

Family Group: DINEEN | DESMOND

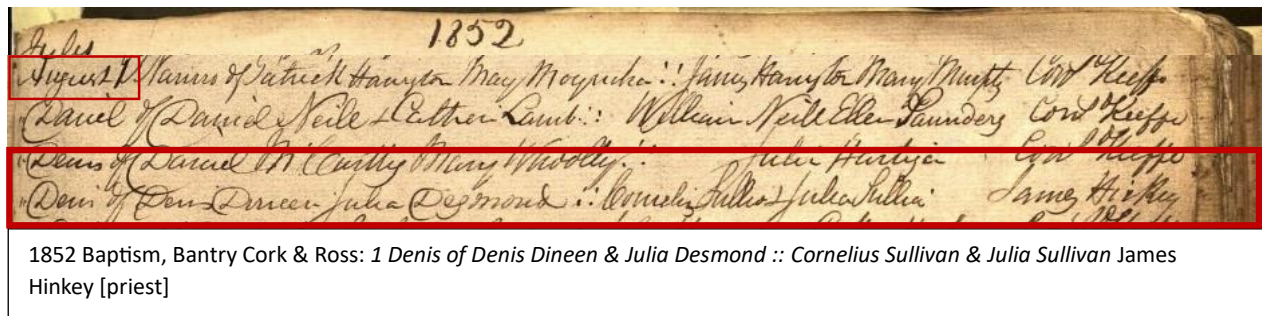
Branch 3 of 4

Denis Dineen

1852-1910

Great Granduncle

Denis Lawrence Dineen, the fourth child of Denis and Johanna, was born on July 27, 1852, and baptized on August 1. He carried the names of both of his grandfathers, as well as an older brother who had passed away before him.



Denis spent his youth farming alongside his father in Ahil Beg. According to the 1910 U.S. Census, he immigrated to America in 1878, leading the way for his family as the first sibling to emigrate; his brother Patrick followed in 1880, and his sister Hannah in 1881. By the time Denis left Ireland, both of his parents had passed away. Driven by the long aftermath of the Great Famine and a restrictive political landscape, he joined the wave of young Irish citizens seeking fresh opportunities across the Atlantic.



Denis spent the vast majority of his adult life in Pennsylvania. He initially settled in Towanda, Bradford County, along the Susquehanna River—a booming hub that drew immigrants with promises of industrial work in railroad construction and coal mining. In the 1880 census, Denis was recorded as a coal miner. The job demanded immense physical stamina, requiring miners to cut coal seams by hand while kneeling, crouching, or lying flat on their backs.

On July 3, 1878, shortly after arriving in the country, Denis married Ellen McGuire. While his obituary later noted their wedding year as 1879, the 1878 date matches the timeline of their first child's birth nine months later on April 27, 1879. Such minor discrepancies were common when family members tried to recall specific dates during a time of intense grief.

Towanda sat roughly 50 miles southeast of Corning, New York, where Denis's brother Patrick eventually established his home in 1880. Denis and Ellen named their firstborn Andrew, likely honoring Denis's older brother who remained in Ireland. Their second child, Margaret Mary, was born a few years later in 1885.



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Around 1890, Denis moved his family westward across Pennsylvania to the Dagus Mines and Shawmut areas, eventually spending time in St. Marys before the turn of the century. Dagus Mines was a company patch town

built by the Northwestern Mining and Exchange Company. Nearby St. Marys had been established on December 8, 1842, by German Catholic immigrants seeking a tight-knit, faith-centered community away from the anti-Catholic prejudice of major eastern cities. Records suggest a potential family connection to a Cornelius F. Deneen, who married in St. Marys during this same period. Denis's niece, Johanna Deneen (daughter of his brother Patrick), is buried in the same cemetery plot as several of Cornelius's children, implying a deeper family tie that remains unconfirmed.

After their time in St. Marys, Denis and Ellen relocated to Byrnedale in Elk County, where Denis operated a local hotel until his son Andrew took charge of the business in 1904. Hotels and boarding houses served as vital community anchors in transient mining towns.

Denis later returned to Shawmut, where his life came to a sudden and tragic end on July 8, 1910. While out walking to visit old friends, Denis—who suffered from chronic heart trouble—appears to have suffered a medical emergency. His wife, Ellen, later noted that he likely was overcome by illness and sat down directly on the railroad tracks to rest. He collapsed across the rails and was struck by an oncoming train. The impact left his remains unrecognizable, and investigators were only able to identify him by a bank book found tucked inside his coat pocket.

In a heartbreaking turn, when a neighbor received the emergency phone call detailing the accident, Ellen was called to the line but was too overwhelmed to understand the chaotic news over the wire. The coroner concluded that death was instantaneous.

At 55 years old, Denis was remembered as one of the oldest and most resilient residents of Elk County, having journeyed from the rural hardships of post-Famine Ireland to the gritty industrial landscapes of Pennsylvania. For his deeply Catholic family, comfort was found in their faith, trusting his soul to God's mercy. Ellen survived him by seven years, passing away in 1917.

Form 1. U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1907. MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH. Dennis Dineen, 55 years old, died on July 8, 1910, at Byrnedale, Pa. Cause of death: Heart failure. Signed by Coroner and Physician.

CKWAYVILLE, PA., JULY 8

**DENNIS DINEEN
KILLED ON RAIL.**

Former Shawmut Resident
Met Untimely Death Monday Night at Ridgway.
BODY BADLY MANGLED.

Unfortunate Man Overcome by
Heartfailure on Railroad.

Dennis Dineen, who until about five weeks ago was a prominent resident of Shawmut, but who had since lived in St. Marys, met death on the railroad last Monday night shortly before midnight. With the head severed from the body and crushed to a pulp and both legs cut off at the trunk, the body was found just after the special train from St. Marys had passed over it on the R. & C. tracks just off the main line of the P. & E. in the Ridgway yards.

According to the Ridgway Democrat the body was discovered by a brakeman on the rear end of the special, who saw something which he mistook for a man, well dressed and apparently about fifty years of age. The condition of the head made identification from that source impossible, but if one of the coat pockets bank book No. 981, of the St. Marys Trust company bearing the name of Dennis Dineen, was found. With this clue there was no time lost in getting into communication with a family of the same name in St. Marys. Mrs. Dennis Dineen was called to a telephone in a neighbor's home, but could not be made to understand over the wire. The lady who had called Mrs. Dineen was able to convey the news, however, and it was soon established that Dennis Dineen had left his home in St. Marys Monday morning, but that his wife did not know where he had gone. She stated that he had a bank book on the St. Marys Trust company when he left home, and when told of the accident, she appeared to have no doubt but that the dead man was her husband.

From the mutilated condition of the body the man had apparently been galeop with his head on the frog and his legs extending over the other rail when the train struck him. Death must have been instantaneous. The coroner was summoned and an inquest was held Tuesday morning and the identity of the man established.

Dennis L. Dineen was one of the old residents of Elk county and for a number of years conducted a hotel at Byrnedale. He was born in Cork, Banford county, Ireland, July 27, 1854. He came to this country when about 18 years of age and settled at Towanda, Bradford county, where on July 3, 1879, he married Ellen McGuire. He is survived by his wife and two children, Andrew J. and Margaret Mary, also two brothers. From Towanda they moved to Dagus Mines 20 years ago where Mr. Dineen was employed by the Northwestern Mining and Exchange company. Later they moved to Byrnedale where he conducted the Byrnedale Hotel until 1904 when his son, Andrew J., succeeded him. He then resumed his old position with the Shawmut Mining company. About five weeks ago he moved to St. Marys.

Mr. Dineen was subject to heart trouble and Monday evening he went to Ridgway to visit old friends and Mrs. Dineen thinks he was overcome and sat down on the track where his body was found.

Resignation Accepted.



The Next Generations: An overview of Branch 3...Descendants of Denis and Ellen.

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1. Andrew Joseph Dineen

1879-1956

1st cousin 2x removed

Andrew's early adulthood was defined by the steady growth of the local energy and communication sectors. The 1900 census records him working as a young telegraph operator, boarding in a large industrial lodging house in Horton, Pennsylvania. By 1910, he had moved back home with his parents in Horton, working as a clerk in a coal office while his father worked on the tipper.

On September 19, 1911, at the age of 32, Andrew married Clara M. Gregory (1886–1929) in Elk County. The couple had four children and relocated to Kittanning, Pennsylvania, by 1920. Tragedy struck the household in 1929 when Clara passed away, leaving Andrew to raise their young children alone. The 1930 census shows him working as a head salesman for a coal firm, managing a household that included Francis (16), Dennis L. (12), Helen (10), and Mary (7). Andrew retired from active commercial work by 1940 and lived out his final years in Pittsburgh, passing away on July 6, 1956, at the age of 77.

Francis Andrew Dineen, MD (1913–1994): Francis earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Notre Dame before completing his medical training at Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia. He built a distinguished 37-year career in internal medicine on the staff at St. Francis Central Hospital in Pittsburgh. He married Vera McColligan, with whom he raised four children: James A., Margaret Ellen (Hittle), Patricia L. (Weidner), and Maryanne D. (Weidner).

Dennis Lawrence Dineen (1918–1970): Named in honor of his pioneering grandfather, Dennis attended the University of Notre Dame and became a professional chemist. He later transitioned into law, becoming a practicing patent attorney and a member of the New York State Bar Association. Following a 1945 divorce from his first wife, Laura Graff, he married Margaret Eileen Hayes in August 1950. He was the father of six children: Ellen (Corbett), Diane (Steiner), Betsy, Seanid, Megan, and Terrence.

Helen Margaret Dineen (1919–2004): Helen grew up in Kittanning and later married William H. Newton, raising two daughters: Mary Elizabeth (Slegesky) and Ann Newton.

Mary Agnes Dineen (1923–1978): Mary lived a quiet, private life in the Pittsburgh area. No photographic records of her remain in the primary family archive.

2. Margaret Mary Dineen

1881-1918

1st cousin 2x removed

Born in Bradford County, Margaret moved with her parents through the changing landscape of Pennsylvania's mining communities. She never married, choosing instead a quiet, private life centered entirely around her home, family, and religious faith. She passed away during the global influenza pandemic of 1918.

