

Family Branch: KEOHANE | SULLIVAN

Branch 3 of 7

John Keohane

April 3, 1855 — May 10, 1943

Great Granduncle

Born in 1855, John Keohane was the third child and second son of Denis Keohane and Catherine Sullivan. Growing up at the family homestead, John learned the grueling art of traditional tenant farming directly from his father. Like his older brother Jeremiah, John benefited from his family's commitment to education. The 1901 Census of Ireland records that he was fully literate—able to read and write—and fluently bilingual in both Irish and English.

On January 31, 1888, at the age of thirty-two, John married nineteen-year-old Mary Ryan (1869–1923). John and Jeremiah established their family homes directly adjacent to one another in the townland of Carran, raising their respective children in a remarkably tight-knit, overlapping cousin community.

Around 1905, utilizing the landmark land reforms of the era, John achieved a major milestone by purchasing his acreage directly from the Irish Land Commission, which then held the former estate of landlord Robert White of Glengarriff Castle. John secured a total of approximately 110 acres using a £70 loan from the Commission, officially cementing his status as an independent, self-made landowner.



A series of preserved letters provides a vivid window into the daily life, cattle operations, and transnational nature of John and Mary's household. On April 19, 1913, Mary Ryan Keohane penned a letter to her American sister-in-law, Julia (Keohane) Deneen in Corning, New York, catching her up on the family tree: *"Well, now I must tell you the names of the lads [children]..."*



In the letter, Mary also made inquiries on behalf of her husband, who was eager for news of his sister Mary, who had pioneered the family's migration to upstate New York decades earlier: *"John wants to know from you, does his sister Mary live? Hoping they are all well, and you and your family also."*

Most notably, Mary's letter detailed how the next generation was beginning to scatter across the Atlantic. She noted that their eldest daughter, Mary, who had emigrated in 1907, had recently *"gone to Buffalo to learn to be a nurse,"* adding that *"the boys are going to go out there too later on."* This chain migration was actively supported

from within the family network; Mary's sister, Kate (Ryan) Shea, helped secure the children's initial passage to America. Once established, the older siblings began sending substantial remittances back to Carran to fund the travel of their younger brothers and sisters. As Mary proudly summarized, *"the children send us a good deal of money, so now they are taking out each other."*

Family Branch: KEOHANE | SULLIVAN

John's sisters also kept tabs on the bustling Carran farm. In April 1913, Kate (Keohane) Harrington wrote to their sister Julia in New York, reporting that *"Johnny is well, wife & family. He is building a new house."* This new homestead would become the "big house" that still stands today.



Years later, in December 1918, Kate wrote to Julia with an update on the family's expanding cattle operations, noting how the extended family collaborated at local markets: *"Dennis [their nephew, Dennis Deneen] was here on the 16th of December at Kenmare fair buying a beef himself, Johnny, & Mike. They bought three beefs."* John and his son Mike were farming actively as partners, successfully transitioning the estate into pastoral cattle grazing.

While John and Mary's elder children were steadily building new lives in America, the political landscape in Ireland was exploding. The movement for total independence from British rule was gaining unstoppable momentum. In the rugged countryside of County Cork, the conflict manifested as a brutal guerrilla war. Small, highly mobile "flying columns" of the Irish Republican Army (IRA)—ranging from 10 to over 50 volunteers—lived permanently "on the run." These specialized insurgent units executed swift, deadly hit-and-run ambushes on British military convoys, the Royal Irish Constabulary (RIC), and the notorious Black and Tans, before instantly vanishing back into the hillsides.



John "Joney" Keohane and his wife Mary Ryan Keohane

John and Mary Keohane emerged as a trusted, unwavering safe haven for these local guerrilla forces, routinely providing food, shelter, and clandestine aid to volunteers operating in the Bantry-Glengarriff region. Their legendary hospitality to the rebels was so profound that it was eventually immortalized in local folk poetry.

To paralyze British military road infrastructure and prevent troop reinforcements from cornering these flying columns, the IRA heavily relied on a scorched-earth tactic: blowing up and destroying local bridges, felling massive trees across roadways, and digging deep trenches. By early 1921, these operations had effectively cut off the rural townlands of West Cork from the outside world.

Tragically, this very strategy proved fatal for Mary. In early February 1923, during the subsequent Irish Civil War, Mary suffered a severe fall from a horse, fracturing her femur. Under normal circumstances, a doctor could have been quickly summoned to set the bone. However, because local IRA fighters—the very men Mary had protected and nurtured at her kitchen table—had systematically destroyed all the bridges in the surrounding area, proper medical assistance could not reach the isolated Carran homestead.

Where the Borlin River Flows

Excerpt of verse written about County Cork locals helping IRA soldiers during the War for Independence

...To Mary Ryan's we often went, May her soul rest in peace. There we got "Cead Mile Failte". She was one of the best.

From the shores of the Atlantic, to the wilds of Gugane, every outlaw and rebel knew Joney Keohane, and when danger and death lay thick on their path, they came to his dwelling, a shelter they got.

Some sat at the table playing twenty-five, all gathered together, like bees in a hive. The cares of the day for while they forgot, and everyone shouting, "Can you strike that"!...

Verse composed by Maggie Brine, 1919 | neighbor of Mary Ryan Keohane

Family Branch: KEOHANE | SULLIVAN

Mary languished in immense pain for fourteen days without medical intervention. She ultimately succumbed to a cerebral embolism resulting from the untreated injury on February 15, 1923. John was present at his wife's bedside when she passed.



*John Keohane
pictured with
family groups and
their fur friends!
Wish we knew
everyone's names.*

*(And yes, I mean
the dogs too!)*

Mary's sudden death left John with a heavy domestic burden, as their seventeenth and youngest child was just thirteen years old. To keep the farm running and raise the youngest members of the household, John relied heavily on his older children and the deep network of the surrounding extended family.

John outlived his wife by exactly twenty years, continuing to farm the land at Carran and witnessing his family expand across two continents. He passed away peacefully of old age on February 15, 1943—passing away on the exact twenty-year anniversary of his wife's tragic death. His devoted daughter, Kitty (Keohane) Connolly, was by his side to comfort him at the end. Together, John and Mary Ryan left an extraordinary legacy, giving life to seventeen children who would shape families across Ireland and the United States.



The Next Generation: An overview of Branch 3...Descendants of John and Mary Ryan Keohane.

1. Stephen Patrick Keohane

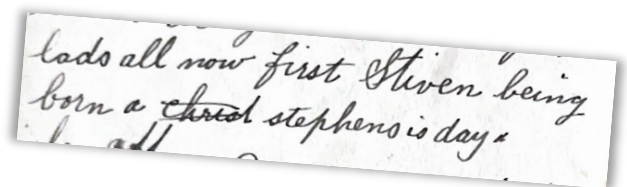
December 26, 1888 — January 14, 1946

1st cousin 2x removed

The eldest of John and Mary's seventeen children, Stephen was born in Bantry, County Cork. In her April 1913 letter to her sister-in-law Julia, Mary Ryan Keohane fondly recalled his birth, writing: "...first Steven being born a Stephen's day [Boxing Day]."

Seeking new opportunities, an eighteen-year-old Stephen emigrated to the United States alongside his sister, Mary Frances, arriving in New York City on May 29, 1907, aboard the SS Caronia. Once established in America, Stephen strictly honored the family tradition of chain migration; he systematically saved his wages and sent remittances back home to Carran to fund the ocean passage for the next sibling in line.

By 1925, the New York State Census records Stephen living in a bustling, transnational household in New York City, working as a mechanic. He was sharing a home with four of his younger, single siblings who had followed him across the Atlantic: Josephine, Michael, Francis, and Anna.



Family Branch: KEOHANE | SULLIVAN

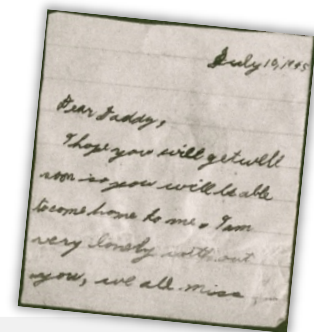
Stephen committed himself to his new home, officially becoming a naturalized United States citizen in June 1915 and later registering as a Democrat on October 10, 1933. Throughout his life in New York, census records show he was a versatile and hard-working laborer who took on a variety of essential city jobs. He worked as a surface rail conductor, a longshoreman on the bustling Cunard Line at Pier 56, a stoker for a street cleaning company, and eventually as a fireman for the Department of Sanitation stationed at the Rikers Island dump.

On September 7, 1934, Stephen married Katherine Mary Riley (1905–2008). A cherished family photograph captures their wedding day, featuring Margaret Riley (Katherine's sister), the bride Katherine, the groom Stephen, and an elusive gentleman remembered simply as "Dan"—though his exact place in the family tree remains a mystery. Together, Stephen and Katherine raised two children: Thomas Stephen and Kathleen.



Tragically, Stephen's life was cut short when a severe ear infection progressively worsened, eventually developing into terminal brain cancer. The deep love of his young family is preserved in a poignant, heartbreaking "get well daddy" note written to him by one of his children just six months before he passed away. Stephen died in Queens, New York, at the age of fifty-eight.

Children: Thomas Stephen (1936–living) and Kathleen "Kay" (1939–2008).



The photos of Stephen were shared with Lora Keohane Wimsatt from Jennifer Oaks Keohane, whose husband William Keohane is a son of Thomas Stephen Keohane.

2. Mary Frances Keohane

July 24, 1890 — August 27, 1978

1st cousin 2x removed

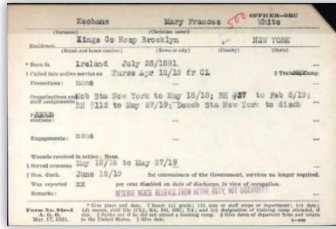
Born in Bantry, County Cork, Mary grew up working the family land alongside her siblings. At just sixteen years old, she bore witness to family history when she was present at the deathbed of her grandmother, the family matriarch Catherine Sullivan Keohane, on April 20, 1907. Only a month later, Mary embarked on a new journey. She traveled across the Atlantic with her brother Stephen, processing through Ellis Island on May 29, 1907. In her April 1913 letter to Aunt Julia, Mary Ryan Keohane shared an update on her daughter's rapid professional ambition: "Mary is gone to Buffalo to learn to be a nurse, State Hospital."

Mary.

*...more of your mother you see Julia
Mary is gone to Buffalo to learn
to be a nurse state Hospital*

Family Branch: KEOHANE | SULLIVAN

The 1915 New York State Census confirms this milestone, listing Mary as an active attendant at the Buffalo State Hospital. By 1917, she had relocated to New York City, living and working at Kings County Hospital in Brooklyn.



When the United States entered the global conflict of World War I, Mary bravely answered the call, volunteering for active service as a military nurse in the United States Army on April 12, 1918. At twenty-seven years old, she was deployed to Europe, reporting first to U.S. Army Base Hospital No. 37 in Dartford, England, and later treating wounded soldiers at Base Hospital No. 113 in Savenay, France.

Following an honorable discharge on June 18, 1919, Mary returned to New York City to resume her civilian nursing career. However, when news reached her of her mother's tragic death in 1923, Mary immediately crossed the ocean once more. Ship manifests from that year record her returning to Ireland to mourn and support her grieving father and younger siblings, offering her medical expertise and presence to ease the family into life without their beloved mother. By 1924, she returned to the United States, practicing as a nurse at the Brooklyn Street Hospital. Mary spent the remainder of her long life in service to others, passing away in New York City at the age of eighty-eight.

Children: None.



In the photo, Lora Wimsatt Keohane identified Mary Frances Keohane on the left. She also speculated "that is almost certainly a Keohane brother in the center...looks like Jeremiah Joseph Keohane (1893-1990). The woman at right is probably one of the sisters but alas, I don't know for sure." [looks like Margaret Keohane]

3. Dennis Keohane

January 20, 1892 — December 27, 1947

1st cousin 2x removed

Dennis

Like his brothers and sisters, Dennis spent his formative years working the soil at the Carran homestead. Seeking his own path, he departed for America aboard the SS Adriatic, arriving at Ellis Island on October 7, 1909. He quickly found his footing in the bustling hospitality industry of New York City. His mother proudly highlighted his early success in her 1913 letter, noting: "*Denie is in a club, a waiter, he has good pay.*"

The 1910 U.S. Census corroborates this, recording an eighteen-year-old Dennis waiting tables at a private Manhattan club. By 1920, Dennis had married Delia Kyne (1894–1947) and settled into a home in Brooklyn. Dennis was an enterprising worker, adapting fluidly to the changing economic tides of the city; the 1925 Census lists him as a restaurant owner, the 1930 Census as a grocery salesman, and the 1940 Census as a professional bartender.

Dennis's life came to a sudden, tragic end at the age of fifty-five. On the day he died, a historic, paralyzing blizzard struck Manhattan. A contemporary newspaper account detailing the casualties of the severe storm listed a man "tentatively identified as Dennis Keohane." Family lore reveals that during the blinding snowstorm, Dennis tragically slipped and suffered a fatal fall down the stairs of the 51st Street subway station.

Children: Maurine (1920–1978), Catherine Ann (1922–2005), and Helen (1929–living).

4. Jeremiah Joseph Keohane—Jerry or Jer

April 13, 1893 — October 14, 1990

1st cousin 2x removed

Jerry

At the age of eighteen, Jerry departed Ireland, arriving at Ellis Island aboard the SS Campania on August 12, 1911. He traveled upstate to join his sister Mary Frances in Buffalo, New York, where the 1915 Census records him working as a professional steamfitter. Showing a deep affinity for the region's waterways, his 1917 draft registration lists him as a merchant sailor for the Lehigh Valley Boats. On June 24, 1918, at age twenty-five, Jerry was inducted into the United States Army, serving honorably for six months during the final stretch of World War I. This military service granted him his American citizenship.



Siblings Jeremiah & Mary Frances in their WWI uniforms (she was a nurse)

purchased a family home at 23 Sherwood Avenue in Buffalo, which remained his primary residence for the rest of his life. The 1930 Census records his occupation as a city firefighter, and by 1956, he transitioned to a role as a maintenance engineer for the Buffalo Municipal Housing Authority, managing large commercial boiler systems.

Jerry and Mary also owned a beloved summer cottage in nearby Angola, New York, which became the central gathering place for generations of Keohane picnics and family celebrations. Remembered fondly by relatives as "the life of the party" and "always ready for a good time," Jerry loved to sing traditional Irish songs. He was known to bring friends and strangers home from the local tavern late at night, lightheartedly waking his children so they could perform and sing for their guests. In his younger years, his festive spirit was accompanied by heavy drinking, and he occasionally spent or gave away his wages before making it home to pay the household bills.



circa 1935

*Front L to R: Marie, Kevin, Jerry, Bill
Back L to R: Donald, John, Sister Honora (Jeremiah Keohane's sister Nora), Jeremiah*



Jerry Keohane Family

Front row L to R: Marie, Mary, Jeremiah, Helen
Back row L to R: John, Donald, Kevin, Jerry, Bill

As adults, his children went to Ireland to visit their parents' homeland and meet Keohane relatives. They repeatedly urged their father to join them, but Jerry steadfastly declined, revealing the profound depth of his homesickness with the remark that if he ever set foot on Irish soil again, he would never be able to bring himself to leave it. While a common family rumor suggested that Jerry had never met his youngest sister, Kitty (born in 1910), historical records clarify that because he did not emigrate until late 1911, he did

Family Branch: KEOHANE | SULLIVAN

indeed hold her—though only as a baby. Jerry lived an extraordinarily full life, passing away in Buffalo at the remarkable age of ninety-seven.

Children: John Joseph (1922–2008), Donald Edward (1923–2000), Kevin J. (1928–1989), *Jerry Francis Jr. (1929–2021), William "Bill" (1932–living), Marie H. (1934–living), and Helen Frances (1935–2000).

***Note:** Cousin Lora Keohane Wimsatt, who preserved these family stories, is the daughter of Jerry Francis Jr.

5. Michael Keohane—*Mick or Mick Johnny*

August 13, 1894 — March 28, 1968

1st cousin 2x removed

Michael

Michael learned the rhythms of agriculture by assisting with the endless daily chores on the family farm at



On left: **John Keohane**, son of Jeremiah Joseph Keohane, who slipped away while stationed in England during WWII to visit relatives in Ireland. He's pictured here with his uncle, **Michael Keohane**. Circa 1945.

Carran. Unlike his older siblings, who all emigrated in their late teens or early twenties, Michael remained in Ireland much longer. The outbreak of the First World War, closely followed by the high-stakes guerrilla warfare of the Irish War of Independence and the bitter Civil War, likely postponed his aspirations of traveling abroad. He supported his family through these turbulent years, enduring the tragic loss of his mother in 1923 when he was twenty-eight.

A few years later, Michael decided his time had come to cross the Atlantic. At the age of thirty, he arrived at Ellis Island aboard the SS Aurania on October 21, 1924, listing his sister Mary Frances—then practicing at the Brooklyn Street Hospital—as his intended sponsor.



Coomhola, Co. Cork

Showing a determination to assimilate, he became a naturalized United States citizen just six months later on March 6, 1925. However, the pull of the West Cork hillsides remained absolute. By 1934, Michael made the rare decision to leave America permanently and return to his roots in Ireland. On January 30, 1934, he married Mary Hurley (1890–?), settling back down into the rural community he had spent his youth protecting.

Children: None.

then there was 2 babies in one berth

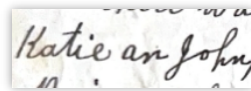
6 & 7. Catherine & John Keohane—*Katie & John*

October 26, 1895

1st cousin 2x removed

Tragically, John and Catherine were born as twins into an era of high infant mortality. They were brought to the parish altar and baptized on the exact day of their birth, October 26, 1895. In late 19th-century Ireland, Catholic families rushed to baptize newborns within hours of birth due to the urgent theological fear that unbaptized infants dying in original sin would be relegated to Limbo. Quick baptism ensured the salvation of their innocent souls and allowed for their burial within the consecrated ground of the churchyard.

Little John survived only a single day, passing away on October 27, 1895. His twin sister, Catherine, followed him into eternity the very next morning, passing away on October 28, 1895.



Codail go sámh go séimh.

Sleep peacefully and gently.

8. Margaret Keohane—*Maggie or Peggy*

November 6, 1896 — February 26, 1960

1st cousin 2x removed

The 1911 Census of Ireland records Margaret as a bilingual fourteen-year-old scholar, fully capable of reading, writing, and speaking both Irish and English. At the age of twenty-five, she bid farewell to Carran, boarding the SS Hudson and arriving in New York City on May 2, 1922. She traveled directly to join her oldest brother, Stephen Keohane, who helped her get situated in the city.

Only a year after her arrival, she received the devastating news of her mother's passing. In 1934, having saved her wages, Margaret made the voyage back to Ireland to visit her aging father and mourn with her extended family. She ultimately returned to New York to build a dedicated medical career. By the time of the 1950 U.S. Federal Census, Margaret and her older sister, Mary Frances, were sharing a home in New York City; both sisters lived independent lives, bound by kinship and their shared noble profession as registered nurses.

Children: None.



9. Bridget Keohane—Josephine Keohane

November 24, 1897 — May 14, 1985

1st cousin 2x removed

Bridget

Born at Bantry, Bridget followed the well-worn family path to America, arriving in New York on September 10, 1916, aboard the SS Kroonland. The ship manifest noted she was heading directly to the apartment of her nurse sister, Mary Frances.

By 1920, she made a deliberate choice to shield herself from anti-Irish prejudice by adopting the name Josephine Keohane, while working as a charge nurse at the Manhattan State Hospital. Like her first cousin Bridget (daughter of Jeremiah) before her, she discarded the name "Bridget" to escape the ubiquitous and cruel American stereotype of the era, which mockingly depicted Irish domestic maids in media and cartoons as unmannered, lazy, prone to violence, and intellectually inferior.



Bridget funded the gravestone for her parent's graves.

In 1930, at age thirty-two, Josephine married professional printer Joseph G. Kelble (1901–1936) in Manhattan, and they welcomed a son, Terence Joseph, in 1931. Tragically, Joseph passed away in 1936, leaving her a young widow. She later remarried a widower and local undertaker, Edward Joseph Harrison (1876–1939), but sorrow struck again when Edward passed away just a few years later at age sixty-three.

The 1940 Census records Josephine living in Manhattan as a single mother, raising her young son Terence under the surname Harrison. Undaunted, she worked through the decades as a dedicated registered nurse to support her household. Her deep connection to her homeland never wavered; following the death of her father in Ireland in 1943, Josephine personally sent funds across the Atlantic to purchase and erect a proper headstone for her parents' graves in West Cork. Tragically, when she was seventy-five, her son Terence passed away at the age of forty-two, having proudly served his country in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War. Walking through life under many names—Bridget Keohane, Josephine Keohane, Josephine Kelble, Josephine Harrison, and ultimately Bridget J. Harrison—she survived her family's many hardships, passing away at the age of eighty-seven.

Children: Terence Joseph Kelble *Harrison*

Con

10. Cornelius Keohane—Con

February 18, 1900 — April 1980

1st cousin 2x removed

Cornelius was born into a bustling household when his mother was thirty and his father was forty-four. On August 29, 1925, a twenty-five-year-old Cornelius married eighteen-year-old Ellen "Nellie" [Surname Unknown] (1907–1979) in Ireland. Their first child, John Joseph, was born on Irish soil in July 1926.

Seeking to establish a firmer economic foundation for his new family, Cornelius departed for America just a few months later, arriving in New York aboard the SS President Harding on September 17, 1926. Nellie bravely followed him in December, crossing the winter Atlantic aboard the SS President Roosevelt with their infant son in

Family Branch: KEOHANE | SULLIVAN

her arms to reunite two days before Christmas. The couple settled in the Bronx, where they welcomed a daughter, Mary Frances, in 1928. Con built a strong, practical blue-collar career in the city, working for years as a railroad brakeman and eventually as a skilled mason. He passed away in New York at the age of eighty.

Children: None.

11. Julia Frances Keohane

August 13, 1901 — February 16, 1982

1st cousin 2x removed



Recorded as a young scholar on the 1911 Irish Census, Julia spent her teenage years witnessing the height of the political unrest in West Cork. In the summer of 1920, she chose to emigrate, boarding the SS Celtic alongside her younger sister Hannah and arriving in New York City on July 17.

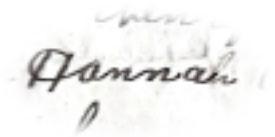
On June 26, 1927, Julia married James Joseph Sheridan (1901–1966) in New York City. Census records indicate James was a hardworking manual laborer, working as a city chauffeur and as a coal passer—a grueling job involving the constant hauling of heavy coal from storage bunkers to feed roaring commercial boiler fires. When Julia passed away at the age of eighty, her obituary fondly remembered her as a devoted, loving sister who maintained deep bonds with her siblings: Hannah, Sr. Marie Honora, Josephine, Kitty, and Jerry.

Children: None.

12. Hannah Keohane—Anna

July 4, 1902 — December 31, 1989

1st cousin 2x removed



Hannah appeared on the 1911 Ireland Census as a five-year-old student. At just eighteen years old, she embarked on the great journey to America, processing through Ellis Island on July 17, 1920. She made the voyage aboard the SS Celtic, traveling side-by-side with her older sister Julia for courage and companionship.

Settling in New York, she adopted the name Anna and trained diligently in the medical field, working as a professional nurse by 1933. At the age of forty-two, Anna married a fifty-year-old widower named James Morley on July 8, 1944. James was an enterprising worker who had transitioned from a career in heavy construction to become the owner of a local bar and grill. Hannah lived a long and peaceful life, passing away on New Year's Eve in 1989 at the age of eighty-seven.

Children: None.

13. Honora Cecelia Keohane—*Nora*—Sister Marie Honora

February 6, 1904 — July 29, 1995

1st cousin 2x removed

Honora departed for America aboard the SS Republic, entering New York Harbor on July 11, 1925, at the age of twenty. Following a deep spiritual calling, she entered the Dominican Convent on February 18, 1932. She professed her first religious vows on January 16, 1934, and took her perpetual vows on August 15, 1939, dedicating her life to faith and education as Sister Marie Honora.



Nora



Sister Honora was an intellectually driven woman, earning her bachelor's degree in English from Manhattan College. She spent decades teaching at various Catholic primary schools, including Rosary Villa in Sparkill (1937–1939), St. Catherine of Siena School in Manhattan (1944–1948), and St. Anthony's School in Nanuet (1953–1955 and 1967–1973). Her teaching ministry also took her to several parochial schools across Brooklyn, Carmel, White Plains, and even St. Louis, Missouri. Later in life, she served as the sacristan at the Dominican Convent and was a passionate volunteer religion teacher at Letchworth Village from 1973 until her formal retirement in 1984.

She remained very close with her family. On July 3, 1931, Honora and her sister Helen traveled to Buffalo, New York, to visit their brother, Jerry, at his home on Sherwood Avenue. The siblings took a memorable day trip across the Canadian border to Crystal Beach—an iconic amusement park often called the "Coney Island of Buffalo." Their boundary crossing on the historic Peace Bridge was officially recorded by the Canadian Immigration Service. Sister Honora lived a long, purposeful life of service, passing away at the age of ninety-one in Sparkill, New York.

Children: None.

14. Daniel Francis Keohane—*Danie*

January 14, 1905 — August 28, 1969

1st cousin 2x removed

Daniel grew up as a young boy amidst the intense guerilla warfare of the Irish War of Independence and the subsequent civil strife in West Cork. He faced the loss of his mother in 1923 when he was just eighteen. At age twenty-five, Daniel finally made the leap to America, arriving in New York Harbor aboard the SS Arabic on March 24, 1930, with just \$25.00 cash in his pocket. He traveled straight to the apartment of his sister, Josephine.

Arriving at the dawn of the Great Depression, Daniel relied on a strong blue-collar work ethic to survive, gaining employment over his lifetime as a manual laborer, a garage attendant, and a professional car polisher. On June 27, 1937, at age thirty-two, Daniel married Helen "Nellie" Jane Nesdale (1909–1965) in Manhattan. Nellie worked as a professional chambermaid at the prestigious Ritz-Carlton Hotel. Nellie passed away in 1965, and Daniel survived her by four years, passing away in 1969 at the age of sixty-four.

Children: Helen Marie (Boyd), Susan (Donovan), Joanie (Mills), and Jean (Dalton).

Danie

15. Ellen Keohane—*Nellie*—Helen

May 8, 1906 — July 4, 1963

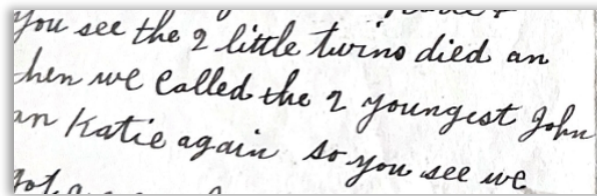
1st cousin 2x removed



Ellen was roughly eleven years old during the height of the Irish War of Independence, vividly witnessing the evening column of local IRA soldiers seek safe refuge in her parents' kitchen, playing cards late into the night to briefly forget the dangers of the conflict. Seeking a fresh start, Ellen arrived in New York City aboard the SS Carinthia on September 9, 1929. The 1930 Census records her living with her sister Josephine and brother-in-law Joseph Kelble, working diligently as a hospital nurse's aide.

In the summer of 1931, she joined her sister Honora on the trip to Buffalo to visit their brother Jeremiah, joining the family for their cherished crossing to the Crystal Beach amusement park in Canada—a joyous, treasured respite from the compounding worries of the Great Depression. On June 3, 1934, Ellen married Michael Frank Corcoran (1902–1967) in New York City. Michael worked as a professional bookkeeper, and by the time of the 1950 Census, Ellen had also entered the field, working alongside him as a bookkeeper. Ellen passed away in New York City at the age of fifty-seven.

Children: Francis M. (1936–2015) and John William (1937–2020).



16. John Keohane

October 13, 1907 — May of 1980

1st cousin 2x removed

John was the sixteenth child born to John and Mary Keohane. His identity was deeply tied to family remembrance; as his mother Mary had written to Aunt Julia in a poignant 1913 letter: *"you see the two little twins died an then we called the 2 youngest John an Katie again."* By the time John was born, his oldest siblings Stephen and Mary had already departed for America; because of the vast timeline of emigration, John did not meet his oldest siblings until he arrived on American soil twenty years later.

John was fifteen when his mother passed away in 1923. He worked the family land until he was twenty, finally boarding the SS Scythia and arriving in New York on May 22, 1928. Upon arrival, he lived with his first cousin Stephen Harrington (the son of his paternal aunt, Catherine Keohane Harrington). John eventually relocated to Buffalo, New York, where he married Helen F. Bidell (1903–1984) on June 12, 1935. The couple built a home at 150 Colvin Avenue, and John built a successful lifelong career as a stationary engineer, working first for a local commercial brewery and later managing operations at an industrial oxygen plant.

In the early 1960s, John finally made the emotional journey back to his ancestral homeland, traveling to Ireland alongside his daughter, Mary Ellen, and several other Buffalo Keohanes. As Mary Ellen was navigating a car down a narrow West Cork country road, John explained to her an unwritten law of local hospitality: it was customary to

Family Branch: KEOHANE | SULLIVAN

always offer a ride to anyone seen walking along the lane. Moments later, as they passed a local traveler on foot, John suddenly shouted for his daughter to stop the vehicle, crying out: *"That's my brother!"*

Remarkably, despite the decades and oceans that had separated them, John instantly recognized his brother Michael (Mick) walking along the roadside. A cherished family photograph preserves this unexpected, serendipitous reunion, capturing the two brothers standing happily together along the hedge-lined road where time briefly stood still.

John passed away in Buffalo in May of 1980 at the age of seventy-two.

Children: Joseph (1937–2015) and Mary Ellen (1941–).



Keohane Siblings – circa early 1960s

L to R: Sister Marie Hanora (1904-1995)

Michael 'Mick' Keohane (1894-1968)

John Keohane (1907-1980)

17. Catherine Keohane—*Katie*—*Kitty*

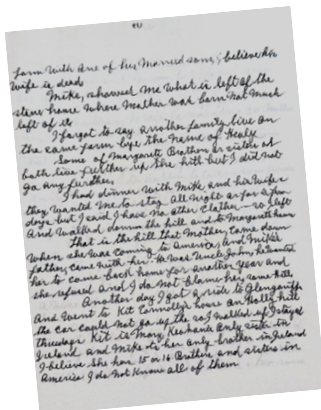
July 14, 1910 — October 31, 1982

1st cousin 2x removed

Katie

Catherine was the seventeenth and final child born to John and Mary, proudly bearing the name of her grandmother, Catherine Sullivan Keohane. Kitty was just twelve years old when her mother died, and her entire childhood was marked by a series of emotional station-platform goodbyes as her older brothers and sisters left for America one by one. Ultimately, all of her siblings emigrated except for Michael (who returned home) and Kitty herself, who resolutely chose never to leave Ireland.

On April 27, 1937, Kitty married tenant farmer Daniel Connolly (1906–?) in County Cork. They established their home on Holly Hill in the Glengarriff area. At age thirty-two, Kitty was by her father's side when he passed away in 1943, as the aging patriarch spent his final days living under the care of Kitty and Dan. Remaining in the Bantry region her entire life, Kitty lived her days steeped in the exact same traditions, landscapes, and rural rhythms as her ancestors had for generations.



Kitty's first cousin, John Walter Deneen (the son of paternal Aunt Julia Keohane Deneen), visited during his historic travels back to the home country in 1953.

Writing home to his sister, Frances Deneen Taylor, John Walter observed:

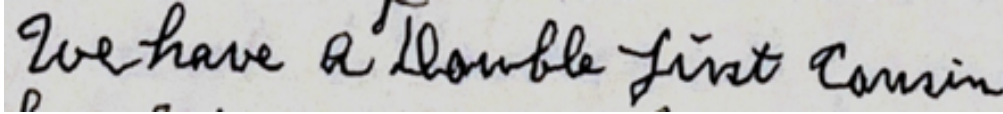
"Another day I got a ride to Glengarriff and went to Kit Connolly's house and on Holly Hill. The car could not go up the hill so I walked up I stayed three days. Kit is Mary Keohane's (Mary Frances Keohane 1890-1978) only sister in Ireland and Mike is her only brother in Ireland. I believe she has 15 or 16 Brothers and sisters in America I don't know all of them."

Her passing in 1982 was deeply felt, remembered in her obituary as being *"deeply regretted by her loving husband, son, daughters, brothers, sisters, grandchildren, sons-in-law, daughter-in-law, relatives and friends."*

Family Branch: KEOHANE | SULLIVAN

Children: Mary Theresa (1938–1995), Margaret Patricia (1939–), and Donal J. (1948–).

It was during this exact 1953 visit to the hillsides of Glengarriff that John Walter Deneen made a Family discovery that he and his siblings were unaware about. As he looked into the marriages of the next branch, he realized our lineage contains a rare and profound bond: a set of double first cousins.

A photograph of a handwritten note on lined paper. The text is written in cursive and reads "We have a Double First Cousin".

We have a Double first cousin.

This discovery of John Walter Deneen's leads us directly to the next chapter of Denis and Catherine Keohane's children: the branch of Margaret Keohane Dineen.

A loving thanks to Lora Keohane Wimsatt who contributed heavily to this section with her research, family stories, and documents. You are the best!

