

MEET PATRICK DENEEN & JULIA KEOHANE

A Legacy of Faith, Family, and Brave Hearts



Written by Beth Kelly



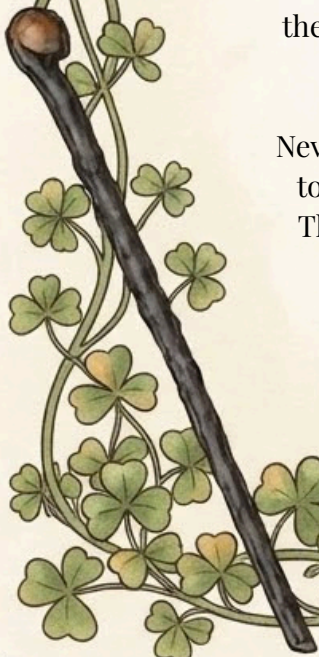
Dedicated to:
Jack Kevin Kelly
Eleanor Jane Kelly
Lucy Katherine Kelly
Riva Lynn Malson

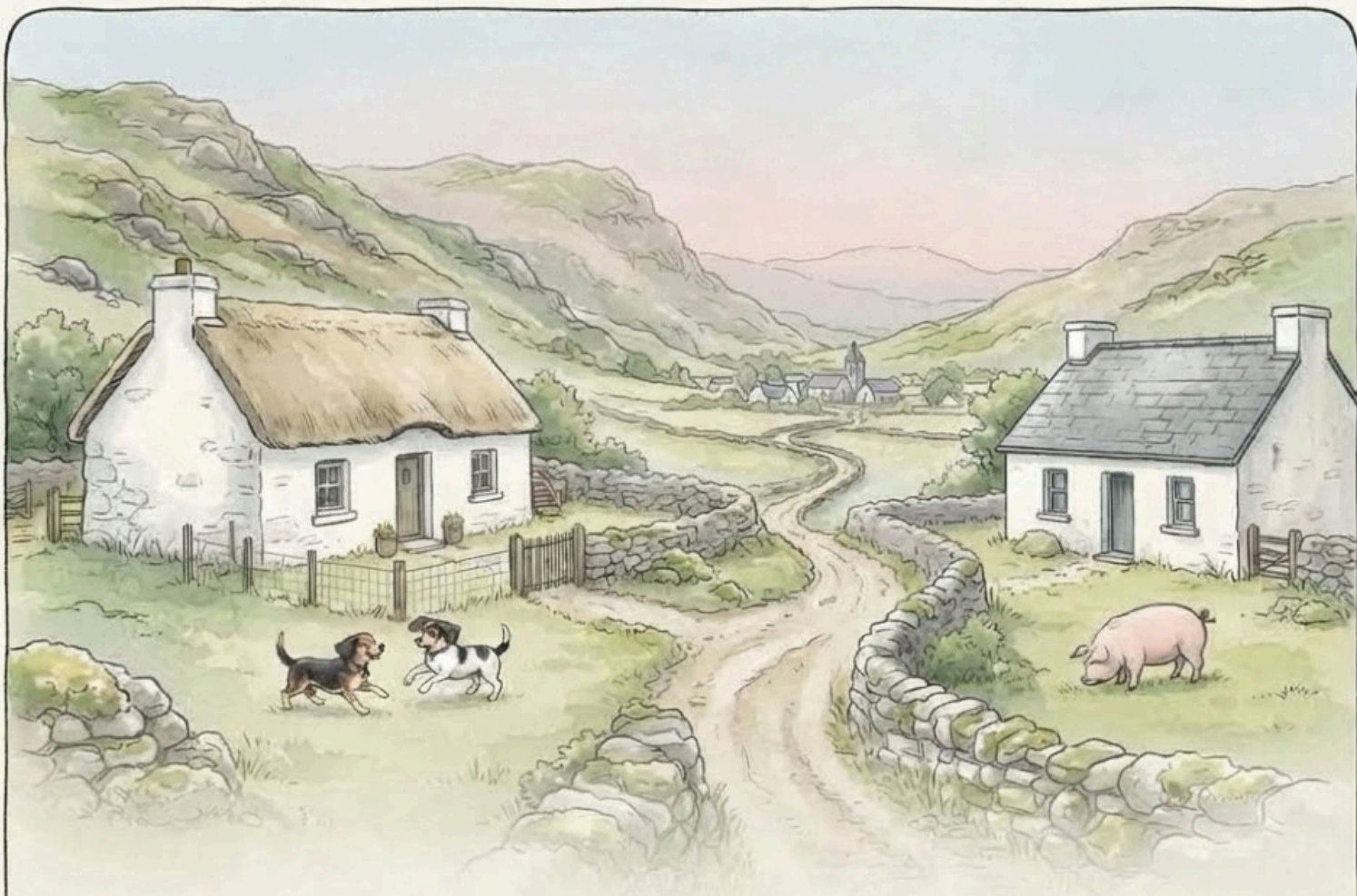
The Great, Great, Great-Grandchildren of Patrick and Julia Deneen.

To the keepers of the family magic and the newest leaves on our tree,
this book is for you. May you always carry the fierce independence of
the young girl from Carran Hill, and the boundless grit of the brave
boy from Ahil Beg.

Never forget the deep Irish County Cork roots that crossed an ocean
to lay down our future and created an unbreakable legacy of love.
Their story is now yours to tell, and no matter how far you travel,
may you always know exactly where home is.

October 2026





Long ago, among the rocky green hills of County Cork in Ireland, a boy named Patrick Deneen and a girl named Julia Keohane grew up as close neighbors. Life in the old country required immense hard work every single day. Yet, they were rich in things that couldn't be bought with coins—anchored always by a deep faith and an unbreakable love for family.



What animals do you see? What sounds do they make?



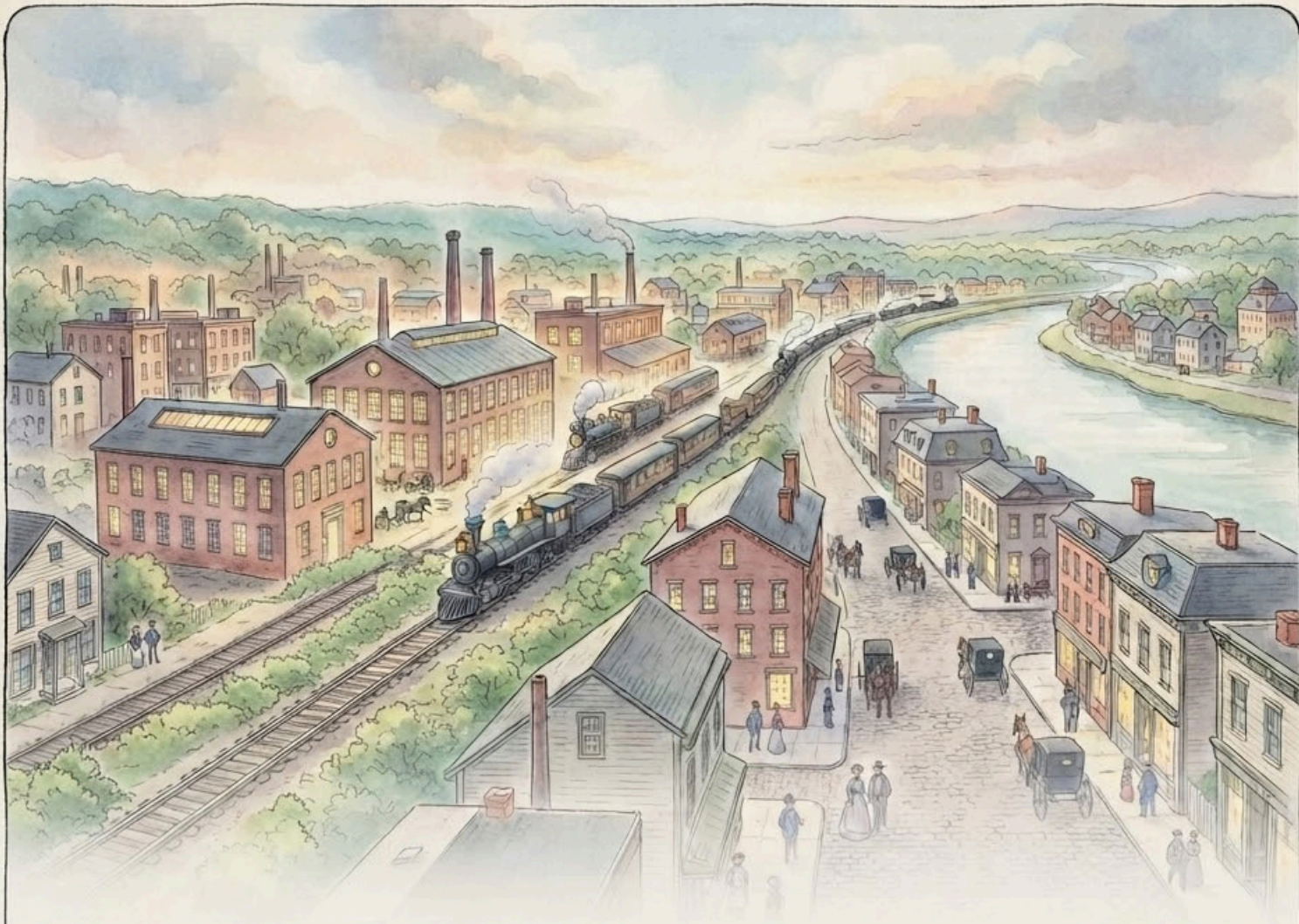
As the years rolled by, their family branches began to intertwine. In a beautiful stone chapel in Bantry, Patrick's older brother married Julia's older sister! Patrick and Julia stood proudly side-by-side as the official wedding witnesses. Afterwards they celebrated with food, dancing and a lot of laughter all night long!



With limited options in his hometown, Patrick made the courageous choice to build a new life in America. At twenty-five years old, he packed his father's blackthorn shillelagh walking stick, boarded a crowded steamship named the SS Erin, and sailed across the deep, stormy ocean.



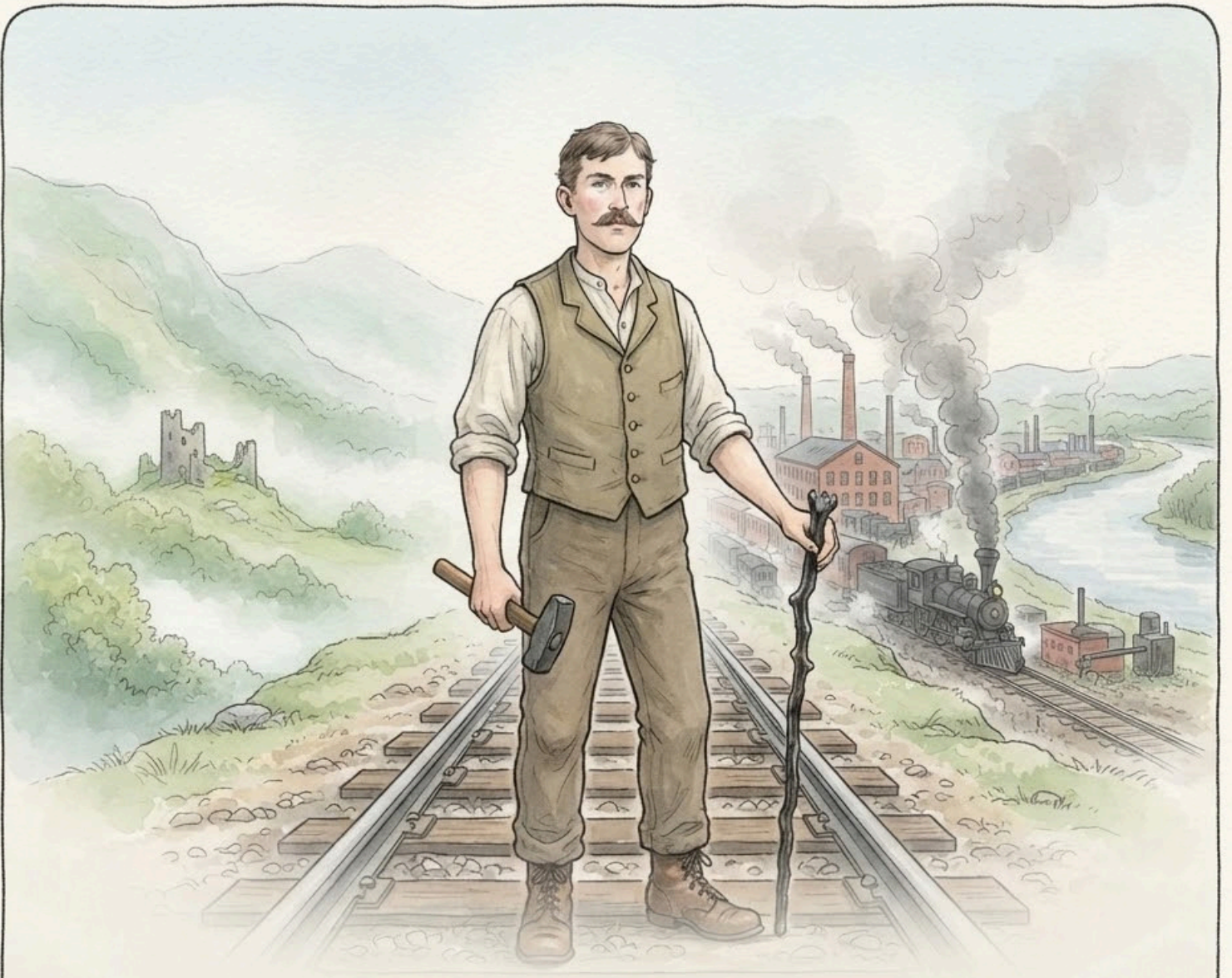
Exactly one year later, Julia made the same decision to leave Ireland for America. At seventeen years old she walked down the long hill by her house in Carran, her big brother John ran beside her, begging her to stay home for just one more year. But Julia shook her head with fierce independence. She resolutely stepped toward the horizon of her future.



Patrick and Julia reunited far from home in a booming New York town called Corning—the "Crystal City". It was a place of roaring train yards and glowing glass factories. There, they reunited with cousins and old neighbors from Ireland. Together, they built a beautiful, bustling new community.



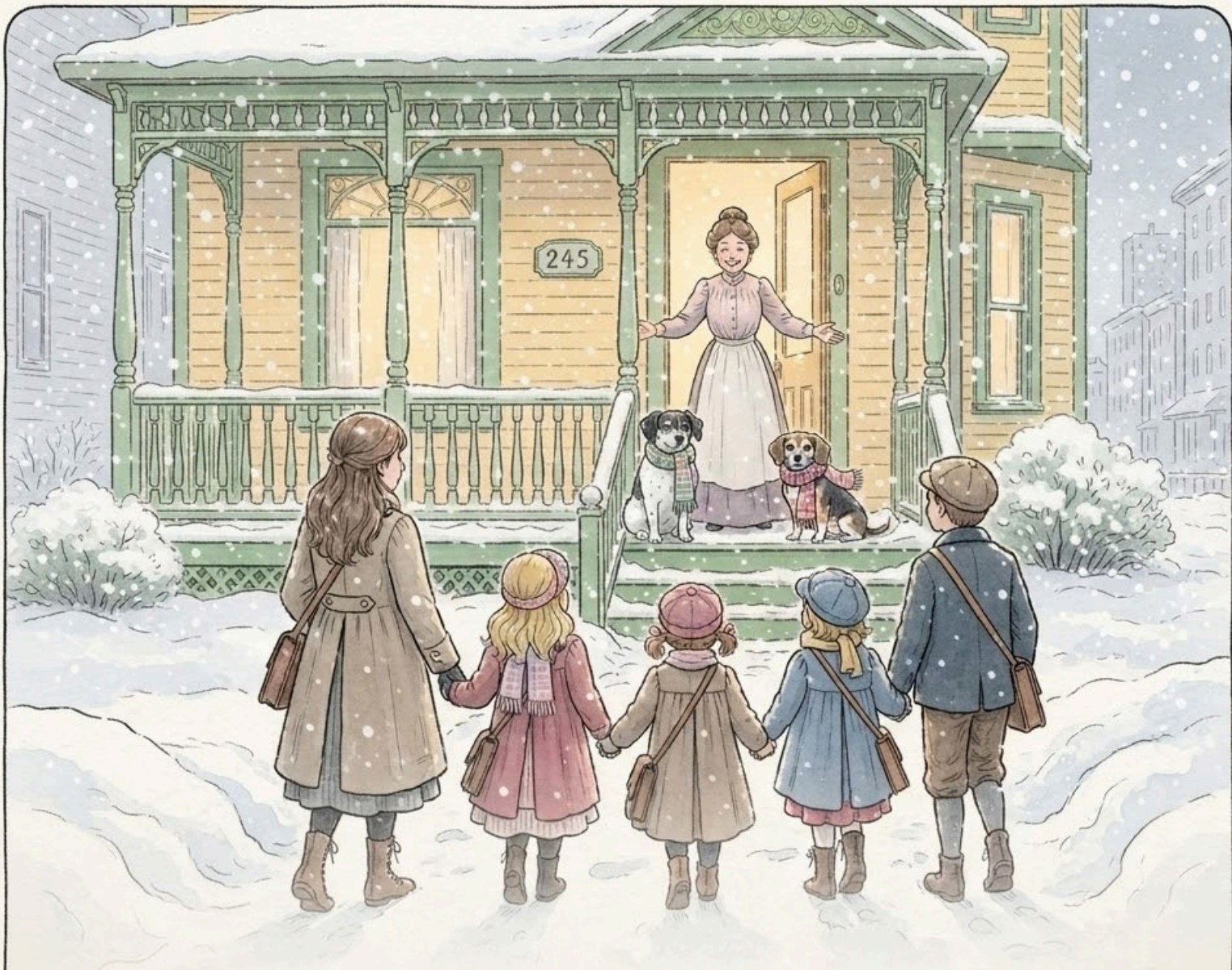
Do you see the trains? Can you trace your finger along all their cars?



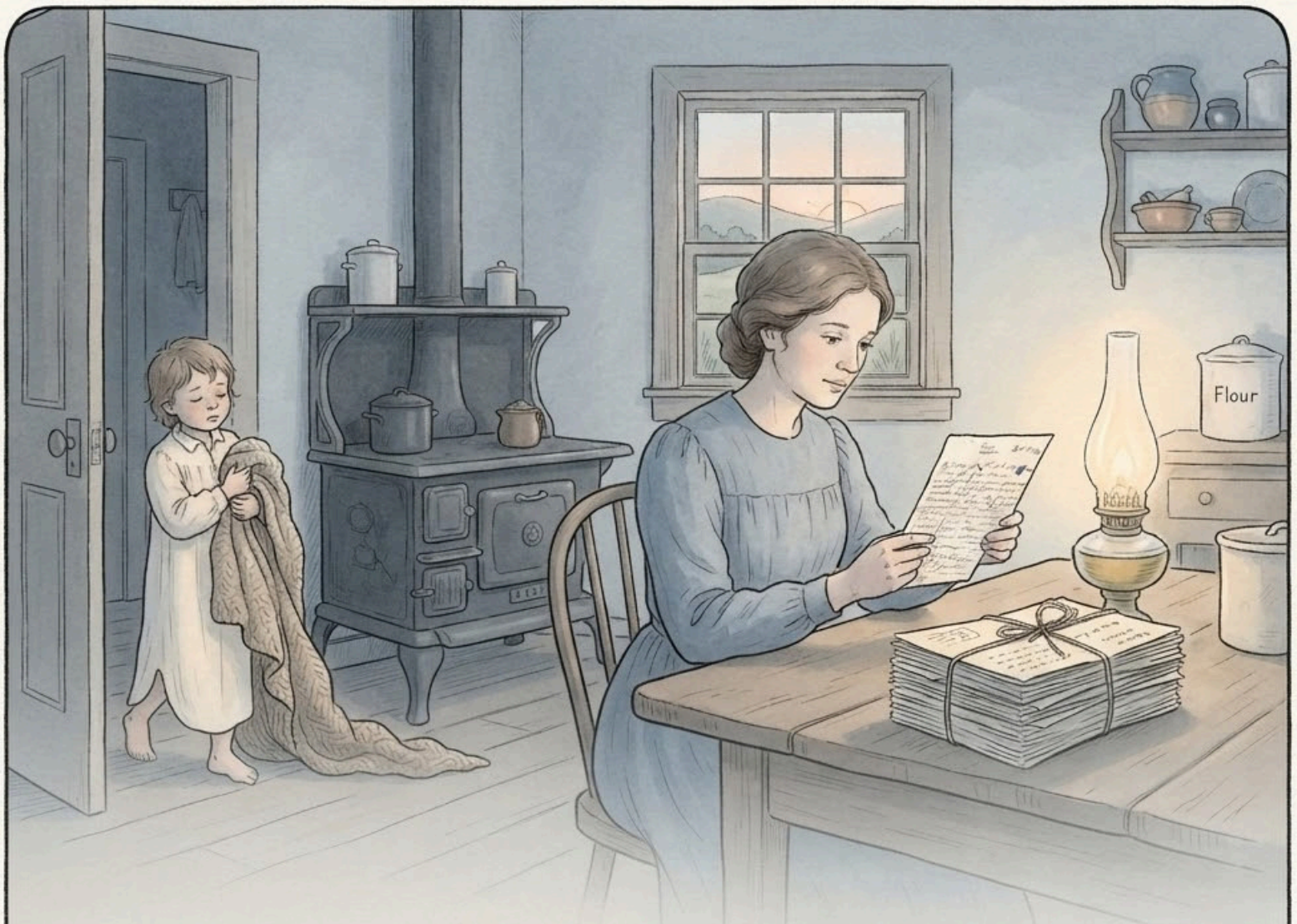
For hundreds of years, Patrick's family had farmed the rich pastures of County Cork but America required a different kind of labor. With immense strength, Patrick learned the difficult work of being a railroad worker.



On a beautiful autumn morning, September 30, 1884, Patrick and Julia stood inside St. Mary's Church in Corning and said "I do". They didn't have much money, but they had boundless courage. Together, they planted their roots deep into American soil, welcoming eight beautiful children into their hearts.



Winters in Corning were fierce and brutal, far different from the mild hills of County Cork. But inside the house on West Second Street, Julia made sure her family's roots stood strong. No matter how heavily the snow swirled, the children always knew that a warm stove and their mother's protective love were waiting to welcome them home safely from St. Mary's school.



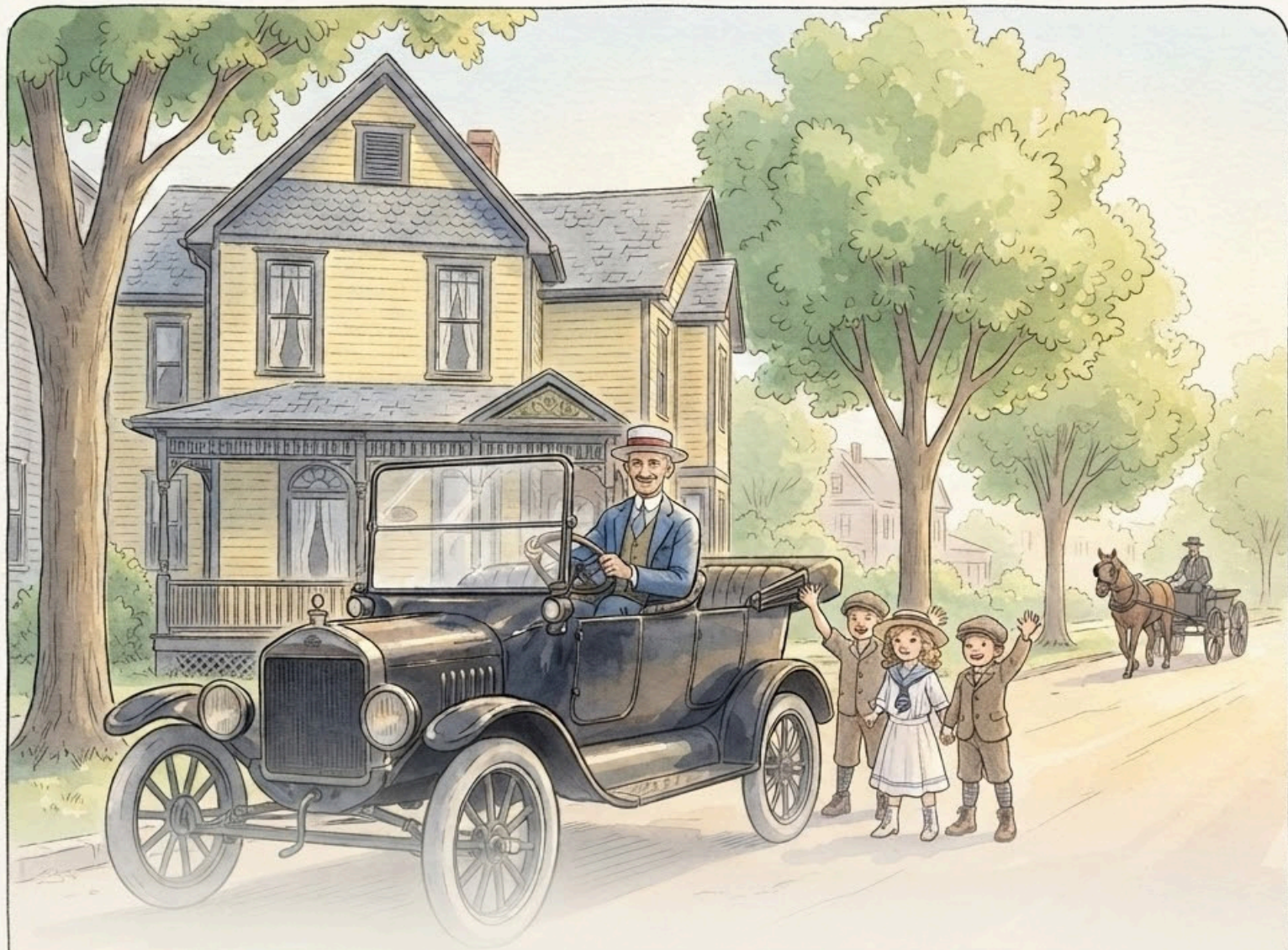
In the quiet hours before the busy chores started, Julia loved to read letters from her sister Mary in Canton, New York, and her other sisters back in Ireland. They shared news of neighbors, growing babies, and farm harvests. These letters were a thread of ink and love that kept the family's hearts close, no matter how many miles separated them.



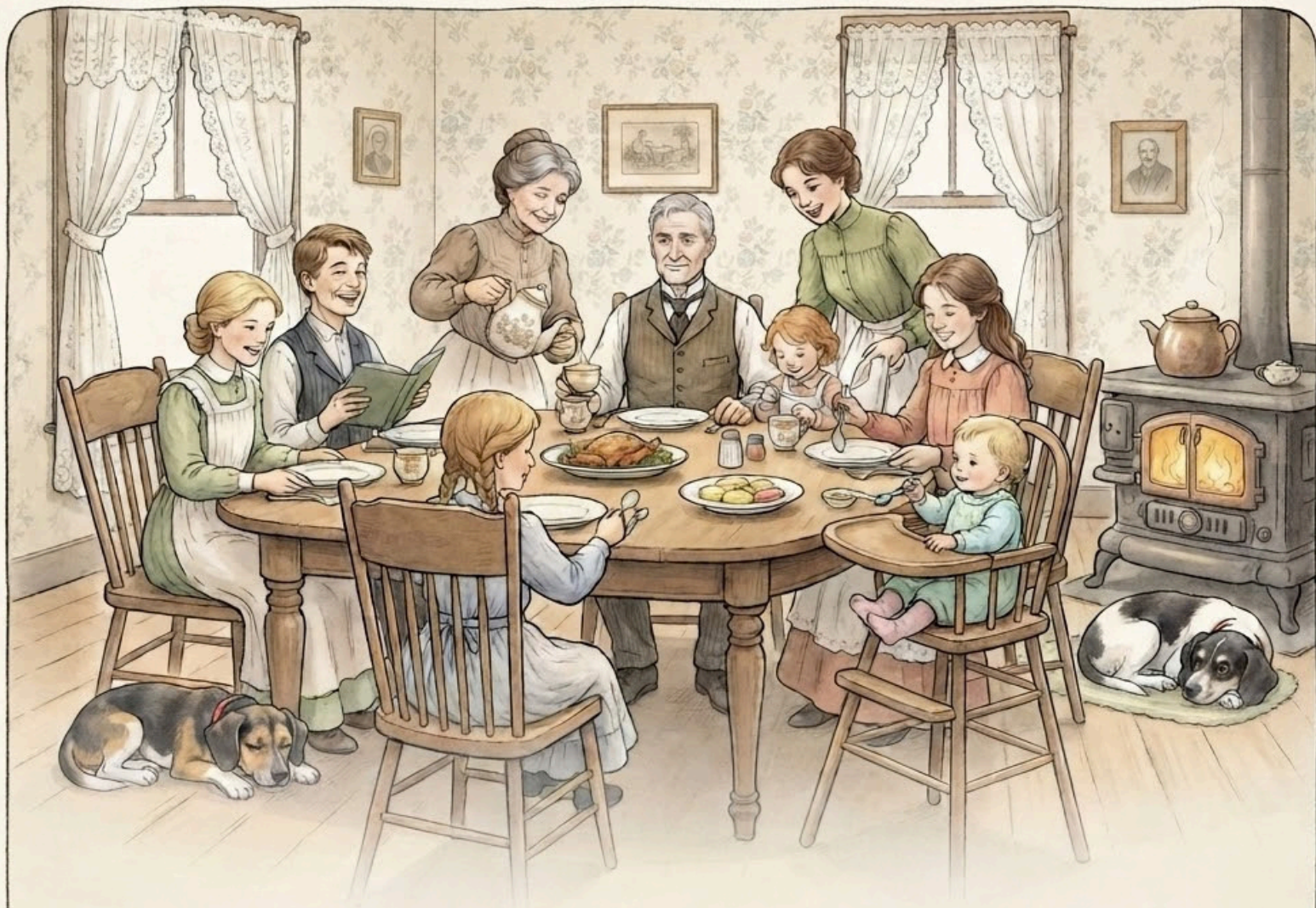
Julia loves receiving mail from across the sea! If you could write a letter to someone you love today, what secret message would you type inside it?



After growing their family to four girls and one boy, Patrick and Julia welcomed another son, Thomas. He was too gentle for this world and went to be with the angels before his very first birthday. His memory remained a silent, holy whisper of love that kept the family's faith completely unbroken.



While Patrick held tight to his beloved Irish traditions, he completely embraced all the exciting opportunities America offered! There were so many new things happening! Electricity made homes brighter with lamps, bathrooms moved from outside to inside, and cars were invented! Patrick was one of the very first neighbors on West Second Street to own a real automobile—a grand adventure that was a far cry from driving a horse and cart back in County Cork.



As the children grew, the world tried to pressure them to fit into standard American boxes. But the Deneen siblings stayed true to themselves! They held on to some of the old world traditions of their parents and embraced the opportunities of America. Let's meet them...



Who would you like to sit next to at this table?



Johanna, called Jo by those close to her, was born with a heart of absolute gold. She became a courageous nurse, moving directly into the most dangerous hospital wards to take care of the sickest, most forgotten patients with profound love.



John, called Jack by his family and friends, possessed the adventurous, protective spirit of a guardian. When a great war broke out in 1917 across the world, he proudly donned a blue sailor's uniform. He guarded troop ships across the ocean, keeping his comrades safe from hidden dangers beneath the waves.



Mary was an absolute trailblazer who defied what society said a woman could do. She walked right into the loud, heavy composing rooms of the local newspaper and became a master Linotype operator—working alongside the men to cast the daily news in solid metal blocks.



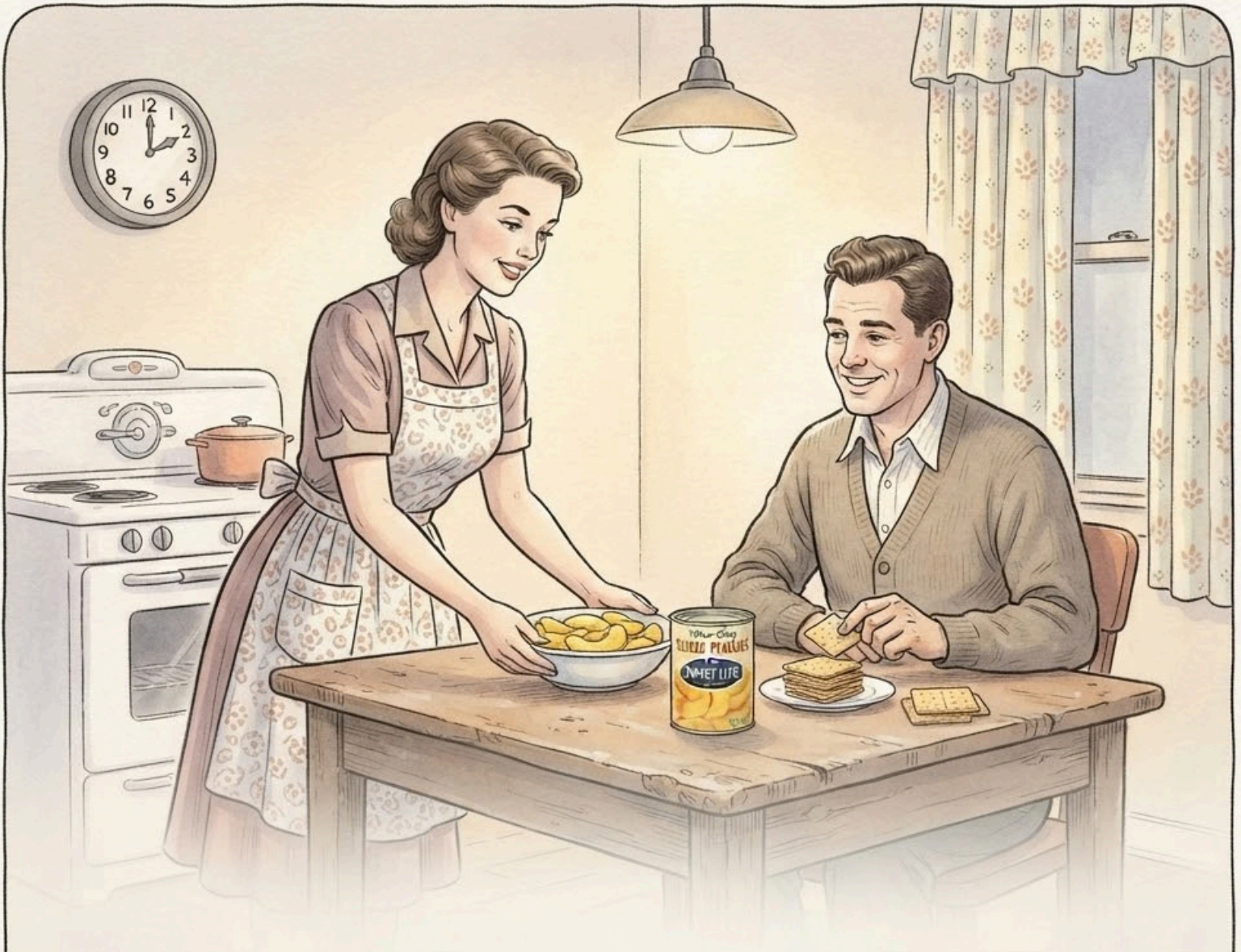
Anna proudly worked as a skilled secretary. When heavy health hardships later kept her in a quiet hospital room, her brilliant wit and determined spirit stayed completely unbroken. Turning her bed into a beautiful sewing shop, she spent her days stitching vibrant checkered aprons—proving that true independence is a light you carry entirely inside yourself.



Catherine, or Kate as she was called, became a mother who made sure the inside of her home was a sanctuary of absolute peace, laughter, and warmth. She passed on the lessons and stories she learned from her mother including a ditty that taught counting and what would happen if you took things that weren't yours!



Frances fully seized the exciting, free-spirited energy of the Roaring 1920s. She bobbed her hair, proudly earned her own way, and eventually moved all the way to Texas to live in Dallas with her husband Jack. She showed everyone that a modern woman could carve out an extraordinary life entirely of her own design.



And youngest of all was sweet Teresa, who chose a quiet, beautifully traditional path. Inspired by her holy namesake, Saint Thérèse, she believed in the immense magic of doing little things with great love!



Patrick passed away just before getting to hold his grandchildren. Julia lived to see their American dream blossom, proudly cradling her very first grandchildren—including a beautiful baby girl named Julia, her own little namesake. In their bright eyes, she saw proof that having the absolute courage to be exactly who she was born to be built an unbreakable legacy of love, faith, and kinship that still illuminates our family tree today!

Keep turning the pages
to discover real family treasures,
and the digital magic that brought this story to life.

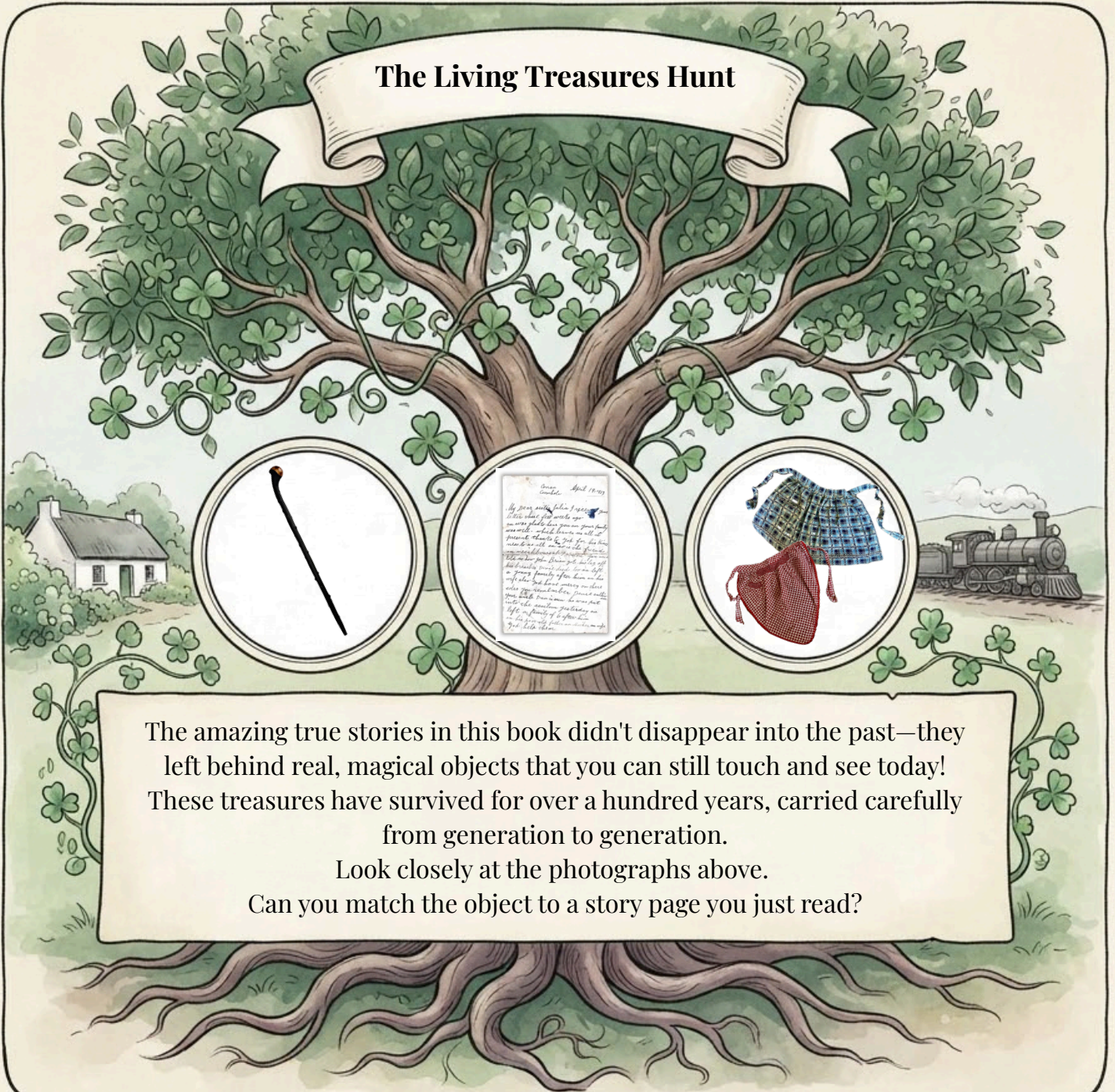




This book is a true family tapestry, woven from decades of shared memories, dusty archives, and enduring love. I am deeply grateful to my siblings Maureen, Katie, Meg, and Dan for their endless collaboration. This work stands as a living tribute to the memory of my dad Jim Kelly, aunt Julia Kelly, uncle Jack Kelly, and my dear sweet brother Kevin Kelly, who fiercely guarded our family history and helped lay the stone foundation for this story. We are all profoundly proud descendants of Patrick and Julia's daughter, Catherine.

Along the way, the historical search brought incredible new cousins into our circle. Thank you to the relatives from every branch who graciously contributed their unique knowledge, photographs, and records to map our shared lineage—specifically Alethea Hunt, a proud descendant of Patrick's sister, Johanna Dineen Wren, who helped anchor our deep roots.

The Living Treasures Hunt



The amazing true stories in this book didn't disappear into the past—they left behind real, magical objects that you can still touch and see today! These treasures have survived for over a hundred years, carried carefully from generation to generation.

Look closely at the photographs above.
Can you match the object to a story page you just read?



Grandma's Rhyme

When Aunt Beth was young, she sat with her sweet grandmother, Catherine (Deneen) Kelly. She would smile and recite a rhythmic counting rhyme that she had memorized when she was a little girl. She learned it from her own mother, Julia Keohane Deneen, who brought those exact words all the way across the Atlantic Ocean from her childhood home in Ireland.

Listen closely to the words they shared by the warm fireplace:

***One, two, three, four, five, six, seven,
All good children go to heaven.
When you die, the Lord will say,
"Where's that watch you took away?"
You will say, "I do not know,"
And He will say, "Go down below!"***

Grandma's rhyme is a
fun counting game!
Can you count out
loud from one to seven
as fast as you can?



The "Deeper Dive"

This children's book is based on a fully researched genealogical paper detailing the lives of Patrick Deneen and Julia Keohane. To read the complete history, view the original documents, and see the full family tree, scan the code below or visit:



Deneen~Keohane Branch - Bratwurst and Shillelaghs

www.elizabethkelly.org

How This Book Was Made: Blending History & Magic

To bring the world of Patrick and Julia to life, Aunt Beth used a little bit of old family history, a lot of detective work, and a pinch of modern magic! The illustrations in this book were created by Aunt Beth using Gemini's 'nano banana' AI image generator tool, blending historical family facts with digital art to show you what their world looked like.

