

JOHN JOSEPH CAREY, SR.



John Joseph Carey, Sr.

John Joseph Carey was born in about 1839. He came from County Limerick in Ireland. A letter from John's daughter, Anne, says "*Don't know much of Father's people, other than that they came from Knock near Limerick*".

Don't know much of Father's people, other than they came from Knock in Limerick. Had one sister + 1 brother - Uncle Pat - dead. Sister (dead) married Tom Clifford and had 3 children - 2 dead now - but Hannah Clifford is Mrs Duffey and has several children. Always show up at wakes.

Letter from Anne Carey Rossing, John Carey's daughter, circa 1941

John's parents are Richard Carey and Johana Cullinane, who were married in Mahoonagh, County Limerick in 1826. After a thorough search, a marriage for Richard and Johana was located in Mahoonagh, County Limerick, Ireland. Land records place Richard in the townland of Common or Commons in County Limerick

John had an older brother, Patrick, and a younger sister, Margaret. Patrick was born in Mahoonagh in 1838, and married a woman from Ballingarry. Margaret married a man who was born in Mahoonagh. The Mahoonagh parish registers are known to have gaps in the late 1830s. Land records place Richard Carey in the nearby parish of Ballingarry in 1849, in the townland of Common. This townland is near Knockfierna, "the hill of truth" and the tallest hill in County Limerick. This is most likely the Knock mentioned above.



View from Knockfierna

John's parents moved from Mahoonagh to Ballingarry between 1838 and 1849. They lived on a four-acre lot with John's grandparents, Patrick and Bridget Carey, and uncles Jeffrey and John Carey, and worked the land. Richard had inherited the land in 1827, and the Careys had lived in the area since before the records begin. The Careys lived on Lot 10. A Carey descendant lived there until the 1970s. The land was beautiful and green, and the hill of Knockfierna was in their backyard. There was a large commonage area on the heights of Knockfierna. Commonage was common land, and anyone could live there.



*Ordnance Survey map of Commons townland in Ballingarry parish, 1852.
The Careys were in Lot 10, with the hill of Knockfierna in their backyard.*

John was raised in a little stone cottage with a thatched roof. The house was 21½ feet long by 15 ½ feet wide. About 88 families lived in Common townland, in properties around the base of Knockfierna.



Knockfierna cottage

In the 1830s, the commonage area became a refuge for evicted tenants from the Cox estate in Ballynoe, about nine miles to the west of Knockfierna. About 130 families moved to the commonage area and built cottages of stone. *"Knockfierna, the highest point in County Limerick at approximately 950 feet, was common land so anyone could live there. It was to this place that many of the dispossessed went to live during the Famine years. Some had been evicted because they could not pay their rent; most had no place else to go because there was no work."* (*Remembering the Great Famine; thesilvervoice.wordpress.com*) These families were hard-hit by the Great Famine, as they tried to grow potatoes on the rocky land on the hilltop. The ruins of these cabins are still found on the hill today, and a famine memorial has been created there.

The potato famine had a major impact on the area, and 1847 was the hardest year. John was only about eight years old at the time. The family owned their farm, and other family members lived nearby in the townland of Ballinaha. What kind of an impact did it have on the young boy to see the suffering of those families on the nearby hillside?

County of _____		Barony of _____		Parish of _____		Electoral Division of _____							
Reference to Map.	NAMES.		Description of Tenement.	RATEABLE ANNUAL VALUATION.									
	Townlands and Occupiers.	Immediate Lessors.		Area.			Land.			Buildings.		Total.	
				A.	R.	P.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£
	Common Town												20
a	Richard Carey		No. Land				0	100		0	50		0
10	b	Jeffrey Carey	Ten fee	No. Land	5	0	35	0	100	0	50	0	0
		Michele Donohoe											
11	c	Michele Donohoe	Ten fee	Land	3	1	5	0	50				0
12	d	James Hurby	Ten fee	No. Land	2	3	25	0	50	0	50	0	0
				Land									

Valuation List for Common, about 1862

Richard was still shown as the landholder in Common townland in 1862, shortly before his emigration.

John came to the United States as a young man, and settled in Chicago in about 1862. His sister, Margaret emigrated in 1862. John worked as a laborer for the railroad. Richard, his son Patrick, and his brother, Jeffrey emigrated in 1862, and he must have died in Chicago. The first of the Carey family to appear in the Chicago city directories was Johana, widow of Richard, in 1865 at 128 Bunker Street. Johana, John, a laborer, and Edward, a sewer builder, are shown at 130 Bunker Street in the 1865-6 Chicago City Directory. Edward died in 1868, at the age of 27, and was buried in the Carey family plot.

12,	Miss J. Buckley. S. M. (sponulogue)
13,	John Carey, My Harrigan
14,	Thos Johnson, Catharine Kehone

Marriage record for John Carey and Mary Harrigan in Holy Family parish, Chicago, 1866

John married Mary Harrigan on July 13, 1866 at St. Mary's Church in Chicago. John was 27 years old, and Mary was 18 years old. They had fourteen children, all baptized at Holy Family Church in Chicago. They were Richard (1867), James (1868), Anna (1870), Edward (1871), Joanna (1873), Mary (1874), Margaret (1875), Mary (1877), John (1878), Patrick (1880), Thomas (1882), Joseph (1884), Anne (1886), and William (1888). Twelve of the children lived past infancy. The sponsors at the children's baptisms included Patrick Carey, Edward Carey, James Carey, Thomas Carey, Margaret Carey, and Mary Carey.

14	14	—	William 44	18	Keeping house
15	15	—	John 22	17	at School
16	16	1874	Thomas 37	17	158 Bunker St
17	17	—	Patricia 30	17	Keeping house
18	18	—	William 10	17	at School
19	19	—	Mary 10	17	do
20	20	—	John 5	17	do
21	21	—	Mary 7	17	do
22	22	1874	John 32	17	Stone Mason
23	23	—	Mary 27	17	Keeping house
24	24	—	Fredrick 44	17	at home
25	25	1874	Mary 32	17	laborer
26	26	—	John 25	17	Keeping house
27	27	—	Richard 3	17	at home
28	28	—	James 1	17	do
29	29	—	Ann 3	17	do
		1874	Frederick 34	17	Steam Boat Capt

1870 census, Chicago

In the 1870 federal census, John and Mary are shown in Ward 8, with children Richard, age 3, James, age 1, and Ann, 3 months. Bunker Street was one street over from DeKoven Street, where the O'Learys lived when the Chicago Fire of 1871 started, so the Great Fire must have been a memorable event for the Carey family. Fortunately, the fire blew in the opposite direction from the Carey's house.

In the Chicago City Directory of 1873, John and his brother Patrick both lived at 158 Bunker Street. They are both shown with the occupation of laborer. John and Patrick's mother, Johana was shown in the 1872 Chicago City Directory at 158 Bunker Street, and this is the address listed as her residence in cemetery records. John and Patrick are still shown at 158 Bunker Street in the 1874-5 city directory.

20	Rosa	W. F. 18	"	1	
21	James	W. M. 17	Son	1	
22	Josephine	W. F. 16	Daughter	1	
23	Annie	W. F. 8	"	1	
24	Span Daniel	W. M. 60	"	1	
25	Mary	W. F. 46	Wife	1	
26	John	W. M. 21	Son	1	
27	Augustine	W. M. 19	"	1	
28	Kate	W. F. 18	Daughter	1	
29	Daniel	W. M. 16	Son	1	
30	Joseph	W. M. 16	"	1	
31	Barny John	W. M. 42	"	1	
32	Mary	W. F. 34	Wife	1	
33	Richard	W. M. 13	Son	1	

NOTE D.—In making entries in columns 9, 10, 11, 12, 16 to 21, an affirmative mark only will be used—thus /, except
NOTE E.—Question No. 12 will only be asked in cases where an affirmative answer has been given either to question 10
NOTE F.—Question No. 14 will only be asked in cases where a gainful occupation has been reported in column 13.
NOTE G.—In column 7 an abbreviation in the name of the month may be used, as Jan., Apr., Dec.

1880 census, Chicago, first page

Persons numbered by household	Name	Color—White, W. C. Black Indian, I.	Sex—Male, M. Female, F.	Age at last birthday or last year terminated If born within the year	Married, /	Blind, /	Number of weeks of sickness during the year If no, what is the sick- ness or disability?	Blind, /
39	Barny James	W. M.	11	Son	1		At school	
	Barny	W. M.	8	"	1		"	
	John	W. F.	7	Daughter	1		"	
	Mary	W. F.	4	"	1			
	Mary	W. F.	3	"	1			
	John	W. M.	1	Son	1			
120	Barny Patrick	W. M.	47	"	1		Calover 120	
	Bridget	W. F.	50	Wife	1		Keeping Home	
121	Billy Donat	W. M.	56	"	1		Expression	
	Kate	W. F.	52	Wife	1		Keeping Home	
	Andrew	W. M.	22	Son	1		Book-binder	
	Josephine	W. F.	20	Daughter	1		Dressmaker	
	Mary	W. F.	14	"	1		"	
122	Benthuick George	W. M.	53	"	1		Calover 180	
	Mary	W. F.	66	Wife	1		Keeping Home	
	Thomas	W. M.	29	Son	1		Board maker	
	O'Neill John	W. M.	30	Boarder	1		Teamster	

1880 census, Chicago, top of next page

In the 1880 census, the family was still living at 158 Bunker Street. John's brother, Patrick and his wife Bridget also lived there. It is interesting to note that John couldn't read and write in the 1870 census, but has learned to read and write by the 1880 census.

The family moved in 1881. John is found in the Voter Registration rolls for 1888. He is shown living at 640 21st Street, and was naturalized with papers filed in 1886. His son, Richard, was also registered at the

same address. John's sister-in-law, Bridget died the next year, in 1889, and her address was also given as 640 21st Street.

The family moved again in 1890. John is found in the Voter Registration rolls in 1890 and 1892. He was listed as living at 237 Ewing Avenue. In 1890 he stated that he has lived at that address for four months. In 1892, he stated that he has lived in the county and state for 30 years, making his arrival in Chicago in 1862. John's brother Patrick was shown at 247 Ewing Avenue, and he had also lived in the county and state for 30 years.

John died June 12, 1897 at the age of 56. At that time he lived at 250 Ewing Avenue, in Chicago. He was buried in Calvary Cemetery on June 15, 1897.

Form 206 B	637	Registration Number	8-65-31
STATE OF ILLINOIS } COOK COUNTY }		REPORT OF DEATH	
VITAL STATISTICS DEPARTMENT — COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE			
1. Name of Deceased	John Carey		
2. Place of Death	Chicago	Date of Death	June 12, 1897
3. Address of Deceased	Ewing Street		
4. Name of Hospital or Institution			
5. Sex	Male	Race	White
6. Date of Birth		Age	56
		Birthplace	Ireland
7. Occupation	Railroad Man		
8. Father's Name			
9. Mother's Maiden Name			

Death certificate for John Carey

The obituary of John Carey (Chicago Tribune, Sunday, June 13, 1897):

John Carey, at his residence, 250 Ewing St., beloved husband of Mary Carey, nee Harrigan. Member of St. Aloysius Court No. 27, I.O.F. Funeral notice later.

Burial Records - Calvary Cemetery, Chicago. Provided by Archdiocesan Administrative Center, Chicago.

CAREY		Patrick		North 1/2	4	15	N
OWNER		PART OF LOT		LOT	BLOCK	SECTION	
DATE OF PURCHASE:	Sept. 22, 1872	NO. OF GRAVES:		TYPE OF CARE		Card #1	
SIZE OF LOT:	X	NO. OF SQ. FT.	117	101.50	As of 1/15/97	SEE FILE #2040	
DATE OF INTERMENT	NAME OF DECEASED	TYPE AND SIZE OF BOX	LOCATION				
7/7/08	Harvey J. Rossing (3 days)	216 E. Huron Street					
4/27/20	Eugene F. Rossing (42/100-9-8)	1923 - So. Central	St. Anne's Hospital				
3/2/22	William Carey 2/26/22 (32)	St. Paul, Minn.	N.W. Corner				
12/16/22	Margaret M. Rossing (20/15/22)	1923 - So. Central	W. Corner				
11/26/23	Mary A. Carey 11/23/23 (70)	1923 - So. Central	2nd fr N.W. Corner				
1/26/24	James McGann	Cement	11711 So. All Saints Cem.				
9/6/31	Harvey Rossing 9/3/34 (49)	Pine	N.E. Corner St. Anne Hospital				
4/10/54	Anne Rossing	28sp Whitex	2nd N. E. Corner				
6/28/55	Baby boy Rossing	box	S. E. Corner				
2/20/56	Margaret Carey	29sp Prem	S. E. Corner				
3/27/89	Bridget Carey 3/27/89 (70)	640 21 st St.					
6/15/97	John Carey 6/15/97 (56)	250 Ewing Avenue					

CAREY		Patrick		Card No. 2	N 4	15	N
OWNER		PART OF LOT		LOT	BLOCK	SECTION	
DATE OF PURCHASE:		NO. OF GRAVES:		TYPE OF CARE		Card #2	
SIZE OF LOT:	X	NO. OF SQ. FT.		101.50	As of 1/15/97	SEE FILE #2040	
DATE OF INTERMENT	NAME OF DECEASED	TYPE AND SIZE OF BOX	LOCATION				
7/27/14	John J. Carey 7/25/14 (3)	St. Bernard Hospital					
9/29/00	Lillian Carey (2 yrs) 9/29/00	154 Sholto Avenue					
3/24/11	Patrick Carey 3/21/11 (88)	Oak Forest, Illinois					
9/28/09	John Rossing (2 hrs) 9/28/09	1923 Central Park Avenue					
2/19/1878	Margaret Carey 2/17/78 (37)	1053 W. Adams	Born - Ireland				
10/31/1878	Michael Carey 10/24/78 (40)	163 Johnson St.	" Ireland				
1/16/1875	Mary Carey (0-1-5) 1/16/75	158 Bunker					
12/9/1872	Edward Carey 4/3/1868 (27)		Removed from 19 30 G				
12/10/1872	Anne & Mary Carey 10/2/70 (7 months)		Removed from 19 30 G				
9/21/1872	Johana Carey (65)	158 Bunker	Ireland				
12/15/1967	William A. Rossing	429 Sp. P.L.	2nd South West Corner.				
8/15/1868	Mary J. Carey (1-1-0)						

Cemetery record for the Carey family plot at Calvary Cemetery