

FIRST CATHOLIC CEMETERY.

HISTORICAL ACCOUNT OF THE TATNUCK CATHOLIC CEMETERY.

BY RICHARD O'FLYNN.

Soon after the Irish Catholics began to settle permanently in Worcester, the need of a cemetery of their own was felt. They were unable to procure a suitable location, and were obliged to take the only one that could be obtained—about one and a half acres—a short distance west of the junction of Pleasant and Highland streets, on the south side of the road leading to Tatnuck village. A more undesirable spot for such a purpose would be difficult to find; yet, such as it was, the poor pioneers were glad to get it.

The poet who wrote the following lines, descriptive of early New England burial grounds, must have seen or heard of the Catholic burial ground at Tatnuck:

The dreariest part of all the land,
To Death they set apart,
With scanty grace from Nature's hand,
And none at all from Art.

It was bought of Rejoice Newton, August 6, 1835, for the sum of \$75, being deeded to Rt. Rev. B. F. Fenwick, in trust for the Catholics of Worcester.

It was used as a burial-ground till the purchase of land from Hon. Eli Thayer in 1848, now known as St. John's cemetery, when its further use was discontinued, except by the descendants of the early settlers, who preferred to rest beside their own kindred.

At the time of purchase the knoll was covered with pine trees, which were cut down, except along the boundary line. Shrubs and flowers were planted beside many graves, thus relieving the desolate appearance of the place; but, as in the case of all abandoned cemeteries, the hand of time has changed all this, and a few only of the once numerous tombstones still survive, bearing well-known and familiar names.

The ground is now covered with briers and vines, capped by a thick undergrowth, the whole making an almost impenetrable mass.

The only evidence indicating in the least degree the better sentiment of the age we live in, is the tender tribute of affection and remembrance in the shape of memorial flowers placed by the G. A. Republic annually on the graves of departed comrades, seven being buried there.

The present generation owes, at least, a tribute of respect to those rugged and hardy pioneers who helped to pave the way before them ; braving the perils of the Atlantic in the dreaded and pestiferous packet-ships, which took weeks, and sometimes months, in a voyage to America ; landing in a strange land, no friends to greet them, no door open to them but that leading to the hardest toil ; enduring privations and hardships, and subjected to unreasonable prejudices against their race and creed.

Our distinguished fellow-citizen, Hon. George F. Hoar, has paid a fine tribute to the early Irish settlers of Worcester. Surely we should not forget nor be ungrateful to their memory, if in no other manner than by an occasional visit to their last resting-place in the old Tatnuck cemetery.

EPITAPHS.

Taken from stones and wood in Tatnuck cemetery in June and July, 1876, by Richard O'Flynn and his son, Thomas Francis.

In order to obtain as far as possible a correct *fac-simile* as they were found, the lines on the monuments are indicated by perpendicular lines.

BOUCHARD.

Demassa Bouchard, | mort Sept. 25, 1838, | aged 22 cins.
Reads thus on stone :

Demassa Bouchard,
Mort Sept. 15, 1838,
Aged 22 cins.

BURKE.

Edward Burke, | native of | the parish of Cashel, | County Tipperary, | Ireland, | died Sept. 7, 1848, | aged 34 years. | Michael, | died May 5, 1854, | aged 9 months. | Edward, | died Sept. 14, 1849, | aged 14 months. | Children of Edward and Margaret Burke. | May they rest in peace. Amen. |

BARRETT.

Barbary M., | Wife of | John Barrett, | died | Sept., 1847, | *Æ.* 30. | Hannah, *Æ.* 12½ | yrs. | Children of | J. & B. M. Barrett. | Wm. Callahan, | husband of their daughter, | died | May 24, 1852. | *Æ.* 23. |

(Marble.)

BRUNELLE.

Elizabeth J., | died March 20, 1854, | aged 4 mos. | Mary J., | died April 25, 1856, | aged 1 yr. 2 mos. 6 ds. | Children of Moses | and Josephine Brunelle. |

(Marble.)

BURNS.

William Burns, | died | Aug. 25, 1853, | aged 15 mos. |

(Marble.)

BILVAL.

Here lies | the mortal remains | of | John Bilval, | who died on the 29 Dec. | A. D. 1847, | aged 14 years | and 6 mos. | May he rest in peace.

BILVAL.

Here lies | the mortal remains | of | Mary Bilval, | who died | Nov. 26, A. D. 1845, | aged 6 mos. | May she rest in peace.

CARNEY.

I. H. S. Beloved by all, cut off in airy years,
Here lies lamented,
By unnumbered tears,
A child whose many virtues

Was beaming bright,
 Was made more welcome
 To a world of light,
 Affection bore, short time be shore,
 All medicine was in vain till God,
 Was pleased to send him, &
 Free him from that pane.

Simon Carney, | died Sept. 10, 1852, | aged | 4 yrs. 10 months
 and 4 days. | *Requiescanti in pace.* | Amen.

COMO.

Isaac Como, aged 6 yrs. 3 mos.

COMO.

Geral Como, age 1 year, 6 months.

(Both wooden crosses.)

COUTURE.

Lucia Warner, | Wife of | Julian Couture, | died April 23, 1856,
 | aged 21 years. | Also their son, | Julian A., | died April 14,
 1856, | aged 3 weeks. |

(Marble.)

CONDRON.

Jane Condron, | Wife of | James Corcoran, | died Dec. 10,
 1853, | aged 67 yrs. | Native of the parish of Lismifoy, | Co.
 of Roscommon, Ireland. |

COWN.

Hugh Cown, | died at Charlton, Aug. 5, 1847.

CAHILL.

Elizabeth Cahill, | Wife of | Michael Flahaval, | born in the
 | parish of Mothill, | County Waterford, Ireland, | died Dec. 10,
 1846, | aged 33 years. | May she rest in peace. |

(Marble.)

CASEY.

In memory of | John Casey, | of Dublin, Ireland, | oblat Feb.
 27, 1839, | aged 40 years. May he rest in peace. Amen. |

First Catholic Cemetery.

217

COTE.

Eusebe Cote, decede Le 5 Decembre, 1868, age de 39 ans et 6 mois.

(Marble.)

COLMAN.

Erected | to the memory of | Bridget | Wife of | John Colman, | who died | Feb. 27, 1852, | aged 32 yrs. & 5 mos. | Ellen, | his child, | died Jan. 23, 1851, | aged 4 mos. | May they rest in peace. Amen. |

COLEMAN.

I. H. S. Patrick Coleman, | died Jan. 1, 1846, | aged 32. | Michael Higgins, | died Jan. 1, 1846, | aged 52. | Both natives of Castletown Roche, | County Cork, Ireland. | The Lord have mercy on their souls. |

(Marble.)

CANNON.

Patrick Cannon, died August 12, 1851, A. D., | aged 4 yrs.

(Wooden cross.)

COURTNEY.

Morris Courtney, | died | Dec. 22, 1843, | aged 54 years, | also | Mary, his daughter, | died July 16, 1842, | aged 6 yrs. & 6 mos. | May they rest in peace. | Erected by his widow, | Mary Courtney. |

(Marble.)

CLARK.

In memory of | Thomas Clark, who departed | this life Dec. 22, Anno 1850. Rejoice in peace. |

(Marble.)

CALLAGAN.

James, | son of Mary and Bernard | Callagan, | died April 9, 1843, | aged 14 yrs. |

(Slate.)

CARTER.

Family of | Daniel Carter, | Larkin street, | East Worcester. |

DAILY.

Charles Daily, | died | August 14, 1842, | Æ. 35. | Ellen, | daughter of | Charles & Anne Daily, died Sept. 8, 1841. | Æ. 2 yrs. |

DARNEY.

Erected by Daniel Darney | in memory of his brother, | James Darney, | a native of Carrigaline, | Co. Cork, Ireland, | who died Feb. 7, 1854, | aged 49 years. | Also to | Daniel DeCoursey, | a native of Courseys country, | Co. Cork, Ireland, | who died Apl. 15, 1857, | aged 22 years. | May their souls rest in peace. | Amen. |

DUFFY.

Francis, | son of | Barney and Mary M. | Duffy, | died Jan. 3, 1850, | Æ. 1 yr. 9 mos. | 16 days. |

(Marble.)

DUGGAN.

Erected in memory of | Catherine | from the parish of Ahabobeg, | County Cork, Ireland, | who departed this life | Sept. 7, 1837 | aged 46 years. | Wife of Cornelius Duggan. | May she rest in peace. Amen.

DOODY.

In memory of | Lawrence, | son of Michael | and Catherine, Doody, | who died Dec. 12, 1843. | Æ. 3 yrs. |

DIVINY.

Thomas Diviny, | a native of | Kittachy, County Clare, | Ireland, | died Sept. 2, 1852, | aged 29 yrs. | May he rest in peace. Amen. |

FITZGERALD.

Catherine Fitzgerald, | died | April 11, 1856, | 33 | years.

FOGARTY.

Erected by John Fogarty | in memory of his son, | Thomas Fogarty, | who died Mar. 2, 1856, | Æt. 20 yrs. and 7 mos. | May his soul rest in peace. Amen.

FORESTER.

Nicholas Forester, | who died May the 25, 1840, | Æt. 32. |

FOGARTY.

Gloria in Excelsis deo. | Erected | by Jeremiah Fogarty | in
memory of his mother, | Mrs. Elizabeth Fogarty, | a native of |
the county of | Tipperary, Parish of | Loughmore, Ireland, | who
departed this life | November 7, 1839, | aged 48 years. | May
her soul rest in peace. Amen. |

(Marble.)

FOGARTY.

In memory of | Mrs. Mary Fogarty, | wife of John Fogarty. |
She was born | in Loughmore, Tipperary, | Ireland, | oblat Oct.
27, 1838, | Æt. 31. | May she rest in peace. Amen. |

(Slate.)

FLEMING.

In memory of | Abby Fleming, | Wife of | Michael Fleming,
| native of Killarney, Co. | Kerry, Ireland, | who departed this
life | August 2, 1849, | aged 33 years. | May she rest in peace.
Amen. |

Farewell, dear husband, cease to weep,
For I am only landed on that blessed shore,
Where I hope together we shall meet,
When the heavens shall vanish to waste and wane no more.

Farewell, dear children, dry your tears,
For I am only gone to that land of brightness,
Where I hope to meet you when Christ next appears,
Arrayed in His robes of righteousness.

John, son of the above, | born July 28, died Aug. 11, 1849.

GAFFEY.

Martin Gaffey, | son of | Michael and Winneword | Gaffey,
| died Oct. 17, 1849, | aged 1 yr. & 8 mos. |

HOLLAND.

Peter Holland, died Nov. 23, 1852, Æ. 45 years, | a native of
County | Roscommon, Ireland. | Erected by his wife, | Bridget
Holland. |

Proceedings.

HOGAN.

Judith Hogan, | Wife of | James Duggan, | died Mar. 28,
1845, | aged 33 years. | May she rest in peace. |

HOLLY.

Sacred to the memory of | Mrs. Eleanor Holly | of Selbridge, |
Kildare Co., Ireland, | who died Dec. 8, 1838, | aged 30 years.
| May she rest in peace. |

KILDEA.

Mary, | daughter of | Martin Kildea, | died July 7, 1853, | aged
1 year, 6 mos. | and 14 days. |

LOVELY.

Augustus Lovely, | died | June 1, 1846, | age 21 years. |

LAFLISH.

Mr. Hartwin Laflish, | died Dec. 28, 1844, | aged 57 years. |

LEYDEN.

Catherine, | Wife of | Peter Leyden, | died July 26, 1852, |
aged 25 years, | native of the County | Sligo, Ireland. | May her
soul rest in peace. Amen. |

Farewell, my husband
And child so dear,
I must be gone and leave
you here.
Soon may we hope
to meet again
In world of bliss where
Jesus reigns.
Suddenly seized by the
cold hand of death,
In a few hours she resigned
her breath.

Physicians attended and
tried their skill,
But all must submit
To the Lord's holy will.
May her departure
From worldly toils receive ap-
plause from Lord on high.
May her presence be wel-
come there and receive
Her soul into Thy care.

LEYDEN.

Timothy Leyden, | died Nov. 14, 1847, | aged 72 years. | Native of the County | of Sligo, Ireland. | May his soul rest in peace. | Amen. | Erected by Peter Leyden, | his son. |

H. LINCOLN.

(The above was cut by some sharp-pointed instrument on a smooth stone.)

MAPLE.

Mary Eddy, | daughter of | Francis Maple, | died Sept. 6, 1848, age 20 mos. |

MORWAY.

Abram Morway, | died April 19, 1846, | age 20 years & 3 mos.

MAGRAH.

Mary Magrah, age 13 mos.

MARTIN.

Samuel Martin, | died March 16, 1868, | aged 7 weeks. | May he rest in peace. Amen. |

MAGUIRE.

Here lies | the mortal remains | of | Rosanna, | wife of Michael Maguire, | both of Selbridge, | County Kildare, Ireland, | aged 4 years. | R. I. P.

MANGAN.

Timothy Mangan, | son of Patrick and Honora Mangan, | died July 15, 1850. | Age 24 yrs. | Native of the Parish of Killentrainor, | Ireland. |

MCTIERNAN.

Michael McTiernan | died Ag. 18, 1847, | aged 37 years. | Native of the Co. Leitrim, | Ireland, | also his daughter, | Rosanna, | died July 13, 1859, | aged 14 yrs. & 4 mos. | May their souls rest in peace. | Amen. |

A lovely youth, a blooming flower,
Cut down and withered within an hour.

Proceedings.

MCCABE.

Sacred to the memory of | Mrs. Anna McCabe, | who died
Nov. 18, 1845, | Æt. 38. |

MCWALTER.

James | McWalter, | died | July 7, 1849, | Æt. 33. | The Lord
have | mercy on his soul. |

MCCREAGH.

Elizabeth, daughter of James and Ann McCreagh, who died
Feb. 10, 1840. Aged 1 yr. 5 mos.

MCSHERA.

I. H. S. To the | memory | of Mary McShera, | died Nov. 17,
1857, | aged 13 years and 4 months, | daughter of | Patrick and
Catherine McShera. |

MCKOEN.

Here | lies | the | body of Jane McKoen, died Feb. 14, 1848,
| aged 30 years. May she rest in peace. | Amen. |

(Stone.)

MCCORMICK.

Erected to the memory of | Thomas McCormick of Cam-
bridge, Co. Kildare, | Ireland, who departed this life May 5,
1846, | age 21 yrs. *Requiescat in pace.* |

(Wood.)

NOON.

Here lies the remains of | Owen Noon, | born in the parish
Dunmoge | County Galway, Ireland, | died Oct. 4, 1847, | aged
26 years. | May he rest in peace. Amen. |

(Marble.)

O'CONNOR.

Hannah | and | Margaret. | Children of | Denis O'Conner. |

O'BRIEN.

(Fac-simile)

V^oN OF TH^oMES
O BRIEN

O'NEILL.

Mary Ellen O'Neill, | daughter of | Patrick and Esther |
O'Neill, | died Sept. 10, 1841, | aged 11 months. |

PLUNT.

George | Erastus Plunt, | born Jan'y 18, 1866, | died Aug. 15,
1866, | age 7 months. |

REDDING.

Patrick, | died Nov. 28, 1852, | Æt. 5 yrs. and 4 mos. | Mary,
died Oct. 31, 1853, Æt. 18 yrs. and 8 mos. Children of Peter
and Mary | Redding. | Native of parish of Cloney, Co. | Clare,
Ireland. | May they rest in peace. | Amen. | Peter Redding, | died
June 1, 1855, | Æt. 47. |

RIVERS.

Andrew, son of | Andrew and Victoria | Rivers, | died Sept.
13, 1850. | aged 1 year & 1 mo. |

RIVVER.

Andrew Rivver, | died | July 13, 1856, | aged 31 years. |

RYAN.

To the memory of | James Ryan, who | died Sept. 1, 1849,
age 36 years. | Native of the Parish of | Carlingford, Co. Louth,
Ireland. |

ROACH.

In memory of | Will^m Roach, | died Oct. 12, 1844. Age 13
months. |

RAWDON.

Here lies the body of Mary Rawdon, Wife of | John Rawdon,
late of Strokestown, | County Roscommon, Ireland, | died | May
| 1, 1850, | aged 33 yrs. | May she rest | in peace. Amen. |

RICE.

In memory of | Owen Rice, son & daughter | Ravendales,
Dulargy Co., Louth. |

SANITINGES.

Honora, | Wife of | Saintingo, | died Aug. 2, 1842, | age 23
years. | May she rest in peace. Amen. | Rich, | son of them, |
died Aug. 16, 1842. | Age 10 months. |

Proceedings.

SHEEHAN.

This stone was erected | in memory of | Daniel Sheehan, | a
native of the parish of Killeth, | Co. Cork, Ireland, | who died
July 10, 1844, | aged 45 years. |

May his departure from worldly toils,
Receive applause from the Lord on high.
May his presence be welcome there,
It is the prayer of his bereaved spouse,

ELLEN SHEEHAN.

SHEEHAN.

Ellen, | Wife of | Daniel Sheehan, | died June 25, 1851, | in
her 42 year. | Also | Daniel, | son of Daniel and Ellen | Shee-
han, died April 4, 1867, | in his 23 year. | "Blessed are the dead
who die in the Lord." |

SHEEHAN.

Patrick, | son of Daniel | & Ellen Sheehan, | died March 9,
1842, | age 2 years and | 11 months. |

SULLIVAN.

To the | memory | of | Peter Sullivan, died Feb. 23, 1850, age
13 yrs. 9 mos. |

Weep not for me the bitter tear,
(indistinguishable) here to vain regret,
It is not the casket that lies here,
The gem that filled it sparkles yet.

SPOONER.

Erected to the memory of | Margaret Spooner, | who died
Apl. 6, 1856, | aged 80 years, | also her son | Thomas, | who died
May 31, 1844, | aged 46 years. | The Lord have mercy on their
souls. |

TWO MAY.

Michael, son of Jeremiah | and Johanna Twomay, | born Oct.
9, 1864, | died July 9, 1865. |

THREW.

Franz | Threw, | Born Apl. 2, '59, | died Apl 16, '63. |

THREW.

Amelia | Threw, | born Sept. 7, '60. | Died Apl. 1, '62. |

TWOOMEY.

Michael Twoomey, | native of | Killeagh, Co. Cork, | Ireland,
died Nov. 30, 1847, | aged 40 years. | Ellen Forest | his wife |
died Nov. 19, 1847, | aged 34 years. | May their souls rest in
peace. Amen. | Erected by their children, Edmund &
William. |

TRAYNOR.

Here lies | the mortal remains | of | Jno. Traynor, | son of
James and Bridget Traynor | Parish of Sutton, County Meath,
Ireland. |

TOLE.

(Should be O'Toole.)

Patrick Tole | died | Apl. 23, 1861, | aged 66 yrs.
(Wood.)

VALADE.

Eugene Valede | decede | Le 9 d'aout, 1867. | Age de 4 mos.
et 9 jours. |

WOOD.

Mary, | wife of Michael Woods, | died Nov. 9, 1854, | aged 38
years. | Native of Omealth, parish of | Carlingford, | Co. Louth,
Ireland. | John, died June 11, 1849, | aged 18 yrs. May they
rest in peace. Amen.

The remains of John Devanny were the first interred in the cemetery. He was killed by the premature explosion of a seam blast in the deep cut called "Ellis's Ledge," a little east of the Union depot, when the B. & A. road was being built. He and three others were working in a gang. He was tamping with an iron instrument, hence the explosion. His body was hurled a great distance and fell, mangled and torn, in the fork of an adjoining tree. He was a native of the County Tipperary, Ireland.

It is a curious coincidence. The first burial in the old cemetery on the Common was the remains of a man who was accidentally killed by the discharge of his own gun.