MARGARET LEDDIN



Margaret Leddin was born in 1841 in Emly, County Tipperary, Ireland. Her parents were John Leddin and Mary Morrissy. She was christened in the parish church of Emly on March 8, 1841.



Emly

Margaret had one brother, Michael, who was three years younger. The Leddins were originally from Knocklong, and are thought to have come to Emly when the railroad arrived there. The land on which Michael Leddin lived was next to the railroad station, making it probable that he worked for the railroad. This land, in the townland of Coolbea, was rented to them by Mary Bourke, whose descendants still live there.



Coolbea townland

Emly is both a parish and a village next to the border between counties Tipperary and Limerick. About ten miles to the east is the town of Tipperary. An important church was founded here anciently by a contemporary of St. Patrick, St. Ailbhe. Ailbhe's Well is still visited in the neighborhood and an ancient

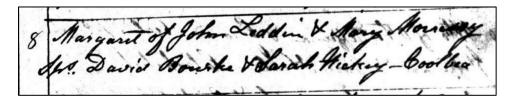
cross in the graveyard beside the Roman Catholic church is supposed to mark the saint's burial place. The church in which Margaret was baptized is now used as a town hall, and a new church has been built next to the cemetery.



The Emly parish register, turned to Margaret's christening



The parish register at Emly, showing Margaret's baptism



Baptism record for Margaret in Emly

Margaret came to America in 1868 when she was 27 years old, and settled in Chicago. She married Maurice Hickey 5 February 1872 in Chicago, and they had four children. Margaret's younger brother, Michael, also came to Chicago and married Bridget Cosgrove.

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Marriage license for Margaret Leddin and Maurice Hickey

A daughter, Ellen (Nell) was born in Chicago in 1873. She was named for Maurice's mother, Ellen. Maurice's work on the railroad took him to Pueblo, Colorado to build a spur line. They were saddened when their four-year old daughter, Nell, died there. Their daughter, Mary was born there in 1878.



Pueblo in the 1870s

The family returned to Chicago, and a daughter, Mary Ellen, was born there in 1880. She was named for Margaret's mother, Mary, and Maurice's mother, Ellen, but they called her Margaret. Their last child, Joseph Patrick, was born in Chicago in 1883. Maurice died in 1914, and the widowed Margaret kept a boarding house to meet expenses. Though they were poor, the family was proud that they could give their coffee grounds to the nuns.



Margaret Leddin

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1900 census, Chicago, Ward 12, ED 573

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1910 census, Chicago

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1920 census, Chicago, Ward 25, ED 1419

In 1920, Margaret lived with her daughter Margaret. Joseph lived on his own, and was a boarder on Halsted Street in Chicago. He worked as a laborer.

Margaret died at the home of her daughter, Margaret at 6243 Glenwood Avenue in Chicago, on July 19, 1925, aged 84. She was buried at Calvary Cemetery.



Margaret Leddin Hickey and her daughter Margaret Hickey Hayes

SOURCES: Personal informational supplied by daughter, Mary J. Hickey Carey; Emly parish register, Emly, County Tipperary; Holy Family parish register, Chicago; Sacred Heart parish register, Chicago; Sacred Heart parish register, Pueblo, Colorado, by correspondence; Cook County marriage licenses; 1900 census, Chicago, Ward 12, ED 573; 1910 census, Chicago; 1920 census, Chicago, Ward 25, ED 1419; Calvary cemetery records. Photos of Margaret from negatives supplied by grandson James Aloysius Carey. The photos were taken by John J. Carey, Margaret's son-in-law on a Brownie box camera in the early 1900s.