

The Story of US - The Evans, and Quinn Families Immigration to Buffalo

By Maureen Evans

In 2012 Timothy Bohan, a native of Buffalo, published a book entitled “*Against The Grain*”, that told the “story of a group of mostly Irish immigrants who toiled in the hulls of grain ships and in other waterfront industries in an area called the First Ward of Buffalo.” But Bohan not only told the story of grain, he wrote of the many Irish immigrants who settled in the First Ward giving us a glimpse of what these immigrants faced in a new world far away from the Irish homeland. Featured throughout his book was *the story of us*; and in us I refer to the Evans and Quinn families. The Irish are widely known throughout history as a group that did not leave much in the line of written records. Unlike the English and the French, there are no travel logs, no diaries of daily life, nothing that gives us first hand accounts of what the Irish faced coming to America and the stories of their lives as they experience a new world. So to read of our family is quite an accomplishment.

Fortunately for Bohan and us there does exist an “Evans Family Manuscript” as he calls it. It is believed to be a Master’s Thesis written by Margaret Ann Evans Kilgallon written sometime in the 1970s. The thesis is entitled, “Irish Immigration to Buffalo’s First Ward” and in it Kilgallon wrote a broad paper about the Irish featuring famous Irish men, the Catholic church and relying on first hand accounts of what it was like to grow up in the ward. Kilgallon also tells the story of the Evans’ coming to America. Her grandfather George, (who does not immigrate to America- leaving the immigration path to his children) is the brother of my great-grandfather Thomas Evans, the first in his family to come to America.

Bohan also refers to the Quinn Family, specifically Michael Quinn, also my (and your) great-grandfather. Michael features highly in the celebration of Irish culture in the First Ward, especially in the creation of the first Irish St. Patrick’s Day Parade.

In the following pages I will tell the story of Irish immigration to America and how it relates to our family. I have looked at census records from 1892 to 1940 to get a small snap-shot of the family households of the Evans and Quinn families. Included are two family trees- the first is the Evans family from the “Evans Family Manuscript” which is missing generations of cousins, but I have taken our immediate family to the latest generation. The second is the McCarthy family tree compiled by Mae O’Neill in the early 1980s. This tree spans seven generations starting with Dennis McCarthy and Mary O’Rourke who will have descendents that include Driscoll, Quinn, Evans, Culligan, Basil, Shine, more McCarthys, Cronin, Healy, Carey, Cappola, Lyons, Stack, Trant, Riley, Duggan, Fitzgerald, Cleary, McGirr, O’Neill and Thiele just to name of few. Mae’s work does not place spouses on the tree and because it is 30 years old, the newer generations are missing. Where I was able, some updates have been made to the tree.

Lastly there are photos, perhaps never seen by most of us, of George Sr. (Chickie Sr.) and Loretta Evans, their mothers and some of their siblings from the 1910’s and 1920s along with family photos of their children- MaryEllen, Laurie and Chickie Jr.

My intent in this collection is to share what I have learned about our ancestors with you, my family. As a historian and a docent, I have learned that the most heart felt story is often the one that is closest to you. I have taken people from all over the country on tours of the First Ward and the waterfront; have told stories and related facts of the buildings that remain from the hey-day of the Irish in the ward. But what will always tug at the tour taker's heart is when I add our family history to the tour. Many have told me that the tour was a great tour of buildings until I added our family stories, then the tour became so much more alive and real to them, some women actually shed a tear. Our story touched them and I hope that you will feel the same. Who we are and where we are today is a direct result of the hard work, hard life, and emigration to America of these Irish ancestors. Their story is our story and the following is *the story of us*.

Immigration to America- the Irish Experience

Life in Ireland, especially for Catholic families, was a hard existence throughout history under British rule. The era of immigration to America during the 19th century was a period that perhaps defines the future of the Irish both in and out of Ireland. Before we delve into our history of immigration it is interesting to look at why the Irish may be moving out of Ireland.

Irish men and women typically spent their lives seeking out an existence by working the family farm. In Ireland families of the 18th and 19th century inherited land through the 'stem family system' in which only one child could inherit control of the family farm. For Irish Catholics, who could not own their own land, the 'stem' system instead meant for them that they could inherit the right to rent the parcel of land from typically an English landlord. Ireland being an island with a finite land size and no space for expansion (unlike the United States of the 18th century with an enormous potential for western expansion) the ability of families to gain more land to pass down was just not possible. Often the parents who 'owned' the land had to work the fields late in life for their own livelihoods and to support the younger children in their family. So by the time the land was available to be passed along in the family it was the youngest son inheriting the land, as he would be the last child at home. For the rest of the children, there remained few options- marry and move to another farm, stay single and find a job, move to the city and try to find a job in a workhouse or for millions- emigrate.

Immigration from Ireland began in earnest around 1815 with an economic down turn. But the Great Famine from 1845- 1852 would begin the mass exodus from Ireland that most think of today. Known around the world as the "Irish Potato Famine" or in Gaelic as "Gorta MOR"- the Great Hunger- the famine was a period of mass starvation, death (1 million people) and emigration due to a virus that plagued potato crops. These crops were often the primary source of food for the Irish farmers and his family. While the potato crops failed, other grains continued to be exported to England from Ireland- and in many historical circles the famine is seen as a form of genocide by the English on the Irish.¹ During the years from 1845 to 1855 approximately 2.1 million people left Ireland (90 % of these were Catholic), this number is more that the previous 250 years of Irish history. Of these 2.1 million, 1.5 million headed to the United

¹ Kinealy, Christine (1995), *This Great Calamity: The Irish Famine 1845–52*, Gill & Macmillan,

States with the rest heading to Canada, Australia and Great Britain. This population loss represents almost a lost of _ of the total population of Ireland at that time, a population loss that was unprecedented and would never be achieved again. ²

Those who emigrated during the famine would be primarily from the hardest hit counties of the west and the south west. But for emigration to occur there had to be some means to pay for the trip. Often families or villages would collect monies to pay for passage. As historian Comac O Grada stated, “In the hierarchy of suffering the poorest of the poor immigrated to the next world [death] those who immigrated to the New World had the resources to escape.”³ While they had enough money to immigrated, these men and women were often considered poor or destitute by American standards.

After the famine era of immigration, for most countries, men often out numbered women 2:1 in immigration numbers where women were often the wives, mothers and daughters traveling with their male counterparts to America. For the Irish the numbers were much different. “In Ireland women had few opportunities. Marriage was being postponed... or had become impossible as available farm land declined. But Irish women did well in American job markets, especially as domestics because the spoke English.” During the second wave of Irish immigration to America from 1869 to 1920 the number of men to women was about equal- both sexes were leaving Ireland to seek out a new life in America and in some year’s women out numbered the men. The Library of Congress had the following statistics on the Irish to America:

1. 1820-1860 the Irish constituted over 1/3 of all immigrants to America
2. 1840s- the Irish were 1/2 of all immigrants to America
3. 1820-1930- 4.5 million Irish immigrants came to America
4. Eventually the sum total of Irish immigrants to America exceeded the total population of Irish in Ireland

For the Irish, the above numbers represent approximately a 1/6 loss of the total population of Ireland. This loss is considered the most significant loss of population by any country’s populace immigrating to another nation. In our case it is the sole reason why we are here in Buffalo now, all of our ancestors in the Evans and Quinn families came to America between 1885 and the early 20th century. On both sides of my family, the Evans and Donovan side, all great-grandparents- 8 in number- came to America between 1880 and 1901, the question is how did they get here?

In searching the internet, using sites such as CastleGarden.org, an online data base of ship manifests from 1820 until 1892 listing approximately 11 million immigrants to the U.S and Ellis Island records, I have learned that I cannot find my great-grandparents on any manifest. So that led me to the simple question, why? And from there I searched more records such as the Library of Congress for the answer, and while sometimes elusive, it is a rather simple one when one looks at history. In 1890 the federal government officially took control over immigration from the states. Congress approved \$75,000 to build the first official immigration center, Ellis Island, which would officially open January 1, 1892 and the

² The Irish Americans- A History; Jay P. Dolan

³ Ibid

first person to pass through was a “rosy cheeked Irish girl” Annie Moore, age 15 from County Cork who came with her two younger brothers to join her parents in America.⁴ In June 1895 there was a fire at Ellis Island and all the immigration records contained there from 1855 forward were destroyed. So any records of their landing in New York State would have been lost to research.

For us there is no Ellis Island record for my great-grandparents as they all arrived too early for entry through that site, they are not on any Castle Garden ship manifest, so how did they end up in Buffalo? This elusive question led me to the National Archives and an article entitled, “*By Way of Canada: U. S. Records of Immigration Across the U.S.-Canadian Border, 1895-1954 (St. Albans Lists)*” by Marian L. Smith. In this article Smith outlined the changes that occurred in the U.S. Federal government’s approach to documenting immigrants who arrive through Canada from another country after 1895. But what she states in the article about the period before I consider my ‘light-bulb’ moment for our ancestors immigration path- most likely they came to Canada and then (most likely) illegally to America. Smith wrote the following:

A large number of immigrants came to the United States via Canada during the mid- and late nineteenth century, and for them there is no U.S. immigration record. They landed in Canada where no U.S. officer met them or recorded information about their arrival in the United States. The always-growing number of immigrants who chose this route in the late 1800s finally convinced the United States, in 1894, to build and operate the bureaucratic machinery necessary to document the many thousands who each year entered at points along its northern border.

In earlier years immigrants landing in Canada were largely from Britain, Scandinavia, northern Europe, or Russia. In the 1880s, as the United States began to impose more stringent immigration rules at its own ports of entry, even more immigrants from the same regions and elsewhere chose to travel via Canada to avoid the trouble and delay of U.S. immigrant inspection. By the 1890s, steamship companies began to advertise passage through Canada as a more desirable route for immigrants who wished to avoid U.S. inspectors. While much of this traffic remained Irish, Swedish, Norwegian, or Russian, the business of carrying Italians, Greeks, and others from Mediterranean ports to Canada grew.

It is rather brilliant to think about. Irish immigrants catch a ship from the Queenstown Port in southern Ireland, it then sails to Canada. These Irish aren’t really going to a foreign country, they are headed to another part of the British Empire - alas Canada. They are not considered illegal immigrants as they land in Canada by Canadian (albeit British) rules and then make their way to the shores of Lake Erie and catch a boat, large or small, to often their final destination- Buffalo New York- the United States of America. Perhaps they know someone in Buffalo, often they don’t. Many immigrants listed on the Ellis Island records come with as little as \$5 in their pockets and a change of clothes. They are going to navigate two countries to make it to Buffalo, attempt to get a job, find a place to live and begin for them the beginning of the American Dream. Think about what these immigrants do! They face the unknown and most never look back to where they came from, Ireland a country ravished by famines, controlled by the

⁴ EllisIsland.org

“dirty dogs” (a term my great-grandmother Catherine Donovan Downy used to describe the British) and the home of their family members who do not immigrate. They are brave souls to put it mildly. To find each immigrant great-grandparent in Canadian records will require extensive time. The Canadian National Archives does have ship manifests from the mid 1800 to the 1930s and is available online. Accessing them requires little information, but I would have to look at every manifest for a particular year to see if I can reaffirm my hypothesis, that they came through Canada. That is a project that is beyond the scope of this paper at this time.

The Evans Family

So where does our family fit in amongst the 4.5 million Irish who emigrate from Ireland? Quite simply I would consider our story one of the successful stories. These immigrants came to Buffalo, succeeded in setting up businesses and raised children who often achieved more of the American Dream of their parents. The following is taken from the “Evans Family Manuscript” and gives us a detailed account of how the Evans family ended up in Buffalo.

The home of the Evans family was Ballyarkane, Castlemain in the County of Kerry, Ireland. [Castlemain is on the River Maine that lets out into Dingle Bay, Castlemain is east of Dingle] Of the ten children of Johanna O’ Connor and George Evans (“the Old General”) six of their sons came to the United States- specifically to Buffalo- more specifically to the First Ward. They were: Thomas, Sean (Jack), William, James, Timothy and Michael. Of the remaining children who stayed at home one was to die. This was Pat [rick] who died of a double pneumonia while a seminarian studying for the priesthood in Killarney. [He was] the ‘seventh son’ who, according to Irish superstition, was marked for either a glorious or a tragic destiny. Left at home then of the ten children were Annie and George. Annie married and left to go to the farm of her husband. And so George inherited the farm. It was here that his wife Mary was to bear him 12 children. Later the [immigration] pattern would be repeated, for his children, too, like their uncles before them, were destined to become ‘immigrants to Amerikay.’...

And so in 1885 Thomas Evans, the eldest and first to emigrate, came to Buffalo. He brought with him a need for employment, a willingness to work hard and a hope for a better future. He did not possess an advanced formal education, but when you take a country whose schools, language and tradition have been taken away from them for hundreds of years this does not make for a well-educated populace. And so Tom got a job as a ‘scooper’ on the grain boats. (Scoopers were men who transferred the grain from the boats to the mills.) He then sent for his fiancée, Nora Fitzgerald, to join him. She was a frail, lovely girl who was not meant for this country. Due to the hard Buffalo winters and the lack of proper medical knowledge at that time [or the availability of medical care to immigrants], the son and daughter she bore her husband and soon she herself died of tuberculosis. During her illness a friend of the family, Nell [Ellen] Carey, came to take care of her and be housekeeper for them, Later Tom was to marry her and become the owner of “Evans’ Bar and Grill” at 268 Ohio Street. Together they would raise five children, George, Brigid Cecelia [Sis], Ellen [Nelly], Ann and John [Bucko]. Their son George “Chickie” Evans was to become a prominent lawyer and after his death in 1964 a scholarship fund and civic center were to be named in his honor. Their eldest daughter ‘Sis’ took over her father’s establishment and ran it until

1965 when it was torn down. Nelly and Ann, said to be beautiful girls, died very young of the cursed TB. The youngest, 'Bucko', (an Irish term for 'my boy') was also to die at an early age of the same disease that had cursed the family. [1953]

After being in the country awhile, Tom sponsored and paid the passage for his brother Sean [Jack]. Soon to follow were William, James, Timothy and Mike. [This is a classic example of 'chain migration'. A process where by one family member immigrated to a new county and sent monies home to bring other family relatives. During the 19th century the Irish would send approximately \$250,000,000 back to Ireland to support families and fund emigration.] The 6th brother Mike... married a young girl, Mary Ash, but she was to die early in their marriage and they were to have no children. Being the best businessman of the six, he became the owner of a tavern "Evans' Place" at 326 Ohio Street and a number of apartment buildings and houses [including 72 and 74 Chicago which will eventually be owned by 'Sis' Evans and Denise Carey Erickson would tell me that as kids, her and her siblings will live in both houses and pay rent to Sis]. Due to the fact that he was childless and also miserly he would have is 'greenhorn' nieces work for him at his tavern.

To continue the story of Thomas Evans and his family I began to look at Federal and State census that have been made available on-line at sites such as Familysearch.org, Heritage Quest, Ancestry.com and the National Archives of Ireland. I have searched for Thomas Evans and his family from 1892 forward. The federal government did and continues to do a census reporting every 10 years since 1790. The majority of the 1890 census was lost to a fire, so for the federal census I have from 1900 forward to give a small snapshot of the Evans household. New York State did a census on the 5 year (i.e. 1905, 1915) until 1925 and one in 1892. The federal census from 1850 forward had multiple questions on the census ranging from date of birth, native language ,parent's land of origin, occupation, reading and writing English and if the immigrant is a naturalized citizen or an alien. The state census has fewer questions and is pretty much limited to name, sex, age, years in the USA. The following is what we can learn about Thomas and the family.

- In 1892 Thomas had already brought his first wife Norah (as spelled on the census) from Ireland and they were married sometime before this. Thomas' occupation is listed as a scooper. On the grave marker for the family in Holy Cross her name is officially listed as Hanora Evans with a birth of 1865.
- In the 1900 census, done 7/6/1900, Thomas is listed at the head of household for 268 Ohio Street. By the time of the census Hanora along with Johanna her 11 month old daughter and Thomas their 3 month old son have died as they are not on the census record and Thomas is listed as a widower. Thomas listed occupation is 'saloon keeper' and is also listed as the 'owner' of the address. (So Thomas emigrated in 1885 and by 1900 is an owner of his own establishment after starting as a scooper and financing the immigration of 5 brothers). His brother James is living with him (born 1866 and emigrated in 1887) along with his family-

wife Elizabeth (listed on the tree as Lizzie Moynihan) and their children George, Thomas Josephine, Mary and James. Along with his brother's family, Thomas will have 14 other borders living at 268 Ohio Street including his brother Michael Evans (born 1879 and emigrated in 1898), William Evans (born 1861 and emigrated in 1887) and Timothy Evans (born 1870 and emigrated 1894). Michael and William are listed as day labors (presumably on the docks) and Timothy is a stationary fireman. Who is noticeably absent is his second wife Ellen Carey. If she was the housekeeper I would have expected her to be on the census. Because she is not there I am led to believe that while the family history stated that she nursed Hanora and her children and was the housekeeper perhaps she did not live there at the time of the census. I have not found her in any other household in Buffalo, which leads me to believe that her name was most likely spelled incorrectly (quite common on a census). But we do know that she will wed Thomas sometime in 1900.

- The 1901 National Irish Census (first of Ireland)- Searching for George Evans- we can find Thomas's brother George listed with his wife Mary, one son Thomas (7 months old) and George's mother Johanna (spelled Johana) age 61. Johanna cannot read or write, speaks Irish and is widowed. George and Mary can read and write, speak Irish English and are listed as "farmers". They all are Roman Catholic.
- The 1905 New York State Census finds Thomas the head of a household which will always be at 268 Ohio Street that contains his wife Ellen along with their son George (birth 1901), daughter Bridget (birth 1903) and Ellen of 6 month. He has 39 boarders at the time – 2 of which are his brother-in-laws Thomas and Dennis Carey (with misspelled last names of Caxey) and 2 housekeepers- his sister-in-law Bridget and a housekeeper named Elizabeth Bartowski who is from Poland. It appears that Tomas Carey emigrated sometime around 1899, Dennis and Bridget around 1903. All of the boarders are either laborers or sailors.
- The 1910 census has Thomas and Ellen with their children George, Bridget Cecelia (who will be known on further census as Cecelia), Ellen (spelled Helen), Ann and John. Bridget Carey is still in residence along with another 'servant' and Ellen's 2 brothers Thomas and Dennis. There are 18 other borders, 5 who also were on the 1905 state census. What is worth noting is that these borders are almost 100% Irish men who are not young. Some appear to have come to the US as children, but most are in their late 20s to 50 years old. Some have been in the US for 20 years , but doing the math between their age and year in the U.S., most are a classic example of who emigrated- under 30 years and single. Many of these immigrants will not marry.
- The 1920 census had the family living by themselves with no boarders, housekeepers or relatives. The children are all listed: George age 18, Cecelia age 16, Ellen age 15, Ann age 12

and John age 11. Thomas is listed as a 'proprietor' and is 'working on his own account'. All of the children are attending school. We know that George and John will attend Canisius High School- George graduating in 1918, then to Canisius College and the University of Buffalo Law School; John will follow in his brother's footsteps.

- The 1930 census we will find that Ellen is now listed as the 'head of the household'. Thomas had passed away sometime in 1920 after the census dated from January. At home remains Cecelia (who will live at this address until the building is demolished in the 1960s), Ellen, Ann and John (who will also live at this address). The Evans' have boarders again, 6 this year, with a notable addition- George Evans. This George Evans was the nephew of Thomas- his brother George's son- George (the brother) remained in Ireland and many of his children will immigrate to America. George the nephew had a total of 11 brother and sisters (a total of 5 including George will emigrate). A side note if you are confused by the all the Georges- Thomas and his 5 brothers have a father named George, a brother named George, every generation for at least 3 have a George in every family, my brother will be George J. Evans III). Ellen is listed as a 'proprietor' of a 'soft drink' establishment (a saloon owner during prohibition would use alternative terms to describe their business), Ellen the daughter worked at some charity company, nephew George was a truck driver for the post office and the rest of the boarders are marine firemen. Irish Free States and Northern Ireland are still used as county distinctions, the saloon is valued at \$8000 and the family owns a radio!

The Evans Manuscript will describe the immigration of this second generation of the Evans' as follows:

"The first of George's [Thomas's brother] children to come was Tom. He was the big, broad-shouldered boy of the lot. He came in 1921...he and a pal, Jack Fitzgerald hopped the last boat from Queenstown Harbor to the United States [that day]. His luggage consisted of a pair of socks and a clean shirt rolled in a sack...After landing in New York Tom went directly to Buffalo- to his 'kith and kin'. He soon got a job at the docks as a scooper...He soon met and married Catherine Evans (ironically enough...they were not related). Together they would raise four children. George, the next in line arrived in 1923...In appearance and in fact he was the intellect of the family. Appearance-wise he would not appear to be terribly forceful, and yet it was he who was a member of the outlawed IRA. His reading matter at this time, more like than not was pamphlets and fiery papers published by the group. While on the run from the Tans, the IRA boys hid up in the mountains. An informer from the village told of their hiding place and George along with others was imprisoned by the Tans and tortured. In 1923 with this behind him, George came out to Buffalo... [Hannah and Nell were to come next], but because Hannah caught the flu she wasn't allowed to board the ship. Nell's passage already was paid so she went alone. Hannah was to

follow six weeks later [on May 31, 1924]. She came like Nell by way of Canada for at this time it was very hard to get into this country [USA]. The boat docked in Halifax from where she took a train to Toronto. In Toronto she stayed with the Catholic Women's Aide Society. She called her brother George and he told her to go to Crystal Beach and get a room and he'd come and fetch her. She did as he said and was down watching the people board the Crystal Beach boat, the S.S. Canadienne, when an older woman asked her if she wanted to get on. Hannah explained to her [the] situation and she promptly gave her her ticket and told her to just drop it in the slot and walk on through. When they landed at the foot of Main Street, she asked the woman the directions to Ohio Street...soon she found herself at 268 Ohio St.-home to her Uncle Tom's bar and grill. That night she went to Evans' Place @ 326 Ohio St., to her brother George and was introduced to Uncle Mike] for whom she was soon put to work. She can still remember making moonshine down at Uncle Mike's. There was a vacant house next door to the bar which he also owned. Upstairs on the second floor the houses were connected by a bridge-like invention hitched to the 2 windows... It was up on the 2nd floor of the old abandoned house that the 'brew' was made. They would make it 100 proof and then by diluting it with water, bring it down to 7- proof. The grain they used was obtained from the scoopers.

[George was called 'the Swede'] and it seemed to involve a story about moonshine. At one time George was working part-time for Uncle Mike. He was on the 2nd floor busily working at the still when the 'dry agents' (those who enforced Prohibition laws) came into Uncle Mike's. As they rushed up the stairs, George leapt out of the window but not before they had caught a glimpse of his whitish-blond hair. After kicking open the door on of them yelled, 'where has the goddamn Swede gone to?' George got away ...and because Mike had been innocently downstairs, they couldn't touch him either.

One very interesting notation in this census is the use of "Irish Free States" as the origin of the immigrant's parents. This term will be used after the Irish War for Independence (1919) from 1922 until 1937 when southern Ireland (northern will opt out) exists as a dominion (like Canada) in the British Empire (for the British were in no position to allow Ireland to be separated from the empire). Looking at the census from 1930 it is interesting to see the expression Irish patriotism often some 40 years after emigrating, by designating which part of Ireland they came from.

- In the 1930 census Thomas and Ellen's eldest son George (Chickie) will be living at a separate address with his wife Loretta (Quinn) Evans and his good friend James Mockler. George and Loretta both list the birthplace of their parents as the "Irish Free States".
- The 1940 census for Ellen Evans' household will only find Cecelia and John present. The 1940 census has many questions relating to employment and income. Ellen still owns the saloon and is still considered the proprietor. She worked an average of 54 hours a week; she

owns the property and did receive income > \$50 from sources other than wages. She still lists her place of birth as the "Irish Free States" (and on the census form it states to distinguish the difference between the Irish Free States and Northern Ireland). Cecelia is listed to have completed 3 years of high school, is a cook at the saloon, worked 54 hours a week and also receives income >\$50 from other sources. Neither Ellen nor Cecelia listed wages earned. John had completed 4 years of college, worked as a law clerk in a law office, makes about \$1300 in income for 1939 and receives income from other sources. Cecelia would provide the information for this census

- In 1940 George and Loretta will be living at 576 McKinley Parkway with their 2 (adopted) daughters- Mary Ellen age 6 and Loretta (Laurie) age 2 and their maid Virginia Krasowska who worked 44 weeks in 1939, 72 hours in the week of 3/23/40-3/30/40 and earned \$184 in 1939. George is a lawyer in his own law office and completed 5 years of college. Loretta is listed as completing 3 years of college. Loretta provided the information for the census and did not list any wages for George. (Did Loretta not know what George was making at the law office and Virginia should have had a raise!). Both George and Virginia are listed to have received income of >\$50 from sources other than money wages or salary. Beyond the information of this census, George and Loretta will adopt their son George (Chickie Jr.) in 1941, will live at '576' for the rest of their lives and when the children are gone and George Sr. dies, Virginia will live permanently with my grandmother Loretta and be her constant companion, cook, friend and a grandmother to another generation of Evans'.

We know beyond the census from 1900 to 1940 that Ellen Carey Evans will die in 1948. My father remembers her as a loving grandmother who would have him climb on her lap and grab pennies from her pocket. Thomas and Ellen's daughter Ellen (Nellie) will eventually marry Charles Qualey, a candy salesman (and perhaps cigar) and they will not have any children. Daughter Ann will marry Loretta Quinn Evans' brother Michael, they will have no children and she will die in 1942. Michael will remarry a woman named Catherine and have 2 children. Cecelia (Sis) will eventually marry John Whalen, a policeman, and they will live at 268 Ohio Street and have no children. John (Uncle Bucko) will be known as the uncle usually sitting at the bar with his sister 'Sis', will not marry and eventually dies in 1953. As for all of the Thomas's brother, nephews and nieces, well that is a story for many other relatives and descendents to research and write about. What we can learn about Thomas and his family is that he appeared to achieve success in America. He owned his own saloon, brought his brothers to America with nieces and nephews to follow. His sons went to college, George to Canisius College and UB Law School and Bucko to Canisius College. His saloon supported his family, boarded numerous men working the docks and his family was to continue his prosperity beyond his death. We are truly the descendents of the American Dream.

The Quinn Family

This next section of the family I describe as the Quinn Family, and perhaps it is a bit limited in its description for I will also be telling what I have learned about the Driscoll's and the McCarthy's. Some of this information was provided by Norm Hamilton the wife of cousin Patricia Corban Hamilton (her grandfather was James Quinn and her grandmother Chickie Sr.'s first cousin Mary (Mame) Evans. Norm hired a genealogist to find out as much as he could about the family of Michael Quinn and Mary Driscoll Quinn (the parents of my grandmother Loretta Quinn Evans). The Following is a synopsis of what was found in Ireland:

Michael Quinn from county Kerry left Ireland in 1891. In 1894 in Buffalo New York he married Mary Driscoll whom is believed to also come from Kerry. Nothing is known of their respective families apart from the names of their parents, siblings and the possible county of birth. Searching the respective names and variations it is worth noting that no Irish census is available in full until 1901. The Marriage certificate of Michael McQuinn and Mary Driscoll gives Michael age as 27 in 1894. Michael's parents are given as Thomas McQuinn and Mary Evans. Mary Quinn's age is given as 24. Mary's parents are given as James Driscoll and Honora McCarthy. Both parties were born after the commencement of civil registrations in Ireland. Civil registration in Ireland began on April 1 1845, from which date non-Catholic marriages were recorded. However, civil registration of all births, marriages and deaths did not commence until January 1 1864. Prior to this the only records that give detailed information are the Church registers in the relevant parishes. [Subject to destruction through the years by flooding and fire damage.] The birth register for Michael Quinn reads: "July 22 1864 at Ardfert, Michael son of Tom McQuinn and Mary MCQuinn formerly Evans. His birth was registered by his father on August 5, 1864. This tells us that the age given by Michael at the time of his marriage was incorrect this is not unusual as sometimes error like this are made by individuals of this era giving their age.

The following was also found about Michael's family:

Thomas McQuinn and Mary Evans were married on January 22, 1861 in Ardfert. Ardfert is in County Kerry north and slightly west of Killarney and Tralee. Witnesses were William Evans and unknown. Parents of the bride and groom were not listed. The following children were listed with Baptisms:

- Maria born 4/20/1862 , Baptized 4/22 sponsors William Evans and John McQuinn
- Michael born 7/22/1864 , Baptized 7/23 sponsors Michael and Julia Duggan
- William born 6/2/1867, Baptized 6/6 sponsors William Evans and Maria O'Kane
- Johanna born 11/17/69, Baptized 11/18 sponsors Thomas Griffin and Cathering Harmon

- Elizabeth born 2/20/1872 , Baptized 3/3 sponsors Bartholomew McQuinn and Margaret Rahilly
- Ellen born 8/23/1879, Baptized 8/24 sponsors John McQuinn and Ellen Evans
- Nora-?

We now know Michael (Mc) Quinn's parents and some sibling's names. While a sister Nora is not listed in the extant birth records, she will appear in Buffalo with Michael's census of 1900. Examining Michael's death notice of 1936 I will find the listing of 4 sisters (presumed living) and in America- Norah Quinn, Mrs. J. McCarthy, Mrs. E. O'Donnell and Mrs. J. McMahon of Chicago. So we now know that at least 4 of the sisters immigrate to the USA and with extensive research we could have more cousins that we do not know! (Unfortunately older death notices lists women with their husband's name, so which sister is which is unknown.)

The list of sponsors for the Baptism is significant- we most likely see aunts and uncles of the sibling listed- giving us an idea of who some of the brother and sisters of Thomas and Mary were. The genealogist also tried the following to find the family: *"A search was now undertaken for the 1901 and 1911 census at the National Archives of Ireland for the two areas referred to in the birth records found. The search of Ardfert which was mentioned in Michael's birth record did not locate the family. A further search of Banamore the township mentioned in Johanna's birth in 1869 also proved negative."*

It is quite possible that by 1901 Michael's parents may have died and the rest of the sibling may have immigrated or moved to another county.

Records relating to the Driscoll family are as followed:

- The birth of James Driscoll, father of Mary Driscoll Quinn, Baptized 1/8/1848, sponsors William and Elena Holbert.
- Marriage of James Driscoll and Honora McCarthy (her tree is the McCarthy tree attached) - daughter of Denis McCarthy (perhaps wife deceased) of Carrahane 2/24/1869. Witnesses Patrick Casey and Mary McCarthy. Carrahane Ireland is in County Kerry, west of Ardfert closer to the Northern Atlantic waters off the Irish coast.

The birth and baptism of their children are recorded as:

- Mary born 4/27/1870, Baptized 4/29, sponsors Daniel and Johanna Driscoll.
- Margaret born 8/6/1871, Baptised 8/13, sponsors, Patrick Driscoll and Mary McCarthy
- Patrick born 10/11/1875, Baptized 10/17, sponsors James Driscoll and Margaret Murphy
- Catherine born 1/14/1878, Baptized 1/20, sponsors Patrick Driscoll and Margaret Murphy
- James born 1/9/1880, Baptized 1/18, sponsors Michael Connell and Ellen McCarthy

- Based on census records of 1901 we also have the following children: (via National Archives of Ireland available on-line)
 - Daniel born c.1885
 - Florence born c. 1888
 - Michael born c.1890
 - John born c.1894

The McCarthy family tree by Mae O'Neill also contained two other children Nell and Dennis both who immigrated to America. A search of the 1901 and 1911 Irish census list the Driscoll family still living in Carrahane, in 1911 James and Honora had been married for 44 years, had 12 children and 10 were still living, neither could read or write. A search for marriages only revealed that "*Michael Driscoll of Carrahane son of James Driscoll and Sarah Ferris of Tawlaght (Spa) daughter of Edmund Ferris. The witnesses were Patrick McCarthy and Kathleen Stack. A search of possible birth of children was undertaken from 1936 and the birth of their son James Anthony born 2/5/1936 at Carrahane. No further children were listed in 1946.* Listed on the marriage records was that Michael and James Driscoll were farmers. The 1911 census lists James and his 3 sons Patrick, Florence and Michael as "Agricultural Labourer" and in a document titled "Primary Valuation of Tenements Parish of Ardfert" the Carrahane Lower area the Leasors of the land is the Earl of Listowel and the Driscolls, McCarthys , Casey and some Murphys are listed as tenants. These names all appear as sponsors to the baptisms of the Driscoll children, hence at some point they were all tenant farmers.

The genealogist continued to look for descendents from James Anthony Driscoll and found a James Driscoll in the town land of Carrahane, a call to him confirmed that he was a descendent of the original James Driscoll; therefore we may still have Driscoll relatives in Carrahane today!

The Quinn Family in America

So our story of Michael Quinn and his family begins with his arrival in America. We know that he comes in 1892, port of arrival unknown. Mary Driscoll will arrive to America in 1892 also. On February 6th, 1894 they will marry and attached you will find a copy of their Marriage Certificate and the Register of Vital Statistics. Notable is first that Michael signs the Vital Statistic record as McQuinn, but the marriage certificate will change the name to Quinn and Michael McCarthy and Margaret Driscoll are the witnesses. Perhaps Mary and Margaret immigrated together. The following is the data collected from Federal and New York State Censuses:

- The 1900 Census done in June of 1900 finds Michael and Mary living at 15 Marvin Street. Michael's occupation in a 'laborer' so we can assume that he is working the docks on the Buffalo River and in unemployed for 3 months, which unfortunately occurs to many men employed on the docks every year. Both will list their immigration year as 1891. They have 4 children- Mary (Mame) age 5, Thomas (Tomo) age 4, James age 3 and Nora (Nonie) age 4- unfortunately for Nonie she is listed as a 'son'. Nora Quinn appears on this census as Michael's sister, age 22 years and single with an emigration year of 1900, so she had been in the country for approximately 6 months. There is also one boarder, Patrick Kennedy, age 50 from Ireland who emigrated in 1885 and was a boiler maker. All of the adults can read, write and speak English and Michael and Patrick are listed as 'renters'
- The 1905 New York State Census finds the family now at 220 Miami Street, Michael is a day laborer, Mary does housework, and we now have another daughter Loretta age 3. Nora Quinn is no longer in the household, but joining them are Mary's brothers Patrick and Dennis Driscoll both listed as day laborers with Patrick in the USA for 2 years and Dennis for 6 months. What is interesting about this 1905 census is who is next door. There is a Patrick Quinn, wife Mary and 3 children James, Loretta and Joseph. Who knows if they are relatives of Michael, but Patrick and Mary also emigrated in 1891.
- The 1910 Federal Census lists the family at 115 Chicago Street, which will become the permanent home and saloon of the Quinn family. Michael and Mary have been in America for 16 years, and now Michael's occupation is listed as a 'retailer' with the establishment listed as Miami Liquors, while photos at this time (attached) will show "Quinn" on the front window. Michael is working on his 'on account'. Other relatives research show that Michael will have clear title of this property in 1920, which means that he most likely had a mortgage to a brewery from whom it bought the establishment. I have also attached a recent article on 115 Chicago and its history. The children have increased by 2- Michael Jr. age 4 and Patrick age 1. Mary, Thomas, James, Nora and Loretta are all in school. 115 Chicago was a 3 storied brick building with the saloon on the first floor, family on the second and on the third would be the 17 boarders that they had in 1910! Ranging in ages from 23 to 50 years these men worked the docks and were born in Ireland, New York and Pennsylvania.
- The 1915 New York State Census lists the household as the same except son Patrick has passed away and Holy Cross records listed his date of death as 1913. There are now 15 boarders at 115 Chicago with one boarder, Patrick Kelly a duplicate from 1910, which tells us that the Quinn boarding house had boarders who spent much time with them. There are now boarders from Ireland, the United States, Germany and Scotland.

- The 1920 Federal Census will have lots of changes for the family as most of the children are gone from the home. Michael is listed as a proprietor of a saloon and is working on his 'own account' and is still listed as 'renting' the property, but sometime in 1920 he will take title of the property. Michael and Mary's immigration year are listed as 1892 and they became naturalized citizens in 1896. The children remaining in the house are Loretta and Michael Jr., ages 18 and 16 respectively; both attended school since 9/1/1919. There are only 5 'lodgers' in the household with occupations listed as working in a lumber yard, mechanic and scooper. Patrick Kelly is still a boarder and 3 others appear also in the 1915 state census. These boarders are becoming much older ranging in ages from 46 to 53. 2 boarders, John Smithhaussen and Andrew Hazal were from Bavaria.
- The 1930 Federal Census now has Michael as the owner of his establishment. Since it is Prohibition he is listed as the proprietor of a 'soft drink' establishment and 115 Chicago is valued at \$15,000. Michael and Mary list their place of birth as the 'Irish Free States' (along with the place of birth of their parents) and their immigration year is back to 1891. Michael Jr. at 23 years old is the only child remaining in the household and is listed as working as a 'park laborer'. There are 6 'boarders' 5 from New York and 1 from Germany. They are working as scoopers, laborer in the elevators and one, John Smithminor a 25 year old from Germany, is listed as a janitor at a 'soft drink' establishment which makes me think that perhaps is was employed by Michael Quinn. Some of the boarders faced unemployment in 1929 and 3 were veterans of the "World War" which for us is World War I.
- The 1940 census is missing. Mary Quinn should be listed as the head of household, however I am guessing that her name is spelled wrong and any variations that I have used have not turned up Mary. Further research is needed.

Michael Quinn passed away on June 13, 1936 from what appeared to be a colon obstruction. But before he died he left an indelible mark on the history of the Irish in the First Ward. His obituary stated, "An active figure in the life of the Old First ward, Mr. Quinn was especially zealous in preserving the Hibernian spirit among the Irish immigrants and their children, and led thousands of them each year in the St. Patrick's Day parade."⁵

Before starting the annual parade, Michael Quinn was noted to have organized Gaelic Football and Hurling Clubs in the First Ward that would play rival traveling teams from the region such as New York City, Rochester and even Detroit. They would play at the Buffalo Creek grounds. During the Pan- American Exposition in Buffalo in 1901 he organized a Hurling Exposition at the Pan-Am Expo Stadium to show to the country some of the Irish culture. By 1913 the idea for a parade took hold with

⁵ Buffalo News June 15, 1936.

Michael Quinn leading the pack. The first parade with 5,000 Irish participants from the ward started after 12 pm mass at St. Brigid's and then proceeded around the ward. The participants in the parade were not only celebrating their Irish heritage, but also showed their patriotism for their new home. The Irish and American flags would be prominently hung through out the parade. The Old First Ward Parade today that is done on the Saturday preceding the Sunday parade is the original route that Michael took the participants upon. He served as the Grand Marshall of that 1913 parade. During WWI and the Great Depression the parade would be put on hold and then after an 18 year absence, in 1935 Michael Quinn would revive the parade and once again serve as the Grand Marshall. Family lore states that when Michael returned home from that parade he said to his wife Mary that that parade would be his last. Today's St. Patrick's Day parade is a result of the original parade. During the 1940s the powers that be (obviously not the original organizers of the parade) felt that the parade was an exclusive event for the Irish and that it need to be expanded and moved to Main Street so that the entire city could participate. How ironic, for years before when the Irish immigrants came to Buffalo, the city was segregated based on ethnicity and for many looking for work the sign, "Irish need not apply" was a common detriment for obtaining a job.

I know little about Mary Quinn for my father was too young and my aunts remember her as perhaps not the pleasant of women. She will pass away in 1947.

As for the rest of the family, well we are the descendents who story has yet to be told. I have included photos from the past of great-grandparents, grand-parents and my father and aunts as children. There are articles about the 1935 parade, photos of the men who organized it, including Chickie Sr. and Michael Quinn, who by then are in-laws. (Chickie has by then married Loretta). Are these people remarkable, unique, pioneering – perhaps not, but they are the reason why we are and who we are. Their story is our story and all of this composes *the story of us*.

I would like to thank my aunt, Mary Ellen Evans McCarthy for sharing her photos and memories, Thomas H. McCarthy for filling in the blanks on the McCarthy clan, Laurie Ferguson Kashmanian for giving me lots of information on all of the Evans-Ferguson cousins, Denise Carey Erickson who spent a Sunday at the kitchen table telling me stories about her family and my father, Chickie Jr. who always has great stories of his childhood, especially the great stories of his family and Frank Annunziato of "Lanky's Tavern" and his wife Dorothy. I recommend sitting down with anyone in this family who loves to talk and stories will come out that will make you laugh. Preferably you should do it with a beer in hand, because as descendents of Thomas Evans and Michael Quinn it would be most appropriate.

Respectfully submitted

Maureen P. Evans, 2013

And as a post script- if the family trees are overwhelming here are some notable marriages between the Evans and Quinn Families:

George (Chickie) J. Evans Sr. marries Loretta Quinn

Chickie's sister Ann Evans marries Loretta's brother Michael Quinn

Chicken's uncle, Dennis Carey marries Loretta's aunt Nell Driscoll

Chicken's first cousin Mary (Mame) Evans marries Loretta's brother James Quinn

Chickie and Loretta's daughter Mary Ellen marries Loretta's second cousin Thomas McCarthy

Your next door neighbor could be your cousin that is how big these trees are.

