

EARLY IRISH IN
OLD ALBANY, N. Y.

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HON. FRANKLIN M. DANAHER.

EARLY IRISH

IN

OLD ALBANY, N. Y.,

WITH SPECIAL MENTION OF JAN ANDRIESEN, "DE
IERSMAN VAN DUBLINGH."

BY

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A BRIEF INTRODUCTORY.

WE assert that each and every member of the American-Irish Historical Society assumes an obligation with his membership to do his share towards carrying out one of the objects of the Society, namely: To examine records wherever found, concerning the Irish in America; to investigate specially the immigration of the people of Ireland to this country; to endeavor to correct erroneous, distorted, and false views of history in relation to the Irish race in America, to the end that Irishmen may receive due recognition from chroniclers of American history, for their important, but little appreciated and less understood, labors in the upbuilding of this great republic.

That desired work can only be accomplished by the local historian, who, with patience, will garner for preservation in the archives of our Society, from the official and church records of his locality and from well-authenticated tradition all there is concerning the Irishmen who first settled in the place about which he writes, so that the future historian, writing of the Irish people as of the founders of this nation dedicated to liberty and religious freedom, may do them full justice, and exhibit to the gaze of the doubting the value that their manhood, strength and sturdy character gave to all that is good and great in our beloved country.

It is a human tendency to extol the great men amongst us, so as to share in their glory, and to that extent, at

least, feed our proper nationalistic pride. But their exploitation should not make us forget the humble men of brawn who came to America from Ireland, who faced and overcame dangers, who amid privation and with toil cut down the primeval forest, tilled the virgin soil and built our public works; who reared their families with inculcated love of God and country and whose bones lie in many a churchyard, unknown to fame and whose records are but the "short and simple annals of the poor."

It is amongst these that the true grandeur of the influence of the Irish people in the rise and progress of this nation can be found, and where we can do our greatest good work for the cause in which we are enlisted. It was with this in view and with intent, in my limited way, to make good my obligation, that I made search for Irishmen and Irish influences among the Dutch who settled in the town of Beverwyck, beginning in 1621, and its successor, the city of Albany, N. Y., to about the year 1813. That the results may add something to the general knowledge of the great debt which this country owes its early Irish settlers is the excuse for my self-imposed task.

EARLY IRISH IN OLD ALBANY, N. Y.

ONE would scarcely expect to find Irishmen among the Dutch who settled along the upper Hudson in New York in the seventeenth century. Distance, the dangers of the sea, the cost of travel, differences in language and in religion, and racial and trade disputes and jealousies with the English in the adjoining New England colonies who coveted both the land and the valuable trade with the Indians, and Dutch exclusiveness, would be a sufficient statement of the reasons why they would find life there a strenuous proposition, and hardly worth living, even if driven by fate they found themselves on those inhospitable shores. Few Irish names appear in Albany's early records, or if they do they are not recognizable as such, especially if the bearers of the same are not specially designated as Irish.

The Dutch scribes who kept the official records were not at their best good spellers, and their orthography made sad havoc with good Celtic names. Who would recognize McManus under the Dutch form of Meemanus, or Donovan as Donnowa, Mahoney as Mohennie, or Oyje Oyens as Owen Owens, or Finn as Fine or Fyne, or Anderson as Andriessen, or Dunbar as Tumber and Ten Baar, Lynch as Lentz, and Hogan as Hogen, Hoogen, Logen, Hoghing, Hoghill, Hogh and Hog, and Jones as T. Sans, T. Jans and Shawns?

The first Irishman in Albany of whom we have any

official record is John Anderson of Dublin, designated on the records as "Jan Andriessen de Iersman van Dublingh." Irishmen in those days, except as "Wild Geese," or as slaves deported by the English to their colonies, were not travelers, neither were they colonists or colonizers, and to find one of them in the Dutch town of Beverwyck in the colony of Rensselaerswyck in New Netherlands in America, so distant from his native shores, among a people alien in race, language and religion, and withal evidently beloved by the burghers thereof, a landlord and a landowner and a man of substance, is a curious fact, worth being brought to the attention of the American-Irish Historical Society two hundred and fifty years later.

The early official records of Albany county, now on file in the Albany county clerk's office in the city of Albany, are unique. The first volume of Deeds (so called) contains, after the manner of the Dutch of those days, in addition to the real estate transfers, the record of all things happening in which the public was or should be interested. A worthy burgher, who desired to sell his horse or farm, or the administrator of an estate, who wished to sell the assets of the deceased, gave notice of his intent, with a description of the property and the terms upon which it would be sold, and the same would be transcribed in the public records; lawsuits, criminal prosecution, bonds, obligations, leases, bills of sale, the thousand and one transactions of colonial life, there appear, showing varying phases of human nature and the same old strifes which now agitate us, proving that our forefathers were very much like unto us, and consequently in that respect, at least, the world has not moved much in two hundred and fifty years.

These records are originals, according to the custom of the Dutch, whose statutes were based on the Roman Civil Law, and bear the autograph signatures, or rather, in most instances, the "marks" of the parties thereto, including many curious Indian totems, and it was in this Deed Book "A," containing records from 1654 to 1657, that I have seen the original mark of Jan Andriessen, the "Iersman van Dublingh," made with his own hand, when he bought, in 1657, of Willem Frederickse Bout the wine and beer excise for Catskill, where he then resided.

The records are written in a crabbed official hand in the archaic colonial Dutch of the seventeenth century, which can be read and translated by but few living persons; but happily some of them have been translated, and from the latter we learn what there is to know concerning "Jantie."

The records show that Jan Andriessen, the Irishman, alias "Jantie" (Johnnie), was at Beverwyck (now Albany) in 1645. O'Callaghan, in his "History of New Netherlands" (vol. 1, p. 441), states that "Jan Andriessen van Dublin leased a bouwerie in 1649, described as lying north of Stony Point, being the north half of the Flatt," and it is also known that he bought a farm and homestead of Peter Bronck at Coxsackie, now in Greene county, in New York state, which he owned at the time of his death, which must have taken place in 1664.

When "Jantie" arrived we know not; it is enough to know that "Jan Andriessen de Iersman van Dublingh" was taken to the hearts of the phlegmatic Dutch burghers of ancient Albany, for all through the records (even after his death) he is familiarly and seemingly affectionately spoken of as "Jantie" or "Johnnie," even as "Jan-


tien," or "little Johnnie," and the Dutch went on his bond for his obligations, even as they accepted his bond for theirs.

That he was an Irishman is self-evident, notwithstanding his patronymic of Jan Andriessen, which is the Dutch form of John Anderson, his proper name; he is never mentioned, except with his *descriptio personæ* of "the Irishman," even in the transactions which closed up his estate after his death. Whether that was done to distinguish him from Jan, Arent, Hendrickse, or Dirk Andriessen, who were his contemporaries in Albany, or because he was a *rara avis* and deserved to be marked, or because all foreigners were so labeled, we know not, but it was evidently the custom there to designate all "outlanders" as such, for in a bill of sale of certain book accounts made in 1665, it appears that "Pieter, the Frenchman," "Hendrick, the Spaniard," and "Hans, the Norman," were mentioned among the delinquent debtors whose accounts were sold. Jantie's first appearance in the records is in the words and form following:

"Appeared before me Johannes La Montagne, in the service of the General Privileged West India Company, Vice Director, etc., William Frederickse Bout, farmer of the wine and beer excise consumable by the tapsters, in Fort Orange, village of Beverwyck and appendancies of the same, who declared that he had transferred, as by these presents, he does transfer, to Jan Andriessen, the Irishman from Dublin, dwelling in Catskill, the right in the aforesaid excise belonging to him, the assignor, in Catskill, for the sum of one hundred and fifty (150) guilders, which sum the aforesaid Jan Andriessen, promises to pay, in two terms, to wit, on the first day of May

the half of said sum, and on the last day of October of the year A. D. 1657, the other half, under a pledge of his person and estate, movable and immovable, present and future, submitting the same to all courts and judges.

“Done in Fort Orange this 19th of January A. D. 1657; present Johannes Provoost, and Daniel Verveelen.

“This is the mark  of William Frederickse Bout.

“This is the mark  of Jan Andriessen.

“Johannes Provoost, witness.

“Daniel Verveelen.

“Acknowledged before me,

“LA MONTAGNE,
“*Deputy of Fort Orange.*”

In each year the Director General and Council of New Netherlands farmed out the excise of beer, wine and strong waters, consumable by the tapsters (saloon keepers) in Fort Orange, village of Beverwyck and the appendancies of the same. Bout bought the privilege, or “became the farmer” in 1657 for 4,250 guilders, by virtue of which he was entitled to collect for all beer and wines and distilled waters sold by the small measure by any tapsters, innkeepers or retailers in certain places, including Catskill, where “Jantie” then evidently lived, as follows: For a tun of domestic brewed beer, 4 guilders (\$1.60); for a tun of over-sea, or foreign beer, 6 guilders (\$2.40); for a hogshead of French or Rhenish wine, 16 guilders (\$6.40); for an anker (10 $\frac{3}{4}$ gallons) of brandy or of distilled waters, Malmsey, Spanish or Canary wines, 16 guilders per anker, with power to cause to be arrested and imprisoned those who failed to pay.

From this it appears that "Jantie" was a "farmer" or owner of the excise privilege in Catskill, and also a dealer in liquors. The Dutch, for reasons of personal safety, had enacted statutes with severe penalties against trafficking in gunpowder and liquors with the Indians, notwithstanding which we find that the court records of the date of March 8, 1657, contain the following entry: "Jan Andriessen (the Irishman at Katskill) substitute for . . . Willem Frederickse Bout, collector of the excise . . . has been complained of to me, by Hans de Vos, for selling brandy and spirits to the Indians; he delivered to me an affidavit of the same signed L. A. with his own hand."

The records are silent as to what became of the charge.

On the 17th of December, 1657, "Jantie" sold his horse at public auction, after many offers, to Jan Roeloffsen for the sum of 194 guilders (\$77.60), to be paid for on August 1, 1658, in good whole merchantable beavers, which, with seawant (strung shells) and corn (wheat) were the then current coin of the realm, for which payment two good and sturdy Dutchmen, with long and characteristic names, signed as sureties, "on pledge of their persons and estates, personal and real."

On July 28, 1663, Jan appeared before the commissaries, or magistrates, in the service of the West India company at Fort Orange, and became surety in the sum of 520 guilders for the payment by Rutger Jacobson in grain from the sown crop, which he bought at public auction from the administrators of the estate of Andries Herbetsen on June 26, 1663. On March 12, 1664, the Hon. Abraham Staets leased to Jan Andriessen, the Irish-

man, "his bouwery (farm) lying in the Klaverrack, with the land, house, barn and rick as it at present stands, for the time of the four and a half next following years, commencing on the first of April of this year, and ending on the first of September, A. D. 1669, with which he delivers six milk cows, two horses, a mare and stallion, and six sows, for which Jan Andriessen promises to pay rent as follows: For the first half year he shall at the end of the lease leave in the ground, for the behoof of the lessor, three mudde (about 12 bushels) of wheat and a tight fence, the year following one hundred guilders, each of the three next years one hundred and fifty guilders in beavers or grain at beaver's price; and promises furthermore to keep the buildings in good repair, likewise the increase of the aforesaid cattle shall be shared alike by the lessor and lessee, and a slaughtered hog from each of the six sows yearly; at the end of the lease, the lessee shall be holden to deliver again the full number of beasts; as it respects the orchard, the parties shall receive each the half of the fruit, provided also that they take care and defray the expense of the fence, but the lessee shall take all possible care that the fruit be not destroyed.

"Thus done in Beverwyck, in amity and friendship, and in the presence of me, J. Provoost, clerk, datum ut supra.

"ABRAM STAETS.

"This is the mark } of Jan Andriessen, the Irishman,
with his own hand set.

"Acknowledged before me,

"J. PROVOOST,
"Clerk."

Here we have the original personal declaration of Jan, "with his own hand set," and that he was an Irishman—and further proof of nationality could not be required.

"Jantie's" name next appears after his death when the trustees of his estate give announcement in the following form:

"Conditions and terms on which the trustees of the estate of Jan Andriessen, the Irishman, deceased, in the presence of the Messrs. commissaries, proposed to sell, at public sale, to the highest bidder, several horses and beasts, for which payment shall be made in beavers or seewant, at 24 guilders the beaver, or corn at beaver's price; and that in the time of six weeks from the day hereof, and it is, by these presents, expressly conditioned, that no one shall purchase by an offset of moneys which may be due from Jantie, the Irishman, deceased, but shall deliver the purchase money into the hands of Johannes Provoost, and wait for a pro rata distribution. The buyer shall be held to furnish sufficient sureties as principals for the securing of the purchase money. In paying as aforesaid, the auction fees become a charge upon the buyer. In Albany, 28th November, A. D. 1664."

The schedule annexed to the announcement shows that his cattle, consisting of five horses and ten cows, bulls and calves were sold to worthy burghers for 937 florins or guilders (40 cents each), and that there was on "9th January old style, sold at the house of Pieter Bronck, a copper kettle of Jantie, the Irishman, deceased, to Frans Pieterse (Klaw) for 12 seewant."

On January 9th, A. D. 1665, old style, Frans Pieterse (Clauw) in the presence of the Hon. Jan Verbeeck and Garret Schlicthenhorst, commissaries of Albany in the

presence of Johannes Provoost, secretary, measured "the land of Jantien, the Irishman, deceased, which was sold off from the land of Pieter Bronck and he bought of said Bronck and it amounted to 69 morgens and 345 rods, lying in a square 345 rods long and 121 rods wide, front and rear, besides a lot for a homestead, lying next to Pieter Bronck, where he proposes to build, northeast of him (Bronck), and is 30 rods long and 20 rods wide, and which, at the north is separated by the kil or a flat (laeghte). Also was measured a piece of land taken off from the aforementioned land of Pieter Bronck, which belonged to Anderies Hanssen, was granted to him by Pieter Bronck, and by Jonny (Jantie) the Irishman, deceased, a part; length on the south side 54 rods, and on the north 95 rods; breadth on the west 41 rods, and on the east 58 rods, and was estimated at 6 morgens and 100 rods."

This was the farm bought by "Jantie" from Pieter Bronck at Coxsackie. A morgen of land, old Amsterdam measure, was 2 1-13 acres, making the farm about 145 acres. This, with his lot upon which he intended to build his homestead, were evidently measured to be sold by his administrators.

The notice of the sale of his farm and homestead appears in the following form, and is inserted as a glimpse of life among the Dutch in Albany in 1667.

"Conditions and terms according to which the administrators of the estate of Jan Andriessen (the Irishman), with the Messieurs commissaries, propose to sell at public sale, to the highest bidder, the land of the said Irishman, lying near Pieter Bronck's (at Catskill). First, the afore-said land shall be delivered to the seller, in area nine and

sixty morgens, arable land, without trees, or only a few about the woodside at the west, together with a spot for a homestead, lying next to Pieter Bronck's, where he was proposing to build, in length 30 rods and in breadth 20 rods, and is separated at the north (from Pieter Bronck), by a kil or flat (laeghte); moreover the buyer shall have the right, with Pieter Bronck, to use the surrounding wood land for pasturing cattle. Delivery shall be given as soon as the buyer shall please to take possession. Payment shall be made in beavers or good strung commercial seawant, at 24 guilders a beaver, and in two installments, the first on the first day of June of the year 1665, and the second on the first day of June, A. D. 1666, being a year thereafter, and with the last payment, a proper conveyance shall be given to the buyer. The buyer shall be held to furnish two sufficient sureties, jointly and severally as principals, immediately, to the content of the seller. If the buyer cannot furnish the aforesaid sureties in said time, the said land, together with said homestead, shall be offered for sale again at the buyer's cost and charge, and whatever less it comes to, he shall be holden to make good, and whatever more it comes to he shall enjoy no profit therefrom. The per centage becomes a charge to the buyer in paying, as aforesaid, on the 9th of March, 1665. On the 9th of March, A. D. 1665, the schout and secretary of the colony of Rensselaerswyck, for a certain consideration, being asked if they, in the name and behalf of the patroon, had any claim against the land of Jonny, the Irishman, deceased, which lies by Pieter Bronck's, and they answered they had no claim whatever against the same. Done ut supra.

“ Which I witness

“ JOHANNES PROVOOST, *Secretary.*”

It will be observed that his pet name of "Johnny, the Irishman," still follows him. The inquiry made concerning any claims against the land was asked of Van Ransselaer, the patroon, or lord of the colony of Rensselaerwyck, from whom all titles came, and which were generally leased to purchasers in consideration of annual quit rents of wheat, services or good fat hens for a term "as long as water runs and grass grows."

It can be quite assumed that Jantie was in debt when he died, for in the administrator's sale of part of his "boedel," or estate hereinbefore set forth, buyers were warned that purchases should be in cash, that debts due to them from Jantie should not be offset, and that all should wait for a pro rata distribution.

It is quite possible that the modern word "boodle," meaning money, was derived from this ancient and obsolete colonial Dutch term, "boedel," meaning estate or effects.

The name of Jan Andriessen, the Irishman, does not again appear in our records, except that in the deacons' record book of the Reformed Protestant Dutch church of Albany there is an item of the receipt in December, 1676, of ten guilders for the use of palls at the funeral of Jan Andriessen's mother. There was in 1671 living in Albany a Jan Andreiesse (kuyper), a cooper, who bought a piece of land of Abrham de Vos, in that year, and it was more likely that it was his mother who was buried from the Dutch church than it was that Jantie's mother was with him in America. It is also fair to assume that it was because of him that John Anderson of Dublin was always mentioned as the "Irishman."

Jantie must have died between March 12, 1664, when

he leased his "bouverie" or farm from Abraham Staets, and November 28 of the same year, when his property was sold by his administrators.

The auction announcement of the sale of his farm, as well as the official report of its survey, both speak of his homestead lot, on which he was proposing to build, so that he was at the time of his death evidently looking forward to years of comfort and enjoyment, which tends to show that his death was unexpected. We have not been able to learn whether he left descendants or that any of our old families can claim descent from the first Irishman who took up his life within the confines of the present city of Albany, but we believe there are none.

We take leave of this derelict seventeenth-century Irishman who lived among the Dutch in the colony of Rensselaerwyck for so many years, with regret and wonder—regret that we know nothing more concerning him and his antecedents and how and why he left Dublin and his native land, and what brought him to Beverwyck, and wonder—not so much that he spent his life among the phlegmatic and clannish Dutch burghers, whose speech differed from his, as well as their manners and customs, as at the fact that they allowed him burghership and trade privileges which were then a valuable asset and a means to fortune granted only to Dutchmen and to those upon whom, after the mediæval custom, the freedom of the city and of trade were granted as a great and special favor, only after maintaining fire and light in the city for one whole year.

It is quite possible that he was a soldier in the service of the Dutch West India Company and came to Albany in that way. It may be that he was a refugee because of the so-called "Rebellion of 1641," and sought among

aliens in the wilds of America the privilege of being allowed to live, which was denied to him by the English in his native land.

It is quite fair to assume that on the death of Jantie in 1664 there was not a single Irishman left in the place, unless Thomas Konnig, which is very possibly the Dutch equivalent for the Milesian "Connick," was also of that race. Whether he was or not, the court's records show that on August 16, 1651, "Thomas Konnig abused the court as an unlawful court, taking materials from the sayings of Dyckman, who sang the 82d Psalm and called the high council rogues and tale bearers in presence of Evert Pels, Art Jacobse and Gillis Fonda."

There is another possible Irishman in Thomas Kenningh (Kenny?), who came to Albany in 1646, but beyond his name there is nothing further known concerning him. In 1693 the name of Harmanus Hogan, as the father of a son, appears in the baptism book of the Dutch Reformed church in the city of Albany. It is stated that Catalyn Doncassen, also written Donckesen and Donchesen, was properly Catherine Dongan, a sure enough Irish name, but who would know the fact from the spelling thereof? She and her sister Margaret were in the colony under the Dutch and married to well-to-do natives prior to 1664. Governor Dongan did not arrive in America until 1683, and it is hardly probable that they were of his family.

Travel in the seventeenth century was dangerous, expensive and infrequent, especially from Ireland. Those who came to America from Europe were as a rule assisted colonists, deported convicts, religious refugees or Irish patriots sold as slaves after the Cromwellian massacres

None of the latter came to the present state of New York, or if they did, their names were changed by royal decree so that their identity might be lost.

The trade jealousies of the Dutch, who would allow no one not an admitted citizen to trade with the Indians, and the handicap of the language, made Albany an undesirable place for English or Irish immigrants, and the coming of both was very slow, even after transfer of the title and government of the province to the English in 1664. That this continued for many years is evidenced by the following extract from the Sir William Johnson's MSS. in the New York state library:

On July 3, 1756, William Corry (evidently an Irishman), the attorney for Sir William Johnson, another Irishman, wrote to the latter, concerning his recent experiences in the magistrate's court in the city of Albany. He complains bitterly that the trade laws were enforced against everybody but the Dutch, and instances many cases. Among other matters he writes: "Last week one Huse, an Irishman, was called before the mayor for something, and Huse told the mayor he could clear himself by twenty evidences. 'Yes,' said the mayor, 'Irish evidences.'" Corry asks Sir William to use his influence with the powers to have them all removed from office.

Thomas Dongan, that illustrious Irishman, who was governor of the province of New York from 1683 to 1688, in his report to the home government, shows that he feared the lack of English-speaking subjects in the colony, and he petitioned that some endeavors be made to send such to protect the country. He reported "for seven years not over twenty English, Scotch and Irish families

came into the province, but many Dutch and some French," and in February, 1684, he recommended that a ship "go constantly between New York and Ireland and bring passengers for New York," and when on September 8, 1687, he wrote to the lord president and called for assistance against the French, he said :

"My lord, there are people enough in Ireland who had pretenses to estates there and are of no advantage to the country and may live here very happy. I do not doubt that if his majesty thinks fit to employ my nephew he will bring over as many as the king will find convenient to send, who will be no charge to his majesty after they are landed." As we observed on another occasion, "unfortunately it was not done. What speculations may we not indulge in as to the probable influence of those brave children of Drogheda, Wexford and Clonmel, 'with pretenses to estates,' upon the history of our country and the status of the Irish in America to-day, if Dongan's prayers had been granted and those patriotic people welcomed to our soil, as freemen over two hundred years ago."

If but twenty English, Scotch and Irish families landed in New York city in seven years the chances that any of them settled in Albany were exceedingly meagre. Irish names like that of Capt. John Manning and Sergts. Patrick Dowdell, John Fitzgerald, Lewis Collins and Thomas Quinn appear in the roster of the English garrison in the fort of Albany, when it was reconquered by the Dutch and held for a short time in 1673, but soldiers are but transients who follow the beat of the drum and do not, as a rule, settle and grow up with the country in which they are stationed. It appears to have been somewhat differ-

ent with the garrisons in Albany in the latter part of the seventeenth and the beginning of the eighteenth centuries.

It is quite evident from the records that these soldiers were a poor, neglected, under-paid, under-fed and miserable lot. In March, 1702, Capt. James Weems, the commandant of the fort at Albany, petitioned the common council for relief, stating that it was seventeen weeks since the garrison had received any subsistence from the government; that he had advanced all his own money and pawned all his property for their relief; that they were reduced to live on bread and water, and that unless the city came to their assistance it must expect both outrage and damage, for he could do nothing further. The city advanced money from the excise fund to feed them.

The fort was also out of repair and the soldiers had to be quartered by lot on the inhabitants, to whom they owed debts for the necessities of life, which they would not pay, so as a dernier resort, all the soldiers of the garrison were admitted to the freedom of the city and granted the right to go into service or work at their trades therein, which many did, and thereafter married Dutch girls and remained, when their terms of service ended. It is quite likely that some of the Irishmen then in Albany were soldiers in the first instance and became residents of the city under such circumstances.

John Coneel (Connel) was a soldier in Albany in 1666. He married a native and bought property there. He sold his house in Albany in 1670 to Jan Stuart, who may also have been an Irishman, and moved to Catskill, where he had purchased an extensive "bouwerie" in 1678; he died prior to 1706. Lieut. John Collins was a lawyer in Albany in 1703, and as late as 1720; he mar-

ried in one of the first Dutch families, and his son was recorder of the city in 1746.

A true Irishman was Patrick Martin, but his nationality would hardly be established by his description in the marriage records as "*trommelslager onder de compagnie granadiers von de Hon. Richard Ingoldsby.*" He married Mary Cox, March 15, 1707; the baptismal record, shortly thereafter made, gives food for much reflection.

We can fairly assume from his name that Thomas Powel was an Irishman. He was a baker, and had a most adventurous career. He was a sergeant in the service of the West India company in Brazil from 1641 to 1653; he was in Albany in 1657, where he remained until his death in 1671. He had considerable property for his time, which his widow sold in the year he died. The statement that he was an Irishman is somewhat fortified by the fact that he married Janettie Donckertse, which name, as we observed before, is the Dutch form of the Irish patronymic Dongan.

The fact that none but the Dutch were on guard in old Albany is curiously evidenced by the general census of the inhabitants, slaves and Indians within its limits, taken on May 8, 1697. Foreigners were enumerated as such, the English included, although it was an English city. It contains the names of all householders and heads of families and adults, with a reference to their nationality. The city had been at that time under English domination for thirty-three years, yet there were but thirteen Englishmen enumerated, out of a total population of 1,452. None of those denominated as English had Irish names, except, perhaps, John Carr. There were three Frenchmen, one Spaniard, two Papists (Van Loon and Hilder-

brandt), one Scotchman (Robert Livingston, Jr., a man of official prominence and of great wealth and influence, and progenitor of the noted Livingston family), and one Irishman mentioned.

The Irishman was Willem or William Hogen or Hogan, "van Bor in Yrlandt in de Kings county." He was in Albany in 1692, for in that year he married Anna Bekker. He left a large family, but his descendants, if such there be in the Albany of to-day, are not known by the name of Hogan, which, as we have before stated, underwent many changes in the mouths of the Dutch. Like Jantie Andriessen, Hogan was an innkeeper. He was among those cited before the city authorities on June 27, 1699, for using his trade or handicraft in the city of Albany without being qualified as a freeman to do the same, and in pursuance of that particular citation on September 24, 1701, he was, with others, prohibited from using his trade therein until such time as he had obtained his "lycense."

An outlander in those days, it appears, might be qualified for office-holding and jury duty, but not for what was evidently deemed the more important, trade privileges, for at a mayor's court held in Albany on May 14, 1700, Hogen was deemed "convenient and fitt to be one of the fyre masters for ye Citty . . . who forthwith shall make it there business to vizeite all the chimleyes within this city," and destroy all those that were dangerous, and report the owners of those found unclean. On June 25, 1700, he sat on a petit jury to try an action for rent between two Dutchmen; he served on a jury in 1703, in Johnnie Finn's case, and in 1700 and 1704 he was elected one of the assessors for the first ward of the city. It is not known when he died.

We would hardly recognize in Jan Fyne, or Johannes Fine, a Hibernian cooper, John Finn "van Waterfort in Irlandt," who was in Albany in 1696. It is said that he was a soldier who came with the troops sent to Albany in 1690, immediately after the Schenectady massacre; he remained forever thereafter a victim of the smiles and wiles of a Dutch maiden—for in 1696 he married there Jopje Classe Van Slyck, by whom he had one son, William. In 1699 he married Alida, daughter of Jacob Janse Gardinier, of Kinderhook, by whom he had a son and daughter. Finn, at first, followed the trade of a cooper, but like Jantie and Willem he subsequently became a licensed tavern keeper.

Evidently he was of a combative disposition, for he is very much in evidence in the court records. On December 13, 1698, he appears as plaintiff against Ahasuerus Marcellis, a shoemaker, whom he claimed had stolen his wood, and whose wife "did call him ye sd Jan Fyne a rogue and other opprobrious words when he went with Sergeant Kinard (perhaps another Irish soldier) to see if his wood had not been purloined and embezzled." It appeared that Johnnie had gone into Marcellis' house and pulled his burning logs from off the fire when Vrouw Marcellis had expressed her opinion of him. Finn won; the jury, of which his Hibernian compatriot, William Hogan, was a member, gave him sixpence damages. Marcellis appealed, to be eventually defeated. The pleadings, procedure and judgment are all fully set forth in the court minutes, and are quaint and interesting specimens of the judicial work of the day.

At a mayor's court held on April 1, 1701, Finn was a defendant in the suit of Gerrit Jacobse, who alleges

“against the defendant yt he scandalized his wife with base words in calling her a theiffe, and that she had stole money from him to the damage of £100.” Finn got an adjournment to procure witnesses; nothing appears further concerning the case. In September, 1701, Finn was reported, among others, with Willem Ilogen, as one of those delinquents who “doe use their trade and handy-craft without being qualified as freemen to doe the same,” and he was prohibited until he obtained his license. Fyne himself was a petty juror in a case heard on June 25, 1700.

In 1699 John Ratcliffe and Robert Barret were appointed night or rattle watch for the city. They were to patrol the city at night with lantern and rattle, and to raise an alarm in case of fire, thieves or other mischief. The salary was 22 pounds and 16 shillings per year and 80 loads of fire wood. If Barret was an Irishman, and we have no reason to say so, other than his name, he is an early example of “being on the force,” and the first of a line of successful followers.

In 1700 Robert Barret and Edward Corbett were admitted city carters, who upon being licensed, with four others, would have the monopoly of carting in the city. Corbett is another Irish name but we have no other record of him. In 1701 Nicholas Blake was elected city constable.

Last, but not least, of these early Irishmen we will claim Patrick McGregory, because of his name and his propensities, although one record says he was “uyt Schotlandt,” indicating a Scottish origin. He was also a soldier, and was commissioned ranger general of Staten Island in 1686. In 1697 he was in Albany

where he married Zytie Matthys Hooghteling, daughter of Hendrick Marcelis, the widow of Frank Marrits. In that year he petitioned the common council to be appointed city porter in place of his father-in-law, who had just died. In 1701 he humbly petitioned to be admitted to be one of the cartmen of the city, which was granted, provided he first took out his "Citty freedom." On April 25, 1703, the following appears in the city records:

"April 25.—The humble Petition of Patrick McGregory souldier and Inhabitant of this Citty, humbly sheweth: That your Petitioner having formerly been admitted as a porter in this Citty and for some time past has not been employed as such, your petitioner prays your worshipfull to admit him a sworne porter for the said Citty, there being now but one, which if granted will be a great relief to your Petitioner's poor ffamily, &c. The said Patrick McGregory is permitted and appointed to be second porter of the said Citty accordingly."

It is quite evident that McGregory was at the time a soldier in the English garrison stationed in the fort at Albany and was endeavoring to eke out an existence as such, by working as a cartman and porter in the city. McGregory was dead in 1707. He left three daughters and one son, Pieter, who was baptized August 20, 1704, but none of his descendants are now known as such.

In a list of the freeholders of the city of Albany in 1720, published in the "Documentary History of New York," the names of William Hogan, Daniell Kelley and John Collins appear; the 1742 list contains the names of William Hogan, William Hogan, Jr., Edward Collins, Michael Bassett and John Hogan as freeholders. In that celebrated classic of old Albany, *Memoirs of an*

American Lady, by Mrs. Grant of Laggan, she makes mention that in 1763 the house and grounds of the Schuylers near Albany "were let to an Irish gentleman, who came over to America to begin a new course of life after spending his fortune in fashionable dissipation." His name is not given, nor he did not remain long about Albany. She devotes a chapter to "a handsome, good-natured looking Irishman in a ragged provincial uniform," named Patrick Coonie, who, with his wife and children, settled near the city in 1768.

He was a soldier of quite a few campaigns, and had all the characteristics of his race and occupation. She also tells of Cortlandt Schuyler, one of the bluest of the blue bloods of the city, who was a captain in "a marching regiment" in the British army, and who married a handsome and agreeable Irishwoman in Ireland, while stationed there with his regiment, and whom he brought to Albany about 1763. When he died she returned to Ireland with her children, where, it is said, their descendants bearing the name of Schuyler still live.

The presence of Irish in Dutch Albany is evidenced by a perusal of the names, appearing at intervals during the eighteenth century, in its birth, marriage and death records. Pearson's "Genealogies of the First Settlers of Albany" is replete with their names, showing their marriages among the Dutch, the birth and marriage of their children and at times their deaths—with the curious fact ever in evidence that the Dutch element of the marriages generally triumphed and that in the births of many daughters and few sons the Irish surnames eventually disappeared. We here present some Irish names found early in old Albany, some of which may have been there even earlier than the dates mentioned:

- Anderson, John, 1645
 Barber, John, 1788
 Barber, Robert, 1788
 Barry, Thomas, 1796
 Begley, Michael, 1796
 Blake, Nicholas, 1701
 Bryan, John, 1747
 Buckley, Martin, 1749
 Burk, John, 1780
 Burns, Elizabeth, 1755
 Caghill, Cornelius, 1780
 Cardigan, Hugh, 1749
 Carr, William, 1777
 Casemay, Patrick, 1757
 Cassidy, John, 1780
 Cassidy, Luke, 1770
 Clark, Patrick, 1749
 Coneel (Connel), John, 1666
 Connell, Edward, 1776
 Connelly, William, 1764
 Connick, Catherine, 1775
 Connor, Andrew, 1778
 Coonie, Patrick, 1768
 Corbett, Edward, 1700
 Costigan, Francis, 1779
 Cunningham, Henry, 1747
 Denniston, Hugh, 1757
 Dillon, Hugh, 1747
 Donovan, John, 1738
 Donovan, William, 1796
 Dowdell, Patrick, 1673
 Driskill, Jeremiah, 1796
 Fallon, Patrick, 1748
 Farley, Philip, 1796
 Finn, John, 1696
 Fitzgerald, John, 1673
 Flammisham, Dennis, 1794
 Flat, Patrick, 1749
 Flinn, James, 1774
 Flinn, John, 1779
 Fry, Michael, 1762
 Gahigan, Patrick, 1770
 Gillespie, Neil, 1781
 Greedy, Darby, 1736
 Hart, Nicholas, 1768
 Hogan, William, 1692
 Hogen, Henry, 1733
 Kelley, Daniel, 1720
 Kennigh (Kenny?), Thomas, 1646
 Kinney, Jacob, 1786
 Lynch, Owen, 1770
 Macarty, Denis, 1780
 Macarty, John, 1748
 Macarty, Patrick, 1736
 Macarty, Timothy, 1787
 Machansh, John, 1743
 Mack, John, 1767
 Mackans, Patrick, 1762
 Mackansch (McCann?), Andrew,
 1725
 Mackie, John, 1739
 Magregorie, Pieter, 1773
 Maloney, John, 1779
 Manning, John, 1673
 Marr, James, 1770
 Martin, Alexander, 1754
 Martin, Daniel, 1735
 Martin, John, 1781
 Martin, Patrick, 1707
 Martin, Peter, 1755
 McAdam, Hugh, 1780
 McCarty, David, 1771
 McCarty, Elizabeth, 1782
 McChestnut, Hugh, 1779
 McCleskey (McCluskey), John, 1779
 McElwayn, Thomas, 1781

McEwan, Daniel, 1796	Murphy, Peter, 1797
McGinnis, Teddy, 1748	O'Brien, John, 1770
McKans, Daniel, 1781	O'Brien, Louis, 1775
McKinney, John, 1782	O'Donnell, Terence, 1796
McManus, William, 1784	Owens (Ojens), John, 1772
McMichael, John, 1752	Owens, Owen (Oyje Oyjens), 1704
McMullen, Hugh, 1777	Phillips, Michael, 1748
Meemannus (McManus), Cornelius, 1747	Quinn, Thomas, 1673
Mohennie (Mahoney), David, 1737	Ross, John, 1780
Morrow, John, 1724	Ryley, Philip, 1755
Mullen, Philip, 1755	Sullivan, John, 1773
	and many others.

In 1755 Philip Mullen was fire master of the city, and Philip Ryley was in charge of the town clock; in 1770 Patrick Clark, Patrick McGrigor, Owen Lynch, James Marr, Patrick Cooney, John Brien, Luke Cassidy, John O'Brien, Patrick Gahigan, and Messrs. Ryan, McCue, Moore, Daley and Dempsey were among the inhabitants.

At the outbreak of the Revolution, Albany was an essentially Dutch city. Its aristocracy was Dutch, so were its public officers and its men of wealth and of business; Dutch was spoken in the family and the dominic still preached to his congregation in that language in the old church which stood at the foot of the hill below the guns of Fort Frederick, which at the top thereof dominated the town. The stockade to keep out the Indians still enclosed the place. Its people retained all the cold, phlegmatic characteristics of their seventeenth-century ancestors and their jealousy of the foreigner, so it need not cause us grief if we found no Irish names among those who in the city in 1776 furnished the usual committee of safety and proceeded with the business of organized resistance to the tyranny of England, each with his neck in a halter.

But the unpublished manuscript records of their meetings, on file in the New York state library, disclose the constant presence and untiring activity in the cause of American liberty of James Magee, James Dennison, Tyrannis Collins, Hugh Mitchel, Robert Meaher, David McCarty, and John Dennis, as members, and the appointment of Patrick Campbell, ensign, and Michael Jackson, lieutenant, in fighting regiments. It was no different on the firing line. In that most valuable publication, "New York in the Revolution," editions of 1897, 1898, 1902, compiled by the comptroller of the state of New York, we find the muster rolls of the troops enlisted by the state of New York during the Revolutionary War. There were a few regiments of "The Line," the so-called regulars or continentals, but the bulk was militia, raised in the counties, and sent wherever duty called them. Among the troops credited to Albany county we find, as officers, the following with Irish names: As captains, Jarivan Hogan, James Dennison, George Hogan, Michael Horton, Tyrannis Collins, Michael Dunning, Cornelius Doty, George Gilmore; among the lieutenants, Henry Hogen, Jacob Sullivan, John Thornton, Jurian Hogan, John Riley, Hugh McManus, Jacob McNeal, Abel Whalen, Nicholas Power, Peter Martin; ensigns, John Mahoney and John Clark, a number entirely and creditably beyond their proportion according to their number in the community.

The Irish names among the enlisted men of the city and county of Albany are too numerous to be written in this already overlong paper; they are ample to prove that the Albany Irishman had not lost his hatred of his English oppressor in the new-found love of his adopted country, and that he was as ready to shed his blood in

her defense as his ancestors had been for Ireland on many a hard fought battle-field.

We cannot lay too much stress on the value of the above mentioned work in arriving at a proper appreciation of the valor and sacrifices of the Irish in New York for the cause during our struggle for independence, and if other states did as well the debt is incalculable. We earnestly recommend its careful study to all our members as containing much by deduction concerning Irish activity and service in the cause of liberty during the days which tried men's souls. Their names appear, not singly, but as companies, battalions and regiments, and bear witness that they were willing to sacrifice their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honors in defense of their new fatherland.

Hugh Mitchel was also one of the Commissioners of Conspiracies formed in Albany during the Revolution; its duties were to arrest Tories and suspected persons, and it had general charge of the frustration of conspiracies against the new government. He was generally quite active in the patriot cause.

David McCarty, mentioned as very active in Albany's Committee of Safety, was a valiant soldier during the Revolution, and at the time of his death was a general of militia. He married, on May 6, 1771, Charlotta, the granddaughter of Pieter Coeymans, the founder of an old, influential and wealthy Dutch family, and became possessed thereby of much land in the Coeymans Patent. He was a man of ability and of influence, and was respected by the entire community. None of his descendants in the male line are now extant in Albany. He was dead when his widow died at Coxsackie on April 22, 1828, in the eighty-eighth year of her age. Among the

bronze historical tablets erected by the citizens of Albany during the celebration in 1886 of the bicentenary of Albany, as a chartered city, there is one on the northwest corner of Beaver and Green streets, where Hugh Denniston kept Albany's only first-class hotel and tavern for many years. It was the first stone house erected in Albany.

A true Irishman, Denniston was an ardent patriot during the war, and his hotel was a meeting place for the loyal citizens of Albany, where treason was hatched against England. On both of his visits to Albany in 1782 and in 1783, Washington was a guest at the hotel where he was presented with the freedom of the city. Denniston owned much property in Albany and was a citizen well liked by all. His descendants in the male line are not now known in Albany.

In 1780 John Cassidy, the progenitor of an existing Cassidy family in the city, settled in Albany. In 1788 Robert and John Barber, Longford county Irishmen, were engaged in publishing the *Albany Gazette*. In 1802 John was state printer. In 1796 the first Catholic church in the city was incorporated, and Thomas Barry, Daniel McEwan, Terance O'Donnell, Jeremiah Driskill, Michael Begley, William Donovan and Philip Farley were among the trustees. The church records prior to 1822 are not extant; they would furnish much valuable and interesting information, if in existence, about the Irish people in Albany during the latter part of the eighteenth and the beginning of the nineteenth centuries.

Irish emigration to New York state began in large volume with the arrival in 1731 of the county Longford families, who settled along the Hudson river, in what is

now Ulster county, but very little impress thereby was made on the city of Albany until after the Revolution and during the first years of the nineteenth century, when Albany, as the frontier city was the gateway through which New England and Europe opened up the then West, and its resultant expansion and activities, including the opening of the Erie canal, caused a wondrously large increase in its Irish population. In 1807 a special act of the legislature was passed incorporating Daniel Campbell and his associates as the St. Patrick's society of the city of Albany, its purpose being "to afford relief to indigent and distressed emigrants from the kingdom of Ireland." It held its annual election on March 17 in each year.

We learn from the valuable book of Hon. John D. Crimmins, our president, *Early Celebration of St. Patrick's Day*, that this society duly celebrated St. Patrick's day in 1810, and again in 1811, when the day and banquets were honored by the presence of the governor of the state, the mayor of the city of New York, Judge Taylor, and that celebrated Irish patriot, orator and lawyer, Thomas Addis Emmet, whose attendance was a distinguished mark of consideration and evidence of the importance of the Irish in Albany, and their high standing and character as citizens. The account of the celebration in one of the city newspapers of the day contains, according to the custom of the times, the formal and formidable list of eighteen set toasts, full of patriotic sentiment and Irish love for their adopted country.

At that meeting Patrick Matthews was elected president, Thomas Harman, Jr., and Hugh Flynn, vice-presidents; Cornelius Dunn, treasurer, and Andrew Fagan, secretary. In 1812 the day was celebrated by the "Sons

of Erin of Albany, N. Y." In 1813 the society had for its president, Thomas Harman, a cabinet maker; Hugh Flynn, a grocer, was vice-president; Cornelius Dunn, a grocer, was treasurer, and John Ready was secretary. The first directory of Albany was published in that year, and Irish names appear therein quite frequently, but we cannot add to this already extended article and must end.

Thereafter is modern history. Many causes intervened about this time to attract Irish immigrants in large numbers to Albany, where they became at once, and still remain, a part of the life of the city, factors by their good citizenship, capacity to work, and natural ability in its growth in population and wealth. We find among them men who became famous in church and state, individuals who received merited public recognition and official honors, men of art and of science, some in trade, others in the professions, others of wealth and influence for the good, all proud of their ancestry of the Emerald Isle, and each glad to be "a citizen of no mean city."

We do not know that the foregoing will be of interest to the majority of the members of our society. Our purpose in writing it was to do for our locality that which each and every member should do for his own. It was a duty, and we have accomplished it, in the hope that it may induce others to follow and to delve for richer treasures in more abundant fields of Irish endeavor in aid of our national development.

THE AMERICAN-IRISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

(Founded in Boston, Mass., January 20, 1897.)

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1897. Rear-Admiral George W. Meade, U. S. N. (Retired), Philadelphia, Pa. Died May 4, 1897.
1897. Hon. Edward A. Moseley, secretary of the Interstate Commerce Commission, Washington, D. C. ; was elected President-General on death of Admiral Meade.
1898. Hon. Edward A. Moseley, Washington, D. C.
1899. Hon. Thomas J. Gargan, Boston, Mass. ; a prominent lawyer of that city ; ex-member of the Police Commission ; member of the Rapid Transit Commission.
1900. Hon. Thomas J. Gargan, Boston, Mass.
1901. Hon. John D. Crimmins, New York city ; prominent capitalist ; official in banks, trust companies, and other corporations.
1902. Hon. John D. Crimmins, New York city.
1903. Hon. William McAdoo, New York city ; assistant secretary of the U. S. Navy under President Cleveland ; prominent lawyer.
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PUBLICATIONS OF THE SOCIETY.

The following is a list of publications thus far issued under the auspices of the society :

1. The American-Irish Historical Society: What It Is and What Its Purposes Are. (Boston, Mass., 1897.)
2. The American-Irish Historical Society: What It Is and What Its Purposes Are; Together with the Names of the Officers and a List of the Members. (Boston, Mass., 1898.)
3. The "Scotch-Irish" Shibboleth Analyzed and Rejected with Some Reference to the Present "Anglo-Saxon" Comedy. (Washington, D. C., 1898.)
4. Irish Schoolmasters in the American Colonies, 1640-1775, with a Continuation of the Subject During and After the War of the Revolution. (Washington, D. C., 1898.)
5. The Journal of The American-Irish Historical Society, vol I. (Boston, Mass, 1898.)
6. The Journal of the American-Irish Historical Society, vol. II. (Boston, Mass., 1899.)
7. The Irish at Bunker Hill: A List of American Patriots Bearing Irish Names who Fought Against the British in the Action of the Seventeenth of June, 1775. (Boston, Mass., 1900.)
8. The Journal of the American-Irish Historical Society, vol. III. (Boston, Mass., 1900.)
9. The Recorder. A Monthly Bulletin of the Society. (Boston, Mass., 1901.)
10. Gen. John Sullivan and the Battle of Rhode Island. A Sketch of the Former and a Description of the Latter. (Providence, R. I., 1902.)
11. The Irish Scots and the "Scotch-Irish"; An Historical and Ethnological Monograph, with some reference to Scotia Major and Scotia Minor. To which is added a chapter on How the Irish came as Builders of the Nation. (Concord, N. H., 1902.)

12. Irish Rhode Islanders in the American Revolution; with some mention of those serving in the Regiments of Elliott, Lippitt, Topham, Crary, Angell, Olney, Greene, and other noted commanders. (Providence, R. I., 1903.)
13. Early Irish in Old Albany, N. Y.; with special mention of Jan Andriessen, "De Iersman Van Dublingh." (Boston, Mass., 1903.)

The authors of the foregoing were as follows: Of Nos. 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 12, the Secretary-General, Thomas Hamilton Murray; of No. 3, Joseph Smith, Lowell, Mass.; of No. 4, the Secretary-General and Hon. John C. Linehan, the Treasurer-General; of No. 5, the Secretary-General and Thomas B. Lawler, the Librarian and Archivist; of No. 11, Hon. John C. Linehan, Treasurer-General; of No. 13, Hon. Franklin M. Danaher, Albany, N. Y.

A LIST OF THOSE WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED PAPERS
TO THE SOCIETY, OR WHO HAVE MADE ADDRESSES
AT MEETINGS HELD UNDER ITS AUSPICES.

Andrews, E. Benj., President of Brown University, Providence, R. I.

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Brady, Cyrus Townsend, LL. D. Brooklyn, N. Y.

Brandon, Edward J., city clerk of Cambridge, Mass.

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Brigham, Clarence S., librarian of the Rhode Island Historical Society, Providence, R. I.

Brown, J. Stacy, city attorney of Newport, R. I.

Capen, Elmer H., president of Tufts College, Mass.

Carroll, Hon. Hugh J., formerly mayor of Pawtucket, R. I.

Carter, Hon. Thomas H., United States Senator, Helena, Montana.

Cassidy, Dr. Patrick, formerly surgeon-general and brigadier-general on staff of Governor Morris of Connecticut, Norwich, Conn.

Clarke, Joseph I. C., New York city.

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Collins, Hon. Patrick A., now mayor of Boston, Mass.

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 Doyle, Rev. Alexander P., New York city.
 Driscoll, Hon. C. T., mayor of New Haven, Conn.
 DuChaillu, Paul B., New York city.
- Emmet, Thomas Addis, M. D., LL. D., grand nephew of the Irish patriot, Robert Emmet.
 English, Hon. Thomas Dunn, Newark, N. J.
- Farrelly, Rev. Father, Central Falls, R. I.
 Fitzpatrick, Edward, Louisville, Ky; on staff of the *Times* of that city.
 Flatley, P. J., Boston, Mass.
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- Gardiner, Asa Bird, New York city.
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 Harson, M. Joseph, Providence, R. I.
 Hennessy, M. E., Boston, Mass.; on staff of the *Daily Globe*, that city.
 Horigan, Cornelius, Biddeford, Me.
 Howes, Osborne (ninth American generation), Boston, Mass.
- Jordan, Michael J., Boston, Mass.

- Kelley, William J., Kittery, Me.
 Kimball, Hon. Charles Dean, governor of Rhode Island.
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 Lawless, Hon. Joseph T., Norfolk, Va; recently secretary of state, Virginia.
 Linehan, Hon. John C., Concord, N. H.; state insurance commissioner of New Hampshire.
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 O'Brien, Rev. Michael C., Bangor, Me.

- O'Donnell, Rev. James H., Norwalk, Conn.
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- Sheahan, Dennis Harvey, Providence, R. I.
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