinchey."

SLIDE 65 St. Paul's Dedication 1923 and honor to Andrew and Ann Kelly McGlinchey who paid for the marble sculptural frieze of the Annunciation.

SLIDE 66 Fr. Harry McGlinchey, SJ

Died at the youthful age of 30, Yankee Xavier

a world away from Cambridge and the Inishowen. He is depicted as the Jesuit missionary on the wall painting to the right of the altar in the main church.

SLIDE 67 James McGlinchey

A man of character and self sacrifice, who educated two priests in his family

With his siblings finished with school, James was free to marry- He was nearly 40 years old!

SLIDE 68 Sarah Clarke

Fourth cousin of James McGlinchey. Sarah's mother was immigrant Bridget Doherty from the Isle of Doagh in the Inishowen. They had met summers at Revere's Crescent Beach.

She had worked for nearly a decade as a secretary typist before her marriage at age 33. She marched for women's suffrage.

SLIDE 69 McGlinchey Girls

Life at Athens St meant a decorated tree at Christmas and museum adventures.

For dance and music lessons, they had Harvard students boarding in the upstairs rooms to have additional income.

The parents emphasized education as the way to success, sending the girls to St. Paul's grammar school

and then Cambridge Latin, where they all graduated in the top two of their class.

When James died at 59 of a heart attack, he was dressed for 7:45 Mass. It was the height of the Depression; oldest daughters Genevieve and Grace were at Radcliffe and Anne was in 8th grade.

After the bravery and hard work of Eliza, Andrew and James, the girls, who were fourth generation of Irish heritage would have their own struggles for economic survival during the 1930s Depression years without a male mainstay before they experienced individual triumphs as Americans. Genevieve would shoulder the burden.

SLIDE 70 Genevieve McGlinchey Mathison (1911-2004)

Originally a Cantabridgian, Genevieve moved to Newport in 1951, when she was hired at the Navy Base as the first woman physicist whose position it was to test torpedoes and build an acoustic tank. Later she was Npt. Science Department Head, elected to the Newport School Committee for a decade, and worked with Friends of the Waterfront to keep the streets of Newport, the downtown wharves open to the public. She served as an officer of the AOH, Fifth Ward Improvement Association, Operation Clapboard, Catholic Daughters, Red Cross instructor, Engineering Society Young Women's Scholarships, Historic Hill, and helped to found Irish Heritage month and Christmas at Newport.

Thank you for your attention and I am open to questions.

SLIDE Ireland Map