

McGrath Ancestry, County Clare, Ireland

I have found fairly definitive evidence that our great-great grandfather, Martin McGrath (1801-1896), lived in County Clare.

Martin emigrated to America on June 21, 1867 on the *SS Nebraska*. With him on the ship were his daughter, Catherine McGrath Moroney, son-in-law Patrick, their four children, and Margaret McGrath. The passenger manifest lists Margaret as a spinster, same age as Martin, but she may have been his wife.

Catherine McGrath married Patrick Maroney in Kilmacduane parish, County Clare on January 26, 1863. The marriage record lists Dromelihiy, County Clare as their residence. According to Catherine's obituary (*Kansas Westmoreland Recorder* newspaper, 1913), she was born December 25, 1832 in County Clare. The obituary credits Catherine with "giving the better part of her life to the care of her aged father and mother."

Two of the McGrath-Moroney children were baptized in County Clare. Michael Maroney was baptized in Kilmacduane on Nov. 2, 1863. Bridget Moroney was baptized in Kilmacduane on Oct. 14, 1865.

The Clare Library site, in its *List of Freeholders [including landlords and tenants]: County of Clare, 1821* document, has a Martin McGrath listed multiple times in the Rhynagunnoght townland of the Ibrickane barony (6.4 kilometers from Dromelihiy).

An Ancestry.com message board posted by Rev. John McNearney identifies a Martin McGrath as a baptismal sponsor for Catherine Nihill on 23 February 1838 in Kilkee, County Clare. The other sponsor was Bridget O'Keeffe. The O'Keeffe and McGrath families later lived in close proximity in the 1870s in Bloomington, Illinois and Wheaton, Kansas.

In 1865, Catherine Nihill married Michael Bennett in Bloomington, Illinois. The marriage record lists M. McGrath as a witness to the marriage. That is likely our great-grandfather, Michael McGrath. In the 1870s, the two Michaels homesteaded parts of the same section of land in Wheaton, Kansas.

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The Clare Library site has an eviction notice for a Martin McGrath in the *Reports and Returns Relating to Evictions in the Kilrush Union (1847-1849)* document. The document lists evictions and house levelings on Aug 9, 1848 in Dromelihiy.

The 1855 Griffith's Valuation has a record (number 45) for Martin McGrath in the townland of Killard. Killard is 4.9 kilometers from Rhynagunnoght and 9.2 kilometers from Dromelihiy.

The 1855 Griffith's Valuation has a record (number 9i) for a Margaret McGrath in the townland of Doonbeg, which adjoins Killard. The valuation lists many other McGraths in the townland.

The 1870 US census lists Martin McGrath living in Lexington, Illinois with the Moroneys; Margaret McGrath; Michael McGrath; John McGrath (relationship to Martin unknown); and Margaret Moroney, Patrick's sister.

In the early 1870s, the McGraths and Moroneys traveled to Wheaton, Kansas where they homesteaded farmland.

As noted previously, a Bloomington, Illinois and Wheaton, Kansas connection exists between the McGraths and the family of Arthur O'Keeffe, who emigrated to America in 1869 from Dromelihiy. Arthur's son Michael and Michael McGrath both married in Holy Trinity Church in Bloomington, in 1871 and 1872, respectively. Both in the 1870s homesteaded parts of the same section of land in Wheaton, Kansas.

A similar connection exists between the McGraths and the family of Edmund Costello, who lived in Killimer, County Clare. Edmund lived in Bloomington, Illinois in 1870 (his son and daughter were witnesses to the Michael McGrath marriage). Edmund and Michael McGrath in the 1870s homesteaded parts of the same section of land in Wheaton, Kansas. Edmund's wife, Johannah, was a sister of Arthur and Bridget O'Keeffe.

Many of the aforementioned McGraths, O'Keeffes, Bennetts and Costellos are buried in the same or nearby cemeteries in Wheaton.

Sources:

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SS Nebraska Passenger Manifest

http://www.immigrantships.net/v12/1800v12/nebraska18670621_03.html

McGrath-Moroney Marriage Record

<http://registers.nli.ie/registers/vtls000634693#page/43/mode/1up>

Catherine McGrath Moroney Obituary, Westmoreland Recorder Jan 9, 1912:

https://www.newspapers.com/clip/7809964/catharine_mcgrath_moroney_catherine/

Michael Moroney Baptismal Record:

Catholic Parish Registers, National Library of Ireland. Published under the National Library of Ireland's Terms of Use of Material made available on registers.nli.ie.

Bridget Moroney Baptismal Record:

https://familysearch.org/search/record/results?count=20&query=%2Bgivenname%3Abridget~%20%2Bsurname%3Amoroney~%20%2Bbirth_place%3A%22craggacknock%20ireland%22~%20%2Bbirth_year%3A1864-1866~%20%2Bfather_givenname%3Apatrick~%20%2Bmother_givenname%3Acatherine~

Ancestry.com Message Board:

<https://www.ancestry.com/boards/localities.britisles.ireland.cla.general/637/mb.ashx>

1870 US Census

Year: 1870; Census Place: *Lexington, McLean, Illinois*; Roll: M593_259;
Page: 482A; Image: 61305

Michael McGrath, Michael O'Keeffe Marriage Records

Ancestry.com. *Illinois, Marriage Index, 1860-1920* [database on-line]

McGrath, O'Keeffe, Costello Bennett Homestead Records:

https://glorerecords.blm.gov/results/default.aspx?searchCriteria=type=patent|st=KS|cty=149|twp_nr=006|twp_dir=S|rng_nr=010|rng_dir=E|sec=8|sp=true|sw=true|sadv=false

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Clare Library Site:

<http://www.clarelibrary.ie/eolas/coclare/genealogy/genealog.htm>

List of Freeholders [including landlords and tenants]: County of Clare, 1821:

http://www.clarelibrary.ie/eolas/coclare/genealogy/freeholders_1821/ibrickane_townland3.htm

Martin McGrath Eviction Record Aug 9, 1848 Lands of Dromelihiy

http://www.clarelibrary.ie/eolas/coclare/history/kr_evictions/kr_evictions_enclosure21.htm

Griffith's Valuation Site:

<http://www.askaboutireland.ie/griffith-valuation/index.xml?action=doNameSearch&Submit.x=13&Submit.y=6&Submit=Submit&familyname=mcgrath&firstname=martin&baronynome=IBRICKAN+%28PART+OF%29&countynome=CLARE&unionname=&parishname=>