[Joseph Sullivan]

Name ........................................... Sarah-Anita Young

Date ............................................ August 3, 1981

Course ......................................... HIS 500

Instructor ................................. Dr. R. Marlick

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In 1847, Joseph Sullivan emigrated to the United States from Kerry, Ireland. Along with him came his wife, Mary, a son, John, a daughter Margaret, and a Mary Sullivan. By 1850 the Sullivan family move to Savannah, Georgia from New York. However they do not become citizens until 1852. While in Savannah, the Sullivans experienced the birth of two daughter—Mary and Ellen. Joseph Sullivan's occupations include being a laborer, porter, janitor. However he worked as a clerk at Southern Bank for ten years. By 1887 Joseph Sullivan's life comes to an end.

The purpose of this paper is an attempt to fill in gaps of 1847-1887 and what happened to his family.
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The potato crop failed in certain districts in Ireland in 1842.\textsuperscript{1} As a result many Irish citizens suffered hardships. During this time the potato crop caught the blight.\textsuperscript{2} By the years 1846-1847, the United Kingdom suffered was the perhaps hardest hit by the blight.

According to Sir James O'Conner in *History of Ireland 1793-1924*, the following figures were stated:

There were many deaths from starvation: 1842, 1,337; in 1843, 516; in 1846, 2,041; in 1847, 6,058; in 1849, and 1849, together, 9,395; in 1850 more than in 1846; in the first quarter of 1851, 552; total from 1841-1851, 1,770.\textsuperscript{3} There were also many deaths from fever and other diseases. The total mortality for the five years ending in 1851 from all causes in Ireland was close on a million.\textsuperscript{4}

Although the famine was a disaster, some benefits arose. The rapid increase of population decreased.\textsuperscript{5} Emigration was stimulated.\textsuperscript{5} The people were taught not to depend solely on one crop, namely the potato.\textsuperscript{7} The production of cereals was also stimulated.\textsuperscript{8} The potato famine became an era of progress and prosperity has marked the history of Ireland.

By 1846 to 1854, approximately 2,600,000 Irish emigrated, a vast number came to the United States.\textsuperscript{9} They found employment on the lower rung of the socio-economic scale.\textsuperscript{10}

The Irish in America have blamed the English for allowing thousands of their fellow countrymen starve.

It therefore is safe to assume that Joseph Sullivan emigrated to the United States probably because of the potato famine. As a labourer he brought his wife Mary, a son John, a daughter, Margaret, and Mary Sullivan.\textsuperscript{11}

2. Op cit., 236.
3. Census of Ireland, 1851, 1852-0153r, p. 243. (See End Note 5)
5. Ibid.,
6. Ibid.,
7. Ibid.,
8. Ibid.,
9. Ibid., p. 240.
10. Ibid.,
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total from U.K.</th>
<th>Irish</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1845</td>
<td>33,521</td>
<td>65,189</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1846</td>
<td>129,564</td>
<td>72,413</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1847</td>
<td>263,579</td>
<td>144,137</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1848</td>
<td>244,359</td>
<td>138,474</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1849</td>
<td>239,428</td>
<td>167,153</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1850</td>
<td>239,549</td>
<td>135,780</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1851</td>
<td>265,068</td>
<td>137,324</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1852</td>
<td>263,764</td>
<td>205,831</td>
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<td>1853</td>
<td>230,097</td>
<td>205,269</td>
</tr>
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<td>1854</td>
<td>223,429</td>
<td>129,415</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1855</td>
<td>170,867</td>
<td>100,824</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1856</td>
<td>176,664</td>
<td>93,490</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1857</td>
<td>212,371</td>
<td>94,767</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1858</td>
<td>120,432</td>
<td>45,573</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1859</td>
<td>125,459</td>
<td>63,841</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1860</td>
<td>113,372</td>
<td>77,715</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1861</td>
<td>112,578</td>
<td>49,157</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1862</td>
<td>131,245</td>
<td>60,579</td>
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<tr>
<td>1863</td>
<td>233,738</td>
<td>120,765</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1864</td>
<td>134,909</td>
<td>116,127</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1865</td>
<td>209,894</td>
<td>180,788</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1866</td>
<td>204,983</td>
<td>162,980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1867</td>
<td>195,965</td>
<td>97,785</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A marked tendency to increase in the size of farms was one of the results of the famine.

**TABLE SHOWING SIZE OF HOLDINGS.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Size of Farm</th>
<th>1842</th>
<th>1851</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Not exceeding 1 acre</td>
<td>134,914</td>
<td>37,726</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exceeding 1 but not 6</td>
<td>310,426</td>
<td>88,685</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 to 10 acres</td>
<td>262,370</td>
<td>191,845</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 to 20 acres</td>
<td>73,343</td>
<td>141,311</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40 acres and over</td>
<td>48,633</td>
<td>140,940</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

While the famine was approaching the Young Irish were heading towards rebellion. To the ears of the writers of the Nation the French Revolution of 1848 "sounded like a message from

* O'Brien, p. 59.
They arrived in New York. By 1847 they arrived in Savannah. They became American citizens May 2, 1849. By 1855 Joseph and Mary are 29 years of age. John (the son) is 8, while sister Margaret is 6. Also Mary is 75 years of age. I believe that the following people were either friends or relatives; they were listed beneath his family. Timothy Connell’s place of origin was Ireland, as was Ann—age 30. Also listed were two sons; James age 7 was born in England, and Timothy age 3. He was born in New York. If the Connells were not friends or relatives, I query the position of the names being in that position.

The years of 1848-1854 saw the United States evolve into a nation. This time period is best known because of it unrest. Political parties became a vital part of the political system. The politicians of the era decided to sit on the lid of slavery and ignore the boiling beneath. The discovery of gold in 1848 turned the country in a frenzy. People went to California in droves to dig for gold. Meanwhile, the south seated in the White House, Zachary Taylor, a former slave holder. Perhaps, the most nagging came from the north. They were urging at all insistence that the institution of slavery be abolished. Instead, the southerners dug their heels in and eventually the Civil War broke out.

Meanwhile, Joseph Sullivan and Maria (Mary) Murphy experienced the birth of two daughters. Miriam (Mary) was born December 27, 1852, baptized January 2, 1853. Her sponsors were Martagh Shea, and Margaret Sullivan. By 1856, Eleanor (Ellen) was born August 23, and baptized on 12-15, 1856 Chatham County Census, p. 33.
the same day. Her sponsors or God Parents were Catherine Keena Sullivan, Jeremiah Sullivan. Joannae (John) Berry was the officiating priest.

By 1850, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Sullivan are 40 years of age. Joseph is no longer a laborer; he is now working as a clerk at the Commercial House. His son, John, is also working as a clerk. John is now 16. Margaret is 14, Mary is 7, and Ellen is 4. The value of the Sullivan's personal estate was listed as $300.00.

As was the case in the 1850 census, another name is listed with the Sullivan household. Murphy Connely, born in Kerry, Ireland. He was 30 years of age and a laborer. I think it is safe to assume he like Joseph Sullivan emigrated to the United States in search of a better life.

It should be noted that by 1860 Abraham Lincoln becomes president through much electoral controversy. South Carolina voted to secede from the union, and eventually fourteen states followed in secession. In April 1861, Fort Sumter was fired upon, this many historians have cited this act as the opening of the Civil War. The Civil War was not to end until 1865. The war ended but the war torn country had to suffer through the era of Reconstruction.

Since the began in 1861 I sought to discover if John Sullivan (Joseph and Mary Sullivan's son) served in the Civil War. However I was unsuccessful.

The following years proved to be interesting for Joseph Sullivan.

On July 7, 1862, Martin Ford acting as the executor of Thos (Thomas) Ford's

26-29. 1850 Chatham County, Georgia, 333.

(See End Note 30)
estate sold the southern half of Lot 16, Washington Ward and household furniture for the sum of $1,750.31 However, by December 18, 1842, a lien was placed against the property he recently purchased.32 The mortgage placed by Martin J. Ford is sold to Joseph Burke for $553.50.33 This was only the beginning of his financial woes in the attempt to secure a house. By June 28, 1866, John Prendible bought ½ of the southern portion of lot 16, Washington Ward measuring 30x60 feet.34 It is evident that John Prendible secured the liens and mortgages to make it possible for Joseph Sullivan to purchase the Southern ½ portion of lot 16, Washington Ward on June 28, 1866 from John F. Ford and Thomas Ford.35 However in 1915, Mrs. F. Sullivan sold the Northern ½ part of the Southern ½ (Lot 16, Washington Ward, corner of Price and Bryan Streets to Mary Prendible et al.36

During this time Joseph Sullivan is now employed as a clerk, porter, janitor at Southern Bank.37

It was about this time I began the search for the children of Joseph and Mary Sullivan, Mary Sullivan the wife and Mary Sullivan the possible mother of either Joseph or Mary Sullivan.

I began the search for Margaret Sullivan first. On April 6, 1837 died. According to the Savannah Morning New Digest (January 1–December 31, 1837, p. 236 and Savannah Morning Newspaper–April 6, 1837, p. 8) Joseph Sullivan’s living relatives were his wife—Mary, and three daughters, one of whom was married.38 Since Margaret was the eldest daughter, I assumed she was the logical starting place.

32. Deed 3X, 449. See also Deed Book 4V, 205, Liens, 41, 356 and 42, 396.
34. Deed Book 12K, 209.
35. Sholes, City of Savannah City Directory. See End Note 37.
I now understand what the adage "looking for a needle in a haystack" is about. The name Margaret is fairly common, and as well as is Sullivan. In a variety of indices they were too numerous to chase in the length of time for this project. However, I thought I succeeded in my quest. Through checking the index for the Catholic Cemetery, I discovered the following people are buried in Section A, Lot 35: John Harrington, Cornelius Murphy, Daniel Sullivan, Jeremiah Sullivan, Mary Sullivan, Mary E. Sullivan, and Mary E. Sullivan. Margaret Sullivan was not listed.

I also checked Section A, Lot 36 for possible relatives of the late Joseph Sullivan. The following names are listed: James Collins, William Collins, Mrs. Elizabeth Muligan, and James Sullivan.

James Harrington was policeman. He died of pneumonia at St. Joseph Infirmary. He was 39 years of age and a native of Kenmare County, Kerry Ireland (the very same county where Joseph Sullivan came from. See Savannah Morning News, April 6, 1887). He was unmarried but he left a brother and 2 sisters to mourn his death. James Harrington's funeral took place at the home of Mrs. Joseph Sullivan at Price and Bryan Streets.

The relatives and friends of Mr. John Harrington and Mrs. Joseph Sullivan, John Prendible, Patrick Buttimer, and families were invited to attend the funeral (James Harrington) at the home of Mrs. Joseph Sullivan. Upon his death, Patrick Buttimer, his friend, was made the executor of his will. Patrick Buttimer did indeed marry a Mary Sullivan on November 17, 1867.

40. -41-42. Ibid.
44. Op cit., 327.
45. Check Mills and Estates, 4th Floor Savannah Chatham County Court House.
by a Roman Catholic Priest. Through checking the wills both Patrick and Mary Buttimmer (Wills El175, and 1134), the parents of Mary Sullivan were Daniel P. Sullivan and Ellen Sullivan. Both of the Buttimmer's are buried in the Catholic Cemetery. I was still searching for a Margaret Sullivan. There was a Margaret Sullivan who married Lewis Bennett March 7, 1859. During the nineteenth century there were inter-religious marriages, however and Irish Catholic marrying an outsider was surely an unforgivable sin. As a result, I reached another dead end.

I then directed my efforts to find Ellen Sullivan. Needless to say, there are many Sullivans. The question is of the many which was the child of Joseph and Mary Sullivan.

There is a Mary E. Sullivan (See Section A. Lot 35 Catholic Cemetery) listed. She died August 9, 1900. She was buried August 10, 1900 at the age of 42; her residence was cited as 16 Price Street. I located a will for a Mary E. Sullivan (Will 1683). According to the will she married Maurice Sullivan. There was no evidence that she was the daughter of Ellen.

There was also a Mary E. Sullivan that died July 15, 1862, and was buried July 16, 1862 at the age of 9 months. The residence listed was Habersham and Bay Lane.

I thought of another way to search for Ellen. Joseph Sullivan left a will. The following is a summary of the items set forth in the doc-

43. Ibid.,
50. Ibid.,
51. Catholic Cemetery Savannah, Georgia, 1853-1933, Vol. (1)
52. Ibid.
First Mary was left all of the real property. Second, his friend Jeremiah Sullivan was designated, the executor of the estate. Third, his daughters Mary E. Sullivan and Hallie T. Sullivan would inherit the property after the death of their mother, Mary. If they had children, they would inherit the property only after the deaths of their mothers.

It should be mentioned that Patrick Buttiner is one of witnesses for signing Joseph Sullivan's will.

Before I go on with the discussion of Ellen Sullivan, the question needs to asked what happened to Mary Sullivan, the wife Joseph. I do know she continued to live in the residence at 16 Price Street. (See Savannah City Directory 1883-1895) She is listed as Mary Sullivan widow of J. residence 16 Price Street.

Meanwhile there is a Mary Sullivan buried in Section 4, Lot 35 in the Catholic Cemetery. She died April 15, 1895 and was buried April 16, 1895. Her residence is listed as Price and Bryan Streets. As has been mentioned previously, John Harrington's funeral was held at her house. Also Cornelius Murphy was buried from 3 Price Street on December 16, 1884. (3 Price Street and 16 Price are the same residence.) The block begins at 12 there is no 3 Price Street. This was simply a mistake.

As also mentioned previously he is listed along with the Sullivan family in the 1860 Census as Cornelius Murphy. I can only assume that he and Mary Sullivan were sister and brothers. I have no documents to prove my theory.
I do call attention to the 2 children who were born to a Joseph (Joseph) Sullivan and Mary (Mary) Murphy. Miriam (Mary) was born in 1852, and Ellenor was born in 1856. However I do feel the previously stated children were in fact the children of Joseph and Mary Sullivan, but I do not feel I have sufficient evidence in proving their parentage. 59

In terms of the attempt to trace Ellen Sullivan through her fathers will, this was a failure. I was unable to secure any information on a Mary Ellen Sullivan associated with 16 Price Street.

However, in an affidavit 60 a Pettie T. Sullivan deeds the Northern 1/2 of the Southern 1/2 of Lot 16, Washington Ward, to Margaret Prindible, and Mary R. Prindible. Also a Nellie T. Sullivan resided from 1895-1937 in Price Street.

The only other information I found on a Nellie T. or Ellen Sullivan, was that she died March 1, 1924. 60 Her remains are the Catholic Cemetery.

Before I ended my research, I did check the Catholic Cemetery Burial records for a possibility of locating relatives of Joseph Sullivan. In Section A, Lot 36 the following are buried: James Collins died April 2, 1869 and was buried on the same day. His residence was the "Hospital." William Collins died March 5, 1876 and was also buried the same day. His age is listed as 4 months; while his residence was listed as 32 St. Julian Street. Mrs. Elizabeth Mulligan, a native of Ireland died at the age of 58. 62

59. — (See End Note 59)


I ended my research project with more questions than I have answers. For example, what happened to John Sullivan (son of Mary and Joseph Sullivan). He probably served in the Civil War, but unless one knows the specific company there are endless hours spent to be looking for a soldier. Second, I am sure Margaret was the married daughter suggested in the obituary suggested of her father. The question is if she did not marry Patrick Buttimer, then whom did she marry? Third, Ellen Sullivan, Mary El. Sullivan, the mystery is which is the daughter of Mary and Joseph Sullivan. Fourth, Mary Sullivan was Cornelius Murphy her brother? Although I believe he is her brother, I have no way to prove it. Also along the same lines, what was the relationship of John Harrington to Mary Sullivan, could he have been a relative of either she or Joseph. Fifth, I also question the relationship of Patrick Buttimer to Joseph. He was invited to two funerals held at the Sullivan residence. Sixth, Also, why does John Prendible purchase the mortgage on the property of Joseph Sullivan; he also was invited to funeral also held at the residence of the Sullivans. Seventh, The question also unanswered is of Nellie T. Sullivan. It would be interesting to discover why she never married, as well as finding a will or other documents on her. Eighth, Were the Collins in any relation to the Sullivans?

I visited the grave site of the Sullivans. The only grave that has a headstone is John Harrington (Section A, Lot 35-Catholic Cemetery). All of the other graves in the lot have no markers. However, in Section
Lot 36 all of the graves have headstones except James Sullivan.

The questions presented on the previous page may be able to be answered by someone else. However it will take a thorough investigation of more than five weeks to determine the answers for the questions I have set forth.
3. Prior to 1841 the average of deaths from starvation was in Ireland approximately 50, in England approximately two hundred.

17. Although I can not prove it, I believe Mary could have Joseph's mother.

30. There are three John Sullivans listed. There is no way to determine if one them was the son of Joseph and Mary Sullivan.

59. I found a child Daniel Sullivan was born August 27, 1873, to Joanna (John) Sullivan and Maria (Mary) Murphy of Savannah. Timothy Sullivan and Josephina Mc Grath were the God Parents. It should be noted that the word 'baptism' was scratched.

Sister Mary Lauret Dugan R.S.M. stated that the significance of this was if a child is forced to die, a baptism will occur. The ceremony of baptism that is if the dies he will be baptized, however if the child does survive he will have a baptism.
APPENDIX

1. The Will of Joseph Sullivan (8507).
2. The Affidavit to Deed 3X,449, (21,1,478)
SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY


3. Census of Ireland, 1851.

4. Census of Chatham County Georgia, 1850-1890.


10. Walton to Wharf. (Schrock Index) 14, S.C.C.C.

11. W.P.A. Catholic Burial Records, 1853-1938 (1) and (2).