

IRISHMEN, AMERICANS, & PATRIOTS

This is the story of three Irishmen who came to Steubenville Ohio, became Americans, and later Patriots. It is also the story of their descendants, Americans and Patriots.

The first Irishman was Edward Dunn, my great grand uncle. It was his obituary in the Steubenville paper (1902) that contained information previously unknown about the Dunn family. He came to America at about age 11 in 1846 on the *Fidelia* out of Liverpool (Ancestry.com) with his brother William, age 10, and sister Catherine (Kate), age 14. According to the obituary, they were orphans from County Meath. Their father was a Thomas Dunn (personal correspondence, 2008) but the mother's name is unknown. It was illegible on Ed's old marriage record. The three of them came to live with an uncle in Pittsburgh and eventually moved to Steubenville between 1850 and 1860 (1860 census).

Ed married Agnes M. Clark(e) on October 17, 1859 (pension papers, 1898, personal correspondence, 2008) in Wheeling Virginia. West Virginia was not a state then. His wife died in 1862 leaving a 2 year old daughter, Annie, who later married Art Dougherty, having four children. Ed's sister Kate, who had been living with them (1860 census) raised Annie for her brother. His occupation is listed as a nailor (census 1860).

On May 2, 1864, Ed joined the Union Army (Ohio Valley Press, 1886) as a private with the 157th OVI Company A. He was stationed at Camp Chase Ohio, having an uneventful course and was discharged with his regiment on September 2, 1864 (1886). He was a member of the Stanton Post #166 G.A.R. and of the Knights of Columbus according to his obituary. He died on December 17, 1902 from pneumonia (personal correspondence, 2008) and is buried in the Dunn lot in Mt. Calvary Cemetery in Steubenville beside his wife. Of all the pictures my mother saved, we have none of him. Also lost is the connection with the Art Dougherty family.

The second man was my great grandfather, Thomas Burke who came from County Clare at about nine years of age, arriving in about 1851, according to family stories. How he arrived in Steubenville is unknown. It is believed he had a brother living here. He worked as a laborer, machinist, carpenter, and in construction for many years and was a well know businessman (Doyle, 1910).

He married Anna Gorman from County Clare who was living in Steubenville with her mother, Mary, and brother, Patrick. They were married in St. Peter's Church on January 10, 1864 (certificate). They had nine children, four dying young. Only two of those remaining children married but those two created quite a large descendancy list. The oldest, Mary Agnes, eventually moved to Wheeling forming the "Wheeling Bunch" of the Burke family. My grandfather, John Patrick, married a former Steubenville girl, Emma Dunn, on September 22, 1902 (certificate), leading to the "Steubenville Bunch". Actually, they ran away and married in Cleveland in Immaculate Conception Church (wedding certificate) with the priest's approval, according to a Steubenville newspaper article (1902).

He then joined the Union Army on May 2, 1864 with the 157th O.V.I.Co., as a corporal for 100

days which were spent at Camp Chase in Ohio (1886). On September 10, 1864, he was discharged with his regiment. He also had an uneventful course in the War. He was a member of the E.M. Stanton Post #166 G.A.R.. Thomas died on February 2, 1923 and is buried in Mt. Calvary Cemetery in Steubenville. He and his wife were lifelong members of St. Peter Church.

The third Irishman was my great grandfather also. His name was William Dunn from County Meath. William joined the Union Army with the 2nd Regiment O.V.I., Co. G on September 5, 1861 in Steubenville (1886). He fought in the battle of Stones River, Murfreesboro Tenn, and, on December 1862, was severely wounded and captured by the Confederates. He was a POW in General Hospital # 8 in Nashville, Tenn (war records).

His wounds were described as follows: a musket ball in the left hip about 1 inch above the hip, passing inwardly and lodging against the backbone where it was (excised?) making a severe wound from which he is considerably disabled. Leg is weak and stiff at the joint. He was paroled to a Union Hospital in Louisville KY, on January 13, 1863 traveling upriver on the steamboat Hastings.

Through April 1863 he was in Louisville. Then, on April 30, 1863, he was listed as AWOL, yet listed in Louisville in May thru October 1863 and as present in Camp Chase on Nov/Dec 1863 muster roll. He was mustered out with his company on October 10, 1864 (1886). Who knows what happened? All of this detailed information was from his records. How they were able to keep such good ones during that war is amazing. And they did not have computers! I did email the person in Washington who searched and got these records for me, asking about the AWOL. He wrote back that there was no record of a court martial so it was probably a mixup.

On May 10, 1869, William married Hannah White from Ireland in St. Peter's Church (personal correspondence, 2008). They had four children, the two oldest dying in infancy. Hannah died on November 21, 1877 from consumption (personal correspondence, 2008) when her daughter Emma was six months old. Emma, my grandmother, married John Patrick Burke as previously mentioned. William is noted as living with his brother Ed, a widower, on the 1880 census which gives his occupation as a nailor. (1880 census).

On November 24, 1880 (bible notation, certificate), William then married Elizabeth Boyle of Steubenville at St. Peter's Church. They eventually moved to Cleveland where William worked for the railroad. They had four children, two girls and two boys.

William died on November 12, 1917 in Cleveland. He is buried in Calvary Cemetery beside his second wife in Cleveland. His obituary is sparse and has no mention of any G.A.R. affiliation (Necrology File, 2006).

The interesting part of the story revolves around the run-away marriage. The family story goes that Grandpap Dunn, the bride's father was a captain in the Civil War and the groom's father, grandpap Burke was a sergeant. When the "captain" found out about the marriage he was going back to Steubenville and horsewhip the no-good sergeant and his son. Guess what? The official records show Grandpap Dunn was a private and Grandpap Burke was a corporal. My

husband wonders who promoted him, my mother? But we all know how stories get changed over the telling. I found it amusing.

As you can see, these three Irishmen truly were Americans and Patriots, fighting for their country.

Now to the next generations. John Patrick and Emma Burke's son William was drafted into the army during WW2 where he served as a medic. He was a banker by trade He served at Camp Grant, IL (personal correspondence, 1942).

William and Elizabeth Dunn's two sons, Edward and Thomas served in WW1. Haulsee (1920) says both were wounded in te war but gives no further information . Edward is buried in Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Washington DC. He died in a Veteran's Hospital in DC (# 64 328, 1964) and is listed on his death certificate as a wodower. Thomas is buried in Chalmette National Historical Park, Chalmette LA. He was a corporal in the 363rd Machine Gun Battalion. He died in a Veteran's Hospital in Biloxi MS (#15448, 1944). According to his death certificate, he had been married to Beatrice Shea but they were separated. Both Edward's and Thomas' army records were stored in St. Louis and were lost during a fire (personal correspondence, 2007). The info I have on Thomas is from the grave site locator from the Dept. Of Veterans Affairs (2006). According to his draft registration card, he was a musician and played in New Orleans.

Thomas Burke's and William Dunn's great grandson, John Patrick and Emma Burkes grandson, and my brother, John Joseph Griffin was an Air Force pilot and Vietnam Veteran who was killed in a terrorist attack on December 15, 1985 in Gander Newfoundland. John was piloting a plane carrying 248 soldiers and 8 crew, which originated in Egypt where mysterious things happened and security was lax, according to Filotas (1991, Sanford, 1997). John picked up the plane in Cologne Germany and flew it to Gander. Upon takeoff, the plane exploded according to witnesses. Our government responded that it was a terrible tragedy. A day after the crash, an Islamic Jihad, a Shiite Muslim extremist group claimed responsibility, saying they planted a bomb on the aircraft to prove their ability to strike at the Americans anywhere (Sanford, 1997). Then it became pilot error, John did not check the wings for ice, then it became national security. The records are now sealed. Witnesses stated that he and the co-pilot did a walk around of the plane prior to takeoff. It was also said that the plane did not explode and burn, the fire only started after the crash. Autopsies on the victims showed hydrogen cyanide in their blood stream and lungs (Filotas, 1991, Sanford, 1997). This, according to the government, occurred after the victims had suffered mutilating injuries such as amputated body parts. The cyanide just seeped into the bodies. According to medical experts, hydrogen cyanide can only be absorbed in the blood stream through inhalation (Sanford, 1997, Bryson, 1986). A live person must inhale the fumes for the cyanide to appear in the blood and lungs (Cravey & Baselt, 1981).

John is also buried in Mt. Calvary Cemetery next to a young daughter. They are both in the Burke plot where Thomas Burke is laid to rest.

These three men left a legacy of patriotism in this family. Also St. Peter's Church and Mt. Calvary Cemetery in Steubenville play a large role. With the exception of a few, all remain in Steubenville. When I come home to visit the family I go to Mt. Calvary where all my Steubenville family resides and then make a stop in St. Peter's.

Because of these three men, I am a member of the Jefferson County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society Civil War Society and a member of the Ohio Genealogical Society. I am proud of my ancestors and their descendents, Irishmen, Americans, and Patriots all. I was inducted into the OGS Society of Civil War Families of Ohio for the three original Irishmen in April 2010.



William Dunn
1835 - 1917
Civil War
Pvt 3 years
2nd OVI Co G



Edward Dunn
1839 - 1902
Civil War
Pvt 100 days
157th OVI Co A



Thomas E. Burke
1842 - 1923
Civil War
Cpl 100 days
157th OVI Co C



Edward Dunn
1881 - 1964
WW 1 pvt

IRISHMEN
AMERICANS
&
PATRIOTS



William T. Burke
1904 - 1993
WW 2
PFC US Army



Thomas A. Dunn
1887 - 1944
WW 1 Cpl
363 rd Machine
Gun Battalion



John J. Griffin
1940 - 1985
Captain US Air Force Pilot
Vietnam Veteran
Killed in crash at
Gander Newfoundland

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Steubenville Herald Star. (Fall 1902). WENT Far away from home, chose his bride, and kept the matter a secret.

William T. Burke. Co. B. 1st Platoon, 31st Battalion, Camp Grant, IL. (1942). Postcard.

1860 Census. Steubenville, Jefferson County, Ohio. (June 6. 1860).

1880 Census. Steubenville, Jefferson County, Ohio. (June 17, 1880).