

## Introduction

“Where did my ancestors come from?” “Why did they leave their home countries?” “What kind of work did they do” “What kind of people were they?” “Hardships, what were they, how did they surmount them?” These are the questions that this project has attempted to answer together with the names, places and dates when all of these things happened. Four scrapbooks accompany this project.

The earliest verifiable date in this history is 1798. It was found in the Book of Records for the Church of the Nativity, Loughmoor and its chapel of St. John the Baptist, Castleiney, County Tipperary, Ireland. Before this time, no records were kept for various reasons lest those whose names were to be found there would suffer hardship. The most recent date is 2002 when the youngest descendant of this family line was born. Thus, the chain of relationship extends back for about seven generations.

Short of an attempt to be definitive, brief backgrounds have been prepared to set the scenes in Ireland, Scotland and the United States to capture the times when immigration took place. It is surprising to learn of the many countries represented in the extended relationship such as Ireland, Scotland, England, Germany Poland, Hungary, Yugoslavia, and Holland. These older folks seldom wrote anything down about their migrations; some family records do give particular events and dates but the greater part has been taken from oral history and the few residual documents that remain from numerous sources. It is quite surprising to recognize that very few, if any, ever returned to their countries of origin. Ties were cut, new beginnings were established and life went on from there with the same trust in Providence that gave them the courage to depart from their origins and families.

It is my hope that all who will read these pages will come to value their family history. Beyond a genetic pool, there is a wealth of Faith, courage, and resilience in the face of difficulty served as a springboard, a support for future generations as they move ahead in their own lives.

Appreciation needs to be expressed to all of those who supplied much of the information this history contains. Especially I wish to thank Jack, Bill Coogan and Gertrude Johnson who took the time to compose the biographical sketches; they are very touching and provide a high degree of insight into the character and personalities of those about whom they wrote. I would be remiss not to mention the assistance of Brother Patrick Power, F.S.C. who generously shared his expert knowledge of genealogical research and Irish record keeping. Lastly, I am indebted to Brother Joseph W. Juliano, F.S.C. whose skill saw this work through numerous drafts. Were it not for his time, patience and programmatic manipulation this work could never have been completed.

Brother Colman James Coogan, F.S.C.  
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