

The Reardon Family of Cork County Ireland

Posted 11 Aug 2020 by Mike Rastatter

- The clan of O'Riordan originated in County Tipperary, Ireland, but our ancestors migrated to County Limerick early in the last millennium, and later, to County Cork. The 'O' meant a 'descendant of'. It is a medieval name of Irish origin; one of its most common alternate spellings is "Reardon". Earlier forms of the name meant Royal Bard (or poet), one that recited stories and tales from a particular oral tradition. In Irish history, poets were very highly regarded in any royal household; they acted as scholars, historians and advisors to the king.

Our family's Reardon ancestors have been traced back as far as **John Riordan** and **Ellen Russell** who were married in County Limerick, Munster, Ireland about 1787. Their son Patrick Riordan was born in Raheenagh, County Limerick, Ireland in March 1788. Raheenagh is a small village in the civil parish of Killeedy. Patrick was baptized on March 29, 1788 in Monagea Roman Catholic Parish, County Limerick.

This **Patrick Riordan**, son of John and Ellen, married **Catherine McCarthy** (1790-1870) in September 1812 in Cobh, County Cork, Munster, Ireland. Patrick died in Cork County, Ireland in the 1860s. Wife Catherine died at Millstreet Parish, Drishane, Muskerry West, Cork County on September 28, 1870. Patrick and Catherine had a son, Patrick Riordan who was born on March 18, 1803 at Donoughmore, Muskerry East, County Cork, Ireland.

This **Patrick Riordan Jr.** married **Elizabeth "Eliza" Hennessy** about 1816. Elizabeth was the daughter of John Hennessy (1784-1833) and Elizabeth Quinn (born in 1781). She was born at Corkbeg, Imokilly, County Cork, Ireland in June 1804 and was baptized at St. Paul's Church, Aghada, Imokilly, County Cork, Munster, Ireland on June 20th.

The family of Patrick and Elizabeth lived in the village of Fornaught, Donoughmore, Muskerry East, County Cork, Ireland, where all of their children were born. Like many disenfranchised native Irish families, the Riordan's lived on land owned by British lords. The family of Patrick Riordan lived on a property that was owned by Lieutenant George Washington Brasier-Creagh, Esquire (1797-1876), a Royal Navy Officer and local Magistrate.

Patrick and Eliza's known children included:

Ellen Riordan was born at Fornaught, Cork County, Ireland in May 1817 and baptized there in the Catholic Parish of Donoughmore on May 30, 1817. She may have died there in 1897.

Michael Riordan was born at Fornaught in December 1818 and was baptized on December 31, 1818.

Jeremiah Riordan was also born at Fornaught in in September 1823 and was baptized on September 21, 1823.

Thomas Riordan was also born at Fornaught in September 1823 and was baptized there in the Catholic Parish of Donoughmore on September 9, 1823. He may have later migrated to, and died in, Merthyr Tydfil, Glamorgan, Wales.

John Riordan (later Reardon), who we descend from, was born in December 1825 at Fornaught, Donoughmore, Muskerry East, in County Cork, and was baptized at a Catholic Church in Donoughmore on December 15, 1825; he died in Wales on April 17, 1899. John married **Margaret Green** (1839-1907), the daughter of Edmund Greene (1814-1856) and Bridget Mannix (1825-1896), on February 15, 1854 at Donoughmore Catholic Parish in Cork County. By 1858, John and wife Margaret had migrated to England where their children were born. They are both buried at the CEFN Cemetery in Merthyr Tydfil, Glamorgan, Wales.

Catherine Riordan was born at Fornaught in January 1827 and was baptized there in the Catholic Parish of Donoughmore on January 20, 1827.

Elizabeth Riordan was born at Fornaught in December 1829 and was baptized there in the Catholic Parish of Donoughmore on December 23, 1829.

Patrick Riordan was born at Fornaught in April 1832 and was baptized there in the Catholic Parish of Donoughmore on April 8, 1832.

Thomas Riordan was born at Fornaught in April 1834 and was baptized there in the Catholic Parish of Donoughmore on April 26, 1834.

Honora Riordan was born at Fornaught in November 1837 and was baptized there in the Catholic Parish of Donoughmore on November 15, 1837.

Eugene Riordan was born at Fornaught in July 1839 and was baptized there in the Catholic Parish of Donoughmore on August 1, 1839. His baptismal record notes the family's residence as Fornaught, County Cork, Ireland.

John Reardon (1825-1899) and Margaret Green (1833-1907)

Our ancestor **John Reardon** was born in December 1825 at Fornaught, County Cork, Ireland, Ireland to Patrick Riordan (1803-1861) and Elizabeth Hennessy (born in 1804). He died of Bronchial Pneumonia on April 17, 1899 in Glamorgan, Wales. He was laid to rest at the CEFN Cemetery in Merthyr Tydfil, Glamorgan, Wales on April 21, 1899.

On February 15, 1854 at Dunmanway, East Carbery, County Cork, John married **Margaret Green** who was born on March 3, 1839 in Doneraile, Cork County to Edmund Greene (1814-1858) and Bridget Mannix (1825-1896). Margaret died of Bronchial Pneumonia at her home in Merthyr Tydfil, Glamorgan, Wales on November 10, 1907. Like husband John, Margaret was buried at the CEFN Cemetery in Merthyr Tydfil, Glamorgan, Wales. Both graves are unmarked.

John and Margaret probably left Cork County for England between 1854-1858. Records in Wales list John's occupation as an Excavator. In England in the 1800s, these kinds of workers were known as "Navvies". From the word Navigator, it was a derogatory term that was used to describe those who were employed in the construction of roads, bridges and the widening of canals so that goods could be transported more efficiently. Since many who fled the Irish Potato famine ended up in such jobs, the laborers soon became known as "Irish Navvies", even though most were not of Irish decent.

John and Margaret must have moved around a lot, as eldest son Patrick was born in Guernsey in the Channel Islands about 1859, daughter Mary Ann in Plymouth, Devon in 1860 and son Michael in London in 1870.

In late 1870, or early 1871, John was hurt while working and the family moved to Merthyr Tydfil, Glamorgan, Wales where he and Margaret resided until their deaths. They lived among many other Irish immigrants and attended St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church where five of their children were baptized.

Sons Patrick and Michael were both Coalminers and, like many youngsters of the time, began working in the coal mines that dotted the area when they were just ten to twelve years old.

1871 Census; Cardiff Union Workhouse, Glamorgan, Wales, April 2, 1871: Listed is married pauper Margaret (Green) Reardon age 35 born in Cork County, Ireland, son Patrick Reardon age 12 (1859-1887) born in Guernsey, Channel Islands, daughter Mary Ann Reardon age 9 (1860-1923) was born in Plymouth, Devon, England and son Michael Reardon age six months born on February 2, 1870 in Deptford, Lewisham, London, England.

The Cardiff Poor Law Union, later called the Cardiff Union Workhouse, was formed on September 13, 1836. The workhouse building, now known as Model House, is the only structure that still exists on the property, and is occupied by a library, craft and design center. Since Margaret's husband John is not listed here in this census, it is believed that he was still recovering from a work-related accident near London.

1881 Census; 11 Court Street, Merthyr Tydfil, Glamorgan, Wales: Listed are General Laborer John Reardon age 56, wife Margaret Reardon age 48, son Michael Reardon age 12 born in Deptford, Surrey, England (Southeast London),

Julia age 6, Ellen age 4 and Joseph age 1. Julia, Ellen and Joseph were all born in Merthyr Tydfil, Glamorgan, Wales.

1891 Census; 20 Upper Taff Street, Hamlet of Heolwermwd, Merthyr Tydfil, Glamorgan, Wales. Listed are John Reardon age 60 born in Ireland, Laborer at an Iron Works (probably the Dowlais Ironworks, the world's largest steel mill at the time). Also listed are wife Margaret Reardon age 50 born in Ireland, son and Coal Miner Michael Reardon age 20 born in London and daughter Nellie (aka Ellen) Reardon age 14 born in Merthyr Tydfil, Glamorgan, Wales. Also listed is Widow and Mother-in-Law Bridget Murphy, age 64, born in Ireland. It is likely that this Bridget is the mother of Margaret Green, wife of John. Bridget's first husband, was Edmund Greene. She married Patrick Murphy (1823-1876) in Merthyr Tydfil in January 1856.

63-year-old John Reardon died of Bronchial Pneumonia at his home at 21 Upper Taff Street on April 17, 1899. His occupation at the time of his death is noted as a General Laborer. Services were held at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church in Merthyr Tydfil on April 21, 1899; he was laid to rest at CEFN Cemetery in Merthyr Tydfil, Glamorgan, Wales. The grave is unmarked.

1901 Census; 20 Upper Taff Street, Hamlet of Heolwermwd, Merthyr Tydfil, Glamorgan, Wales. Listed are Widow Margaret Reardon age 50 born in Ireland and Daughter Ellen "Nellie" McNamara age 22 born in Merthyr Tydfil, Glamorgan, Wales. Though Ellen is noted as being married, her husband is not listed. Margaret's son Michael Reardon and his family were living next door at 21 Upper Taff Street.

Margaret Green-Reardon died of Bronchial Pneumonia at her home on Upper Taff Street on November 10, 1907. Services were held on November 14, 1907 at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church; she was laid to rest at the CEFN Cemetery in Merthyr Tydfil, Glamorgan, Wales. Like her husband John, the grave is unmarked.

John and Margaret's children included:

Patrick Reardon was born about 1859 in the Bailiwick of Guernsey in the Channel Islands (though most later records state that he was born in Cork County, Ireland). Patrick married **Elizabeth Ferguson** on June 6, 1881 at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church in Merthyr Tydfil, Glamorgan, Wales. Their children included Margaret "Ma" Reardon (1882-1966) and Elizabeth Helen "Bess" Reardon (1888-1975). Patrick and Elizabeth migrated to the United States in about 1885; daughter Margaret followed in January 1890. Patrick died in Cleveland, Ohio of "over heating" on July 28, 1887 and is buried at St. Joseph's-Woodland Cemetery in Cleveland, Ohio; the grave is unmarked. Three years later, Wife Elizabeth married Lawrence Thornton.

Mary Ann “Raredon” was born on November 5, 1860 at the family residence at 101 Kings Street West, St. Andrew, Plymouth, Devon, England. She died in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on April 14, 1923. Mary Ann married **Andrew J. O’Neil** (1859-1941) on May 11, 1879 at St. Mary’s Roman Catholic Church in Merthyr Tydfil. Mary Ann and her three oldest children immigrated to the US and arrived at the port of New York on January 20, 1886 from Liverpool. Mary Ann and Andrew’s children included John (1879-1952), Dennis (1882-1955), Mary Ann (1884-1928), Patrick (1888-1953), Michael (1890-1960), Margaret (1890-1962), Julia (1892-1974), Catherine (1895-1953), Agnes (1898-1958), Andrew (1900-1903), Nora (1901-1978) and Cecelia (1904-1979). Many of their descendants still live in the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania area. Mary, husband Andrew, and many of their children, are buried at Calvary Cemetery, Homestead, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania.

Michael Joseph Reardon was born on February 2, 1870 in Deptford, Lewisham, London, England. He died suddenly on October 15, 1937 at Huron Road Hospital in East Cleveland, Cuyahoga County, Ohio. “Uncle Mike” married **Margaret Corcoran** on February 29, 1892 at St. Illtyd’s Roman Catholic Church in Dowlais, Merthyr Tydfil, Glamorgan, Wales. Margaret was born about 1872 in Merthyr Tydfil and died of Peritonitis on January 15, 1902 at her residence at 21 Upper Taff Street, Caedraw, Lower Merthyr Tydfil. Their children included John Joseph “Jack” Reardon (1892–1950), Patrick Bernard (1894-1965), Michael (1895-1916) who was killed in action World War I in France, Margaret (1897-1935), Catherine May Reardon-Allen (1899-1942) and Jeremiah “Jerry” Reardon (1901–1979). Coal Miner Michael and son Jeremiah arrived at Ellis Island New York on January 30, 1922. By the time of the 1930 Census they were living in Cleveland, Ohio with Michael’s sister Ellen “Nellie” Reardon-McNamara. Michael’s son Patrick Bernard remained in Wales. Michael’s other children, John, Margaret and Catherine migrated to the United States during the 1920s and lived in Cleveland also. Many of Michael and Margaret’s descendants still live in the Cleveland area, another leg of the family moved to Phoenix, Arizona in the early 1950s.

Joseph Reardon was born in July 1872 in Lower Merthyr Tydfil, Glamorgan, Wales and was baptized at St. Mary’s Roman Catholic Church in Merthyr Tydfil on July 20, 1872. He died of Meningitis at his home at 7 Taff Street in Lower Merthyr Tydfil on June 17, 1876 and was laid to rest at CEFN Cemetery in Merthyr Tydfil, Glamorgan, Wales.

Julia Ann Reardon was born on October 1, 1874 at 14 Vaughan Street, Lower Merthyr Tydfil, Glamorgan, Wales and was baptized at St. Mary’s Roman Catholic Church in Merthyr Tydfil on October 24, 1874. She arrived in Boston from Liverpool aboard the SS Roman with eight-year-old Niece Margaret “Ma” Reardon (daughter of Patrick Reardon and Elizabeth Ferguson) on April 24, 1890. On October 19, 1897, Julia married **Michael P. Caulfield** (1867-1920); they lived in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Michael died in November 1911 and Julia passed away died on July 27, 1954. She is buried at Calvary Cemetery,

Homestead, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. Julia and Michael's only child was Catherine M. Caulfield (1899-1988) who married Joseph Pergola (1899-1975). Julia, Michael and Catherine are all buried at Calvary Cemetery in Homestead, Pennsylvania.

Ellen "Nellie" Reardon was born on July 1, 1877 at the family residence at 7 Upper Taff Street, Lower Merthyr Tydfil, Glamorgan, Wales. While living in Wales, Ellen may have married **Nicholas McNamara**, but no marriage record has been found; Nicholas died between 1905-1911. They had a son; Nicholas M. McNamara (1904-1944). Ellen and son Nicholas immigrated to the United States in about 1912-1914 and settled in Cleveland, Ohio. She died in Cleveland on August 27, 1954. Nellie and son Nicholas are buried at Calvary Cemetery in Cleveland.

Joseph Reardon was born on February 8, 1880 at the family residence at 11 Upper Taff Street, Merthyr Tydfil, Glamorgan, Wales. Joseph was baptized at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church in Merthyr Tydfil on October 3, 1880 and died at home of Bronchitis on June 14, 1881. He was laid to rest at CEFN Cemetery in Merthyr Tydfil, Glamorgan, Wales.

The Family of Patrick Reardon (1858-1887) and Elizabeth Ferguson (1858-1947)

On June 6, 1881, Coal Miner Patrick Reardon (1859-1887) married "Spinster" Elizabeth Ferguson (1858-1947) at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church in Merthyr Tydfil, Glamorgan, Wales. Their ages are both listed as 21 years old; Patrick could not read or write and signed the marriage certificate with his mark (x). At the time of their marriage they were living on 20 Upper Taff Street in Merthyr Tydfil, the home of Elizabeth's mother Ellen Cullinane-Ferguson (1828-1896).

On December 15, 1882 daughter Margaret "Ma" Reardon was born at her home at 24 Commercial Street, Blaenllechau, Ystradyfodwg, Pontypridd, Glamorgan, Wales and was baptized at nearby St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church on January 14, 1883.

In about 1885, Patrick Reardon and wife Elizabeth left Wales for the United States. It is believed that they left their daughter Margaret in the care of relatives (probably her Grand Parents John and Margaret Reardon). We do not know exactly when Patrick and Elizabeth left Wales, or where they arrived, but they made their way immediately to Cleveland, Ohio where they lived and worked alongside other Irish immigrants on Cleveland's near East Side.

In 1886 the family was living at 3046 Superior Avenue. The following year they had moved to 5902 Prosser Avenue near East 60th and Superior Avenue in Cleveland. More than likely the family attended the Immaculate Conception Church at 4129 Superior Avenue.

27-year-old Patrick died of "over heating" on July 28, 1887 in Cleveland, Ohio. He was buried at St. Joseph's Cemetery on Woodland Avenue on July 30, 1887. Wife Elizabeth was pregnant at the time of Patrick's death. Patrick and Elizabeth's second daughter, Elizabeth Helen "Bess" Reardon, was born the following year on March 3, 1888 in Cleveland.

Patrick Reardon and Elizabeth Ferguson had two children:

Margaret "Ma" Reardon was born on December 15, 1882 at 24 Commercial Street, Blaenllechau, Ystradyfodwg, Pontypridd, Glamorgan, Wales and was baptized at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church in Merthyr Tydfil, Wales on January 14, 1883. She died on July 20, 1966 in Cleveland, Ohio of Arteriosclerotic Heart disease and was buried on July 23, 1966. Ma married her step-brother **John William "Pa" Thornton** on May 14, 1900 at St. Thomas Church in Cleveland, Ohio. Pa was the son of Lawrence Thornton (1839-1921) and Mary Reid (1842-1884). Pa was born on May 8, 1871 in Cleveland and died of Colon Cancer on December 28, 1955 in Cleveland. Both are buried at Calvary Cemetery in Cleveland.

Elizabeth Helen "Bess" Reardon was born on March 3, 1888 in Cleveland. She married **John J. Butterfield** on February 3, 1917 in Cleveland. Between 1923-1926 the family moved to Martin County, Florida. Husband John died there in May 1930 and Bess died in Stuart, Martin County, Florida on August 14, 1975. She is buried at Fern Hill Cemetery in Stuart, Martin County, Florida.

The Cleveland City Directory of July 1888-July 1889 lists widow Elizabeth Ferguson-Reardon living at 124 Dana Avenue (present address is 1161 East 61st Street).

Eight-year-old daughter Margaret Reardon arrived in Boston from Liverpool aboard the SS Roman with her Aunt Julia A. Reardon (daughter of John Reardon and Margaret Green) on April 24, 1890. They made their way to Cleveland where Margaret joined her Mother Elizabeth. Julia moved to Pittsburgh where her older sister Mary Ann Reardon-O'Neil and her family lived.

In June of 1890, widow Elizabeth Ferguson-Reardon apparently bore another daughter named Jennifer who died in Cleveland in 1902. Elizabeth married her second husband Lawrence Thornton on July 22, 1890 in Cleveland, Ohio.