

Family Group: DINEEN | DESMOND

Branch 1 of 4

Andrew Dineen

1845-1918

Great Granduncle

Andrew Dineen, the eldest child of Denis and Johanna, was born on May 11, 1845, just as the first shadow of the Great Hunger fell over Ireland. Growing up in the rugged terrain of Bantry, he learned the grueling rhythm of farm work from his father and a close-knit network of local relatives.

On April 13, 1880, at the age of 34, Andrew married Margaret Keohane (1857–1914) in Bantry. By then, his father Denis had passed away, a fact preserved on the civil marriage record. The wedding was a true family affair; the official witnesses were Andrew's younger brother, Patrick, and Margaret's sister, Julia—a pair who would marry each other just a few years later, cementing a deep, dual bond between the families. At the time of their vows,

1880. Marriage solemnized at the Roman Catholic Chapel of <u>Bantry</u> in the County of <u>Cork</u>									
No.	When Solemnized	Name and Surname	Age	Condition	Rank or Profession	Residence at the Time of Marriage	Father's Name and Surname	Mother's Name and Surname	Rank or Profession of Father
8	April 13th 1880	Andrew Dineen	34	Single	Farmer	Doonbeg	Denis Dineen	Margaret Keohane	Farmer
		Margaret Keohane	23	Single	—	Doonbeg	Denis Keohane	Julia Keohane	Farmer

Married in the Roman Catholic Chapel of Bantry according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Roman Catholic Church by me, John Henry Rice

This Marriage was solemnized between us, Andrew Dineen and Margaret Keohane in the Presence of us, Patrick Dineen and Julia Keohane

Andrew was living in the townland of Ahil, while Margaret resided just a few miles west in Carran.

The early years of their marriage brought both joy and profound heartbreak. In 1881, Margaret gave birth to their firstborn, a son named Patrick, who tragically died in December 1883. Their grief was tempered by the arrival of a second son in 1882, whom they named Denis—honoring grandfathers and uncles on both sides of the family tree.

The 1901 Irish census offers an intimate snapshot of their daily existence. Though neither Andrew nor Margaret could read or write, they were bilingual, fluidly speaking both English and Irish (Gaeilge). They owned land in Cappaboybeg and lived in House 7, a modest, one-room stone cottage featuring two front windows. Their small farming operation was tight and self-contained, consisting of a stable, a fowl house, and a separate shelter for a single cow. Living with them was their 17-year-old son, Denis, and Margaret's nine-year-old niece, Mary Keohane (daughter of her brother Jeremiah). Young Mary likely stayed with the family to provide an extra, much-needed set of hands on the homestead.



By 1910, the family's fortunes had clearly improved. They had moved to House 5 in Cappaboybeg, a significantly larger, two-story dwelling boasting four rooms and five front windows. Their agricultural footprint had grown as well, now including a stable alongside dedicated shelters for both a cow and a pig. The household had also expanded to include the next generation: their son Denis, his new wife Bridget, and two young grandchildren, Andrew (3) and Maggie (1).

Despite this outward stability, Margaret appears to have suffered from fragile health for most of her adult life. Her physical struggles were a consistent topic in the rare, surviving letters sent between her siblings. In a 1902 letter to his sister Julia, Jeremiah Keohane noted, "Andy Denny are well [Andrew Dineen's family]. She [Margaret] is not in health." A

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decade later, in October 1913, their sister Kate Keohane Harrington sent Julia another grim update: *"I was to see Mag [Margaret] in Aug and she is no good or never will. Andy is very strong."*

Margaret passed away on April 11, 1914, at the age of 56. The cause of death was listed as phthisis pulmonalis—the archaic medical term for severe pulmonary tuberculosis, a rampant scourge in rural Ireland at the time. Her 31-year-old son, Denis, was at her bedside. Andrew, described for so long as strong, survived his wife by four years, passing away in 1918.



The Next Generation: An overview of Branch 1...Descendants of Andrew and Margaret.

Denis Andy Dinneen

1882-1959

1st cousin 2x removed

Denis was the second son of Andrew and Margaret Dineen, born on May 23, 1882, in Ahil Beg, Co. Cork, Ireland. His full name carried the weight of family history, honoring his grandfathers, Denis Dineen and Denis Keohane, as well as his paternal uncle. The 1901 census finds him as a 17-year-old youth, already working the soil as a farmer on his father's land.

On February 12, 1907, Denis married Bridget Wren (1880–1965). Together, they raised five children. By 1911, Denis and Bridget were living with his aging parents in the four-room Cappaboybeg house, tending to the family farm and their two eldest toddlers. Like his parents, Denis was fluent in English and Irish but had not received a formal education in reading and writing.

By the time the 1926 census was taken, Denis was the recognized head of the household. The home was filled with four of his children: Andrew (18), Margaret (16), Patrick (12), and Denis (11). Strikingly absent from the family home were his wife Bridget and his 14-year-old daughter, Mary. The census reveals a harsh economic reality of the era: young Mary had already left the farm to live in Bantry town, working as a domestic servant for the Cotter family to help support the household.



A.I. generated picture of typical four room home on a farm in Cappaboybeg, Co. Cork around 1910

The deep, interconnected roots of the family came alive decades later in 1953, when John Walter Deneen traveled from America to visit the old country. In a vivid, eight-page letter home to his sister Frances, John detailed his emotional reunion with his Irish kin, highlighting the unique genetic bond they shared:

"We have a Double first cousin. Dennis Andy Dinneen, his father was our uncle Andy Dinneen and his wife mother was our mother's sister I forget her name [Margaret Keohane]. Dennis married Bridget Wrenn. Pop's sister Johanna married Wm Wrenn, I could not find out if they were related or not....had dinner with Dennis his wife and son. They live on Kealkill Hill, it



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takes 40 minutes to walk from the road up to the house too steep for a car. They have other children I met one of them Mary Dinneen, she works in the Canty Hotel, in Bantry, has been there for thirty years. Later on I went to Bantry and seen her. She said she never knew she had any relations in America. Another Mrs. James Cremin, lives in Kilgarven. I did not see her but she did come out to Daly's house but I was away at the time."

Denis Andy Dinneen passed away from cardiac failure at the age of 78 on October 19, 1959, with his son Denis by his side. His beloved wife, Bridget, survived him by six years, passing away in 1965.

Children and grandchildren:

1. Andrew Dinneen (1908-)
2. Margaret Dinneen (1909-) m. James Cremin (1907-1975)
 - o Eileen Cremin (1948-?)
 - o Patrick Joseph Cremin (1949-)
 - o Daniel Cremin (1950-2015)
3. Mary Dineen (1911-1992)
4. Patrick Dinneen (1912-)
5. Denis Christopher Dinneen (1914-1992)

