

July 20. 1992

Dear Virgil,

As you have probably noticed I am sending you a few pictures you can keep. I finally did find a picture of your mother, but it isn't I was looking for. I had called all the Sursely's I could think of and could find nothing until I talked to Margaret Sursely, Henry's wife, and she had the only one I could find. I hope you and your daughters will enjoy it. Also included are one of your Dad and his Rawleigh truck. Don't know if you remember that or not. Have also included one of Jake Sursley.

I am also sending you a copy of the Sursely family history for you. I would like you to read the story I wrote about your mother to see if it sounds accurate. If you want any changes please let me know. The section of the story where I note that the Schultz's and the Sursely's provided help for your mother was mentioned to me by Margaret Sursely. Is that correct?

The picture of you and your brother was provided by Jane Juberian. There will also be a picture of your brother in the Schultz history. He was included in on one of their family pictures.

The Sursely's were originally from County Cork in Ireland. They emigrated to Perth, Canada and from there moved to Bay City, Michigan. I am working with someone in Michigan trying to get more information on the family that remained in Michigan. Jacob, John J and Anna Sursely moved to Minnesota in the 1880's.

Margaret Sursely had also a large oval picture of Jacob and Johannah Sursely which I had the printer reduce in size so I could put it in the book. I don't think a lot of people have ever seen a picture of his wife Johannah.

Please let me know about your family history as soon as possible. I am slowing coming to the end of the book. Am waiting for information now.

Thanks for your help.

Sincerely in Christ,

Marion
Marion Mechels *Vernice's daughter*
4518-58 Av N
Brooklyn Center, MN 55429
612-533-7495

September 30, 1992

Dear Virgil,

You are the first person to receive a copy of the Sursely family history. Enclosed in the book is the following:

1. your genealogy chart (follow this as you read the family history)
2. history on Ireland
3. a page in Emigrants
4. Sursely family history for 3 generations, which are indexed by 1, 2 and 3 tabs.
5. Schultz family history.

The first generation of Anastasia and James Maher; I was unable to trace them back so their parents are not shown, but I wanted to make sure James was carried in this family history. They had some good history!

I also enclosed the family history for George and Anastasia Schultz and family and a separate one for each of their children. I thought you might be interested since they were your aunt and uncle and first cousins and I know you were close to Alice. I'm sure there is a lot of information you didn't know before. The pictures I think are especially nice to have even if you don't know the people. Don't let the page numbers concern you as other family histories are included in the book.

I had a special concern about you receiving a copy of this family history because I feel you were uprooted at a very early age and had no family to be there for you for support and love. God blessed you with your own family, but I'm sure many times you wished you had more. You can't replace that gap at special times like holidays and etc. I hope your children will enjoy reading through the history where they can see their great grandparents for the first time.

My parents were John and Vernice Mechels so you can find me in the Schultz history. I tend to look like my grandmother Anastasia Schultz as she appears on the first picture on page 55 and like my mother Vernice on page 56 on the first picture.

There is one thing that is not in the book which concerns some abuse between two of Anastasia and George Schultz's children. I am not supposed to know the story and it would only cause problems and since it is not my story to tell that was left out. There isn't very much that makes me as angry as abuse does. Probably because of the way I was brought up.

Also enclosed is a photostat of you and Alice on your first Communion. I think I sent the original picture to you, but this is extra, so if you don't want it I'm sure one of your children will.

I am interested to know what you think of the family history so if your hands don't bother you too much, please let me know.

God bless you and your family.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marion". The signature is written in dark ink and is underlined with a long, horizontal flourish.

"Distress in Ireland"
Example of exterior and interior
of Irish Catholic cabin.



"Pain of Parting"
The family being seperated by emigration to America.

IRELAND

In 1169 England invaded Ireland. Then, favored English men were given extensive property holdings in Ireland as spoils of wars. The Irish became tenant farmers for these foreign landlords. Some were absentee landlords; they lived in England and had the land's profits sent to them. The Irish tenant farmers worked the land for the landowner receiving no pay for his labor. His only compensation was a small plot of land on which to build a house and grow potatoes. In rare cases; some families had a few cows and pigs. They were, of course, a very precious commodity. The peasants were also not allowed to hunt or fish. According to English law, hunting on the lord's land was considered poaching. Many landlords overlooked an occasional poacher, but others were not so kind or forgiving. In these cases, stiff penalties were given the offender. For reasons stated above, the Irish ate a large amount of potatoes as their main food source. It was not a reliable food source but there didn't seem to be an alternative.

In 1541, King Henry VIII of England had himself declared King of Ireland. The English then embarked on a massive program to deprive the Irish of their freedom and their very way of life.

In 1553, Henry VIII's daughter, Mary I, became Queen of England. She began the colonization method known as 'plantation'. Rebel Irish families, first in central Ireland were evicted from their lands. English settlers or loyal Irish were 'planted' on these lands. Often the native Irish had to work for the English landlords or move to less desirable places.

In 1558, Elizabeth I, became Queen of England and was hated by the Irish. A tremendous conflict developed between the Irish and the English concerning religion. The Irish were Catholics while the English were Protestant. Elizabeth I, ordered Irish-Catholic priests and bishops killed and outlawed Catholic religious services. She also seized 200,000 acres of Catholic owned land and gave it to her fellow Englishmen. Despite intense persecution of all kinds, the Irish clung to their Catholic religion.

In the 1600's, James I, was as cruel to the Irish as was Elizabeth I. Protestant England and Catholic France were fighting. Catholic Ireland having been conquered by England, sided with France. In retaliation, England instituted The Penal Laws in Ireland. These laws were aimed at the destruction of Catholicism. Catholics were barred from the army, navy, the law, commerce and from every civic activity. James I, cleared many of the Irish Catholics from the northern part of Ireland which had previously been the Irish Catholic stronghold. In their place he 'planted' Scottish and English Protestants. If a Catholic landowner still had his land at the time of his death, the small plot of land was divided among all of his sons, unless one of them became Protestant at which time the convert would inherit the complete estate. Imagine how this split families. Clearing Northern Ireland of Irish Catholics was a crucial event in the history of Ireland. The preponderance of Protestants in the northern part of Ireland and the Catholics in the southern part created a situation resulting in conflicts that continue to this day. Catholics were also denied an education or even the practice of one's Catholic faith which was prohibited. Thus the Irish Catholics were deprived of their livelihood and any spiritual consolation.

England was governed from 1649-1658 by Oliver Cromwell and he continued the persecution of the Catholic Irish. An Irish revolt that had begun in 1641 was put down in 1649, when Cromwell invaded Ireland with a huge army. Among the slaughters perpetrated by the English at this time was Cromwell's ruthless killing of more than 3,500 women and children in Droghada on the eastern coast of Ireland. After overcoming the Irish, Cromwell gave more of their land to his soldiers. So many Irish were killed or fled the island

IRELAND

between 1641 and 1650 that in these years Ireland's population dropped from an estimated 1.5 million to less than 1 million. Those who remained had to live on desolate lands, most of which were on the west coast of Ireland in Connacht Province. By the late 1600's the English had seized more than 85% of the Irish lands.

During the 1700's, the Catholics were treated much as black slaves were treated in the United States. The English passed more Penal Laws. These laws established severe fines and imprisonment for taking part in any Catholic worship. Because the English placed a heavy tax on homes with fireplaces, many people lived in unheated shacks. In parts of Ireland, three-fifths of the 'houses' were one roomed, windowless mud cabins. Beds and blankets were rare luxuries. In fact, in all of County Donegal in 1837 when the inhabitants numbered 9,000, there were 10 beds, 93 chairs and 243 stools between them. Pigs slept with their owners, manure heaps choked doors; the evicted and unemployed put roofs over ditches, burrowed into banks or existed in bog holes. The standard of living in County Donegal was lower than in other counties, but the condition in other counties was almost as bad.

In 1835 the Frenchman Alexis De Tocqueville wrote about the pathetic way of life for the Catholic Irish. 'Mud walls, thatched roofs, one room, no chimney, smoke comes out the door....the population looks wretched. Most are dressed in clothes with holes and very patched. Most go barefooted and bareheaded.'

The political situation in Ireland, the depressed economic conditions and the almost total dependance on the potato as a food source created the setting for The Potato Famine and it's tragic consequences. The famine was a dramatic and devastating climax to hundreds of years of mistreatment of both man and land.

In 1845, the first hint that trouble might be on the way came in August. Fungus had appeared on the potato crop. Within six weeks, it became clear that once again the potato crop had failed. In the past, the potato crop had failed for one or sometimes two seasons in a row. What was dramatically different during the Potato Famine years was that for four consecutive years the potatoes rotted in the fields or just days after harvesting.

As the famine advanced, the people pawned all they possessed for a bit of food. In a police report of August 4, 1846, it was recorded that the starving people pawned their clothes except for those on their backs and even pawned their bedding. When all of their possessions were gone, they had nothing left to pawn to obtain money for food. Then people committed crimes just so they would be sent to jail. At least in jail they would be fed and sheltered. Another motivation for committing crime was transportation. A criminal was sometimes transported to another country. This previously tragic consequence of crime...being shipped out of your homeland....became alluring as the Irish homeland became increasingly devastated.

A man called Cummins of Cork described the famine in the town of Sibbreen, but his words could have been written about much of Ireland at that time. 'Six famished and gastly skeletons, to all appearances dead, were huddled in a corner on some filthy straw, their sole covering was a ragged horse cloth. I...found by low moaning, they were alive. The same morning the police opened a house on the adjoining lands and found two frozen corpses lying upon the mud floor.'

Illness followed in the footsteps of famine. In 1847, the black fever came to Ireland. When a person caught black fever, his skin turned black before death. The black fever was followed by yellow fever. The yellow fever was also called 'road fever' as many homeless caught it, fell ill and died beside the road. The people were also infested with lice; they had no change of clothing and were too weak to fetch water for washing. Then the famine dropsey attacked the people. The victim of famine dropsey experienced swelling...first the limbs and then the body swelled frightfully and sometime burst. In the wake of starvation, fever and lice there came scurvey. This was caused by a lack of Vitamin C which is found in the potato. The progress of scurvey is painful; teeth fall out, joints suffer and blood vessels burst. In the advanced stages the legs turn black. Scurvey was also known as the 'black leg'.

When pestilence followed famine, the people began to flee their accursed homeland. In leaving Ireland, the first to escape had a bit of blessing; inexpensive passage to the New World. Since Europe was importing lumber from America, many ships were coming across the seas, but there was a problem concerning the return trip. The timber ships needed weight so they could sail better. However, since there weren't many inhabitants in America, very few goods were going west over the seas. The Irish peasant provided that needed ballast for the ships. In the beginning, passage was cheap, but as the famine continued and more Irish wanted to leave, space became a premium and fares skyrocketed. Boat passage did not guarantee escape. Many people met death on the ocean. In fact so many people died during passage that one person wrote 'If tombstones could be erected for those dying enroute, there would be a solid highway of stones marching across the Atlantic'.

Mr and Mrs S.C. Hall described the departure of the Irish during the famine years.

'The band of exiles amounted to 200 and an immense crowd had gathered to bid them a long and sad adieu. The scene was touching and it was impossible to witness it without heartpain and tears. Mothers hung on the necks of their sons, young sisters clung to their older sisters, fathers-old white haired men fell to their knees with their arms up lifted to heaven imploring the protecting care of the Almighty God on their departing children. It is impossible to describe the final parting. Shrieks and prayers, blessings and lamentations mingled in one great cry from the quay and those on board ship, until a band stationed on the forecastle struck up 'St Patricks Day'.'

The population that once stood over 9 million was reduced to 6 million. Even today, Ireland's population is only half of what it was in 1845.

It is important to contemplate the difficulties of our Irish ancestors. In this brief look at their insurmountable problems we should truly count our blessings, and thank God we were not in their situations. Would we have had their strength and courage?

From the books; 'The Great Hunger', 'Republic of Ireland' and 'Ireland'.

EMIGRANTS



In 1874 the long trek to Minnesota began when emigrants board a ship at a European Port.



Boarding and farewell on emigrant ship in 1871.
For most there was no way back; all ties were severed.



Eating and living quarters on board ship in 1870.

The crossing by Sailing Ships might last more than 2 months. The list of provisions the passengers were required to take along were:
Kitchen utensils and provisions for 10 weeks. A grown person needed a supply of:

bread: 10 pounds

butter: 24 pounds

meat: 24 pounds

pork: 10 pounds

herring: 1 keg

potatoes: 3/8 barrel

flour: 20 pounds

peas: 1/4 bushel

coffee: 3 pounds

sugar: 3 pounds

syrup: 2 1/2 pounds

also some salt,

pepper, vinegar

and onions.

The skipper provided:

3 quarts of

water per person

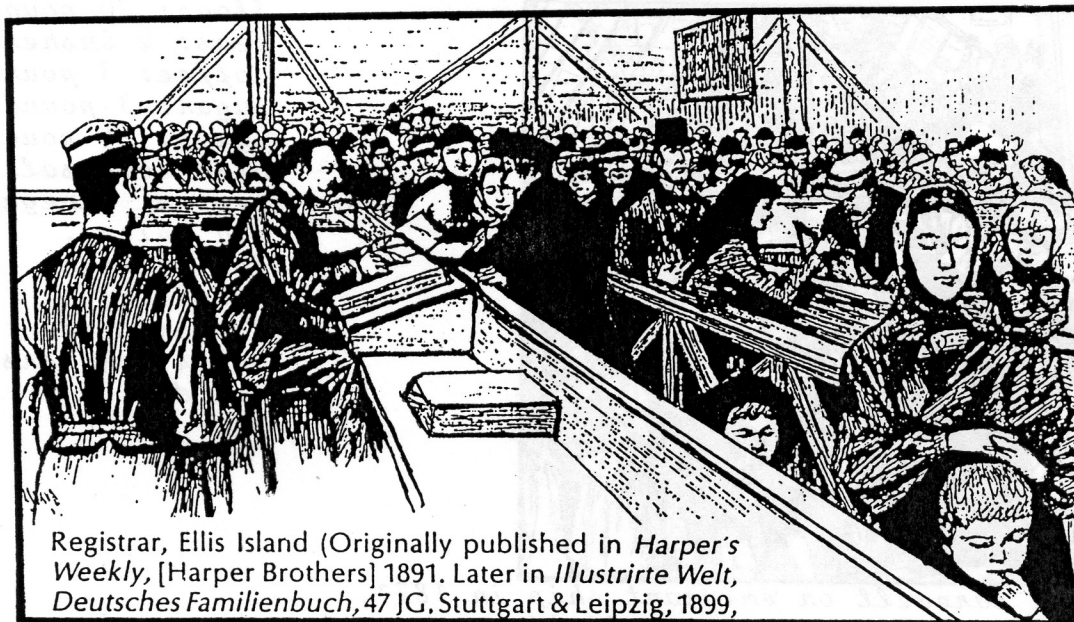
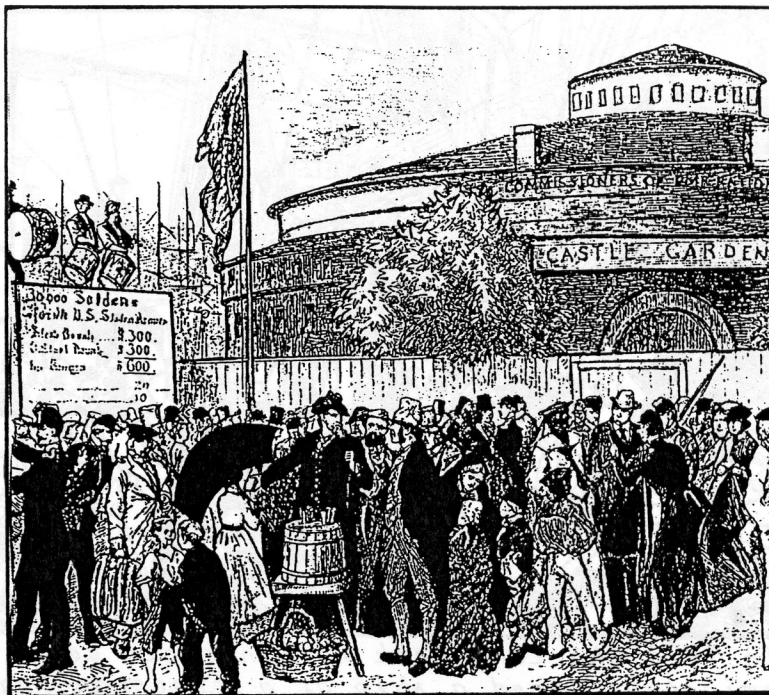
per day.

The first official Receiving Station was organized in 1855.

This Station was called Castle Garden, which had previously been a fort, an amusement house and an opera house.

In 1890, a little island in New York just north of the Statue of Liberty was chosen as the new processing center.

This was Ellis Island.



Registrar, Ellis Island (Originally published in *Harper's Weekly*, [Harper Brothers] 1891. Later in *Illustrirte Welt*, *Deutsches Familienbuch*, 47 | G. Stuttgart & Leipzig, 1899,





Charles Sumner

VIRGIL SUMNER

Mary Magdalene Sursely

PARENTS

Jacob Edward Sursely

Johannah Collins
GRANDPARENTS

John E. Sursely

Mary Kehoe

John Collins

Anastasia Maher

GREAT GRANDPARENTS

GREAT GREAT GRANDPARENTS

GREAT-GREAT-GREAT
GRANDPARENTS

Year: 1991-92

By: Marion J. Nechels

Page 1

ANASTASIA and JAMES MAHER

NOTE: The name of MAHER was originally O'MEAGHER.
 The O'Meagher's or Maher's were formally powerful chiefs possessing
 the Barony of Ikerrin in the County of Tipperary of which O'Meagher
 was lord.

Anastasia.....Born.....April 12, 1826 in Waterford, County of
 Kilkenny, Ireland
 (The city of Waterford is in the County of
 Waterford, near the border, so part of Waterford
 may extend into the County of Kilkenny.)



Religion....Roman Catholic
 Occupation..Homemaker
 Married.....1854 to John Collins in Cincinnati, Ohio
 Died.....April 13, 1903 (77 years)
 Cause.....Heart Attack (had suffered from heart
 problems for several years)
 Buried.....St Nicholas Cemetery in Belle River, MN
 Children....Mary
 Robert
 James Francis
 Michael
 *Johannah ---- (Mrs Jacob Sursely)
 Thomas
 Alice
 John W.

James Francis.....Born.....June 18, 1836 in Waterford, County of
 Kilkenny, Ireland
 Religion....Roman Catholic
 Occupation..Farmer
 Married.....1858 to Mary Ann Miller in Belle Plaine,
 Minnesota
 Died.....January 28, 1913 (77 years)
 Cause.....Heart Attack (Arteriosclerosis)
 Buried.....St Nicholas Cemetery in Belle River,
 Minnesota

SPOUSE: MARY ANN MILLER
 Born.....March 22, 1841 in Chilcot, Ohio
 Moved to Belle Plaine, MN with parents in 1855.
 Religion....Roman Catholic
 Occupation..Homemaker
 Died.....November 16, 1908 (67 years)
 Cause.....Pulmonary Tuberculosis
 Buried.....St Nicholas Cemetery in Belle River, MN
 Children....William R. ----- born in 1861
 Married Minnie Gearling on 1-1-1890
 Resided: Turtle Lake TWP, Beltrami County
 Children: Harry W. ----- born: 1894
 Frank H. ----- 1896
 Lloyd L. ----- 1898
 Erma A. ----- 1900
 Florence M. ----- 1903
 Mrs Elmer Olund
 George Francis ----- 1905
 Ida Belle ----- 1909

James Francis (cont'd)..Children..James Francis Jr. ----- born November of 1863



James Francis Maher Jr.
in July of 1894

Married Effie Gonson in 1887
Resided: Spruce TWP, Douglas County, MN
Children: James C -----Born:1890
Laura----- 1894
Mrs Oscar Fearing
Edward Clarence----- 9-22-1896
John Francis ----- 5-21-1900
Grace ----- 1903
Mrs Theodore Kraemer
Robert ----- 1905

Alice Ann ----- born in 1865
Married John Dunn of Belle River, Minnesota
Children: Josephine ---- Born: 1888
Luella ----- 1889
James E. ----- 1898

John E.----- 10-13-1870 thru 1955
Married Julia Pasch on 1-10-1895
of Belle River, Minnesota

Children: Henry-----Born:1895-1895
Earl Louis ----- 2-20-1897
Edith Cecelia ----- 4-21-1899
Mrs Melvin Lennes
Raymond John ----- 5-9-1901-1976
Lucille ----- 1903
Mrs A. Thimmesh
Steve ----- Osakis, MN
Andrew ----- Minneapolis, MN
Ann ----- Mrs Bill Kelm
Donald ----- 1914 - 1916

MAHER HISTORY: James, Anastasia and a sister emigrated from Ireland to America in 1851 and settled in Cincinnati, Ohio. Anastasia, her husband and James moved to Belle Plaine, Scott County, Minnesota in 1856.

James was one of the first pioneers of Minnesota, coming here during the territorial days and participating in many indian skirmishes. He served with the St Paul Cullen Guard (private citizens) that was organized on the break out of the Indian War and accompanied Colonel Henry H. Sibley on his expedition in 1862. He took part in driving the indians back at the time of the Minnesota Massacre and witnessed the hanging of 39 indians (authorized by President Lincoln) in 1862 in Mankato, Minnesota. James's obituary stated that he also witnessed the hanging of Chief Little Crow at that time, however in checking Minnesota history, Chief Little Crow had fled to the Dakota territories. Chief Little Crow was killed on a hunting excursion into the Minnesota territory with his son, when a hunter not knowing who he was, shot and killed him. Chief Little Crow was one of the Sioux Chiefs who led the Minnesota Massacre in 1862.

James traveled to Montana in search of gold in 1864, making the trip by team and returned four years later. James, Anastasia and families moved to Belle River in Douglas County, Minnesota in 1870.

James was also one of Minnesota's first 'Road Masters'. He planned and helped to build some of the first roads in Minnesota. The two most well known roads were 'The Ottertail Trail' and 'The Alexandria Road'.

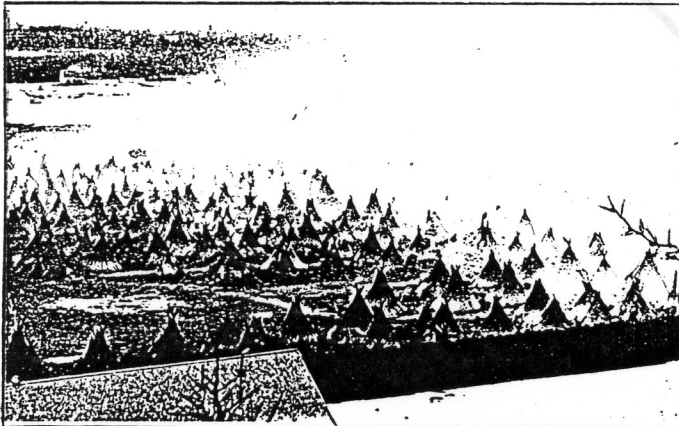
Although births were not recorded at this time, John Maher was thought to be the first white child born in the Belle River area in the year 1870.



Chief Little Crow



Little Crow's son, Wo-wi-Na-Pe, after capture in 1864.



Many Indians were imprisoned at a stockade below Fort Snelling after the Sioux uprising.



Settlers fled for safety during Sioux uprising.

MAHER HISTORY

MAHER, MICHAEL, Jesuit philosopher and psychologist; b. County Carlow, Ireland, April 29, 1860; d. Petworth, England, Sept. 3, 1917. From a middle-income family, he won his A.B. at Tullabeg, entered the Jesuits at Roehampton Oct. 2, 1880, and taught philosophy during his regency at Stonyhurst until 1891. During this period he took the M.A. at London in philosophy and economics (1887) and wrote his major work, *Psychology: Empirical and Rational* (1890; 9th ed. 1918). After ordination (1894) he taught philosophy again at Stonyhurst until 1903, when he became superior of the seminary. In 1900 he took the D.Litt. at London, submitting an enlarged edition of *Psychology* as his thesis; because of its excellence, he was exempted from further examination. He was an examiner in both the National and the Royal Universities of Ireland; after 1914 he undertook the charge of the students at the University of Edinburgh. His psychology textbook was widely used in Catholic colleges and seminaries during the first three decades of the 20th century. In addition to this work, Maher published *Tation's Diatessaron* (1903), *English Economics and Catholic Ethics* (1912), and significant articles in the original *Catholic Encyclopedia*.

1991-92 MJM

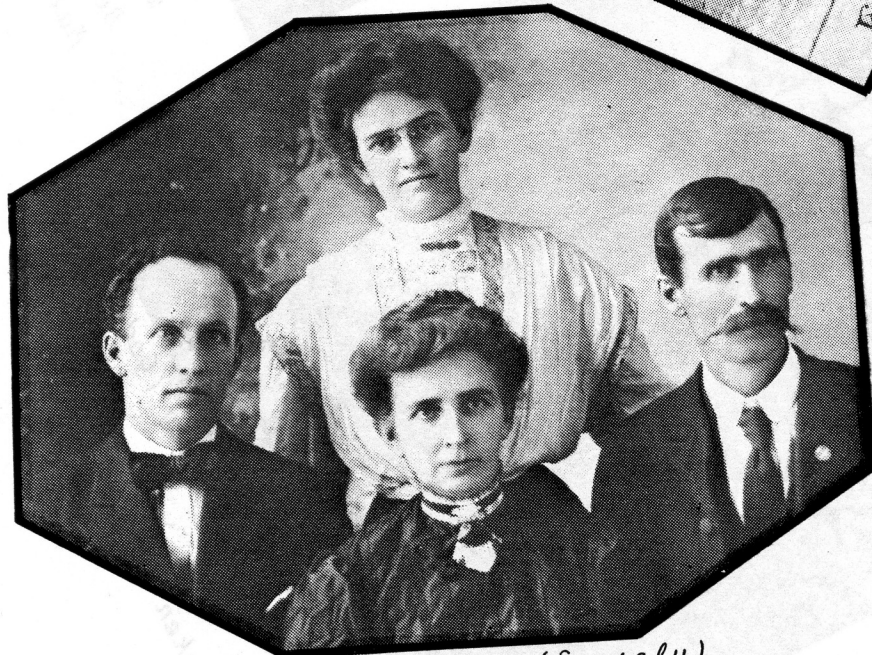
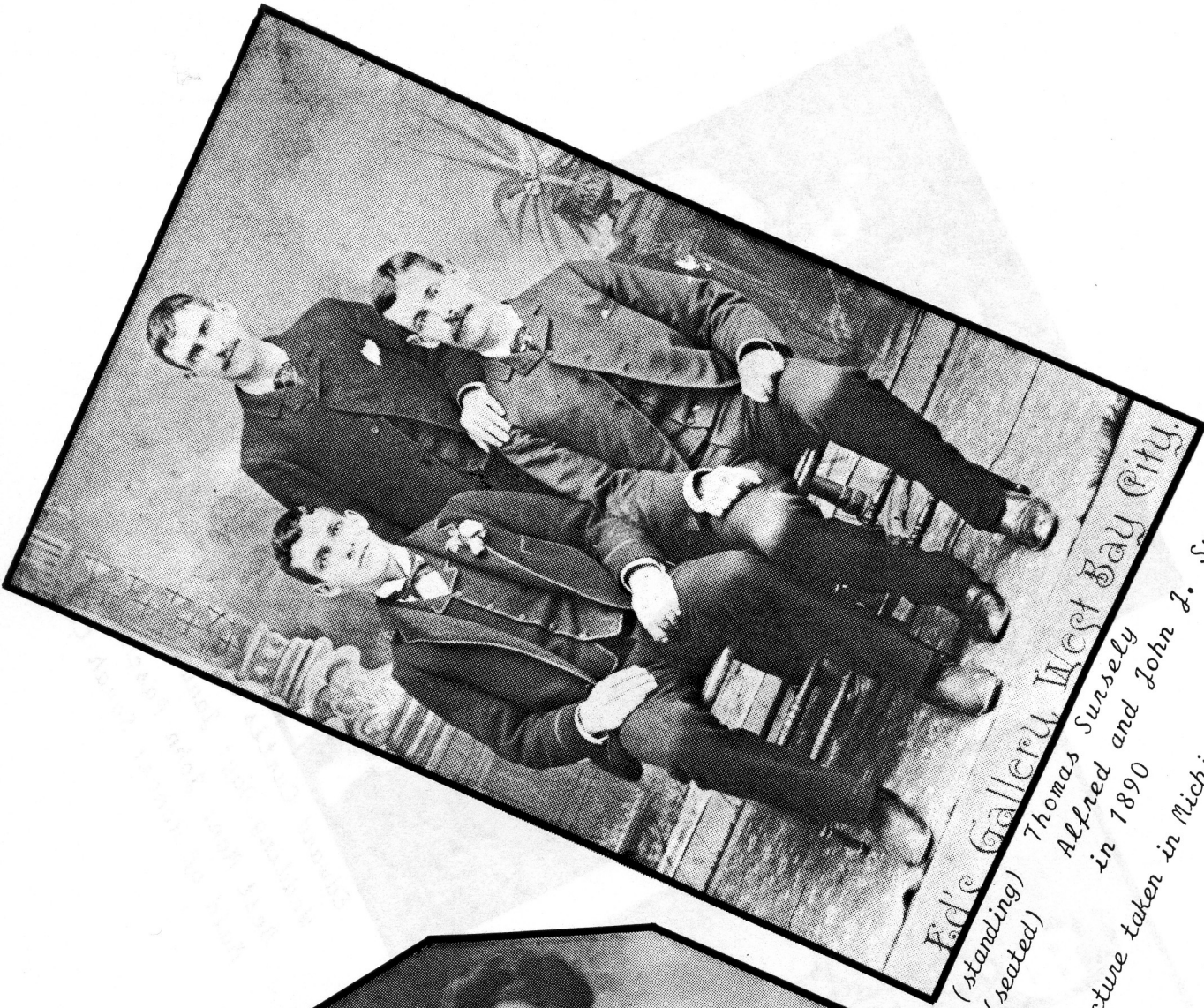
JOHN and MARY SURSELY FAMILY



Edward Curtis & Anna Sunseley
Wedding Day: January 26, 1887
Best Man: John Pasch
Maid of Honor: Sarah Collins



John J and Anna Sunseley (Gadlow)
in 1890
(picture taken in Michigan)



(rear) Minnie Miller (Sursely)
(front) Alfred, Anna Curtis (Sursely) & Jacob Sursely
approx. in early 1900's

JOHN and MARY SURSELY FAMILY



John J. and Anna Sursely at home in Long Prairie in the 1920's



*(rear) Albert, John J., Edward Curtis and Jacob Sursely
(front) Anna Sursely (Gadbow) and Anna Curtis (Sursely)
in the 1930's*

JOHN EDWARD SURSELY

Born.....approx. 1825 in County Cork, Ireland
 Religion....Roman Catholic
 Emigrated...from County Cork in Ireland to Perth, Lanark County, Ontario,
 Canada in probably the early 1850's. In 1877 from Ontario,
 Canada to Bay City, Michigan in the United States.
 Occupation..Lumberjack / worked in the lumber industry in Michigan
 Trait.....premature grey hair
 Married.....approx. 1851 in Ireland
 Died.....in Bay City, Michigan
 Cause.....unable to locate documentation
 Buried.....Bay City, Michigan
 Parents.....unable to locate documentation

SPOUSE:

MARY KEHOE

Born.....approx. 1829 in Ireland
 Religion....Roman Catholic
 Occupation..Homemaker
 Died.....in Bay City, Michigan
 Cause.....unable to locate documentation
 Buried.....in Bay City, Michigan
 Parents.....unable to locate documentation

Nine Children: (Only able to locate documentation of 8 of their children.)

Henry.....Born.....approx. 1854
 Religion....Roman Catholic
 Occupation..Lumberjack
 Died.....approx. 1872
 Cause.....drowned in a logging accident in Canada.
 His body was never recovered.

Jacob Edward.....Born.....March 10, 1856 in Perth, Lanark County,
 Ontario, Canada
 Religion....Roman Catholic
 Occupation..Lumberjack / Farmer
 Event.....Jacob moved from Bay City, Michigan to Long
 Prairie, Todd County, Minnesota in 1881.
 He farmed with his brother John and later
 moved to his own farm in Belle River,
 Douglas County, Minnesota.
 Married.....January 28, 1888 to Johannah Collins in
 Belle River, Minnesota
 Died.....September 19, 1940 (84 years)
 Cause.....Heart Attack
 Buried.....St Nicholas Cemetery in Belle River, MN
 Children....John William
 James Andrew
 *Anastasia S. ---- (Mrs George Schultz)
 Frances Edward
 Mary Magdalene
 Thomas Stephan
 Jacob Henry (Henry)



Thomas.....Born.....approx. 1858 in Perth, Lanark County,
 Onterio, Canada
 Religion....Roman Catholic
 Resided.....Detroit, Michigan
 Occupation..worked in the lumber industry
 Married.....wife's last name was Daryl (Irish)
 Died.....probably in the 1940's
 Cause.....unable to locate documentation
 Buried.....Detroit, Michigan
 Children....Henry Francis
 Cletis
 Peter
 EllaMae
 Ida
 Edward

John J.....Born.....January 23, 1861 in Perth, Lanark County,
 Onterio, Canada
 Religion....Roman Catholic
 Occupation..Farmer
 Event.....John moved with Jacob from Bay City, Michigan
 to the Long Prairie, Todd County area in
 Minnesota. John remained on that farm.
 Married.....October 23, 1890 to Anna (Hattie) Gadow in
 Long Prairie, Minnesota
 (Hattie: 7-18-1873 thru 5-16-1941)
 Health.....John was afflicted with blindness in the
 last six years of his life. There was no
 documentation of the cause. Retired in 1939
 due to ill health and they made their home
 with Mrs Myrtle Holley, Hattie's sister, in
 Osakis, Minnesota
 Died.....January 28, 1940 (79 years)
 Cause.....Heart Attack / Arteriosclerosis
 Myocarditis
 Buried.....Calvery Cemetery in Osakis, Minnesota
 Children....Cecil
 Leonard
 Myrtle

1991-92 MJM

Alfred.....Born.....approx. 1863 in Perth, Lanark County,
 Onterio, Canada
 Religion....Roman Catholic
 Resided.....Detroit, Michigan
 Occupation..Laborer
 Married.....unable to locate documentation
 Died.....Detroit, Michigan
 Cause.....unable to locate documentation
 Buried.....Detroit, Michigan
 Children....had one daughter

James.....Born.....approx. 1865 in Perth, Lanark County,
 Onterio, Canada
 Religion....Roman Catholic
 Resided.....Bay City, Michigan
 Occupation..worked in the lumber industry
 Married.....approx. 1892 to Sarah Jane Wichom
 in Bay City, Michigan
 (Sarah: 6-3-1874 thru 5-11-1944)
 Died.....early 1920's (55 years?)
 Cause.....Tuberculosis
 Buried.....St Patrick's Cemetery in Bay City, Michigan
 Children....Mary ----- 1896 thru 2-28-1927
 James Alfred ---
 Bridget Ann ---- 2-1-1900 thru 2-12-1989
 John Frederick -
 Robert Joseph --
 Ruby Gertrude -- 10-11-1910 thru 12-7-1990
 Elizabeth -----
 Gladys ----- died as a child
 Lucille ----- died as a child

Anna:.....Born.....December 29, 1867 in Perth, Lanark County,
 Onterio, Canada
 Religion....Baptized and Confirmed Roman Catholic
 Occupation..Homemaker
 Event.....Anna moved from Bay City, Michigan to Long
 Prairie, Minnesota in 1885 to keep house
 for her brothers, Jacob and John.
 Married.....January 26, 1887 to Edward Curtis
 Died.....February 18, 1950 (82 years)
 Cause.....Colon Cancer
 Buried.....Lakeside Cemetery in Osakis, Minnesota
 Children....Rully ----- died at 19
 Austin ----- of Osakis, Minnesota
 Roy ----- of Osakis, Minnesota
 Raymond ----- of Detroit, Michigan

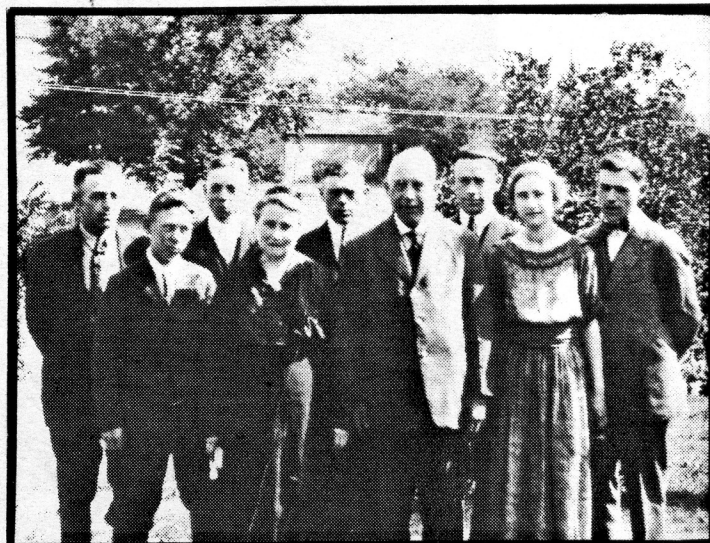
Minnie.....Born.....approx. 1869 in Perth, Lanark County,
 Ontario, Canada
 Religion....Roman Catholic
 Resided.....Detroit, Michigan
 Occupation..Homemaker
 Married.....approx. 1887 to Robert Miller in Michigan
 Died.....approx. 1968 (died at 99 years of age)
 Cause.....Heart Failure
 Buried.....in Detroit, Michigan
 Children....Robert (adopted)



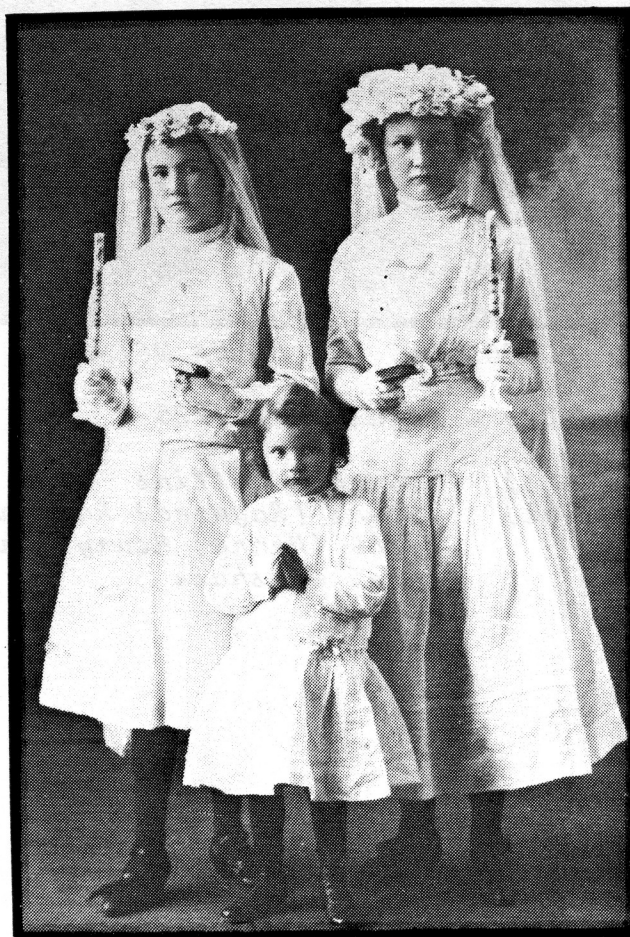
Logging Camps in 1868.



Mr. and Mrs. James Quinn
Mary (Collins) and
James Quinn in the
early 1900's



Alice (Collins) and George Reichert
(front center) and their children
in the 1930's



Nellie, Florence and Sarah Collins
in the 1910's (children of James
and Sarah Collins)



GEORGE E. COLLINS and ELLNA WEISHAIR

Wedding Day - August 27, 1925

(Attendants)
(left to right) Florence Collins
Thomas (Raymond) Raymond Collins
Jacob (Henry) Henry Sursely
Hazel Weishair

JOHN COLLINS

Born.....October 31, 1823 in County Cork, Ireland
Religion....Roman Catholic
Military....Veteran of the Indians Wars from 1862 thru 1865. Served
under General Sculley's Expedition through the Bad Lands
in the Dakota Territory.
Emigrated...from Ireland to Cincinatti, Ohio in the United States.
Resided.....moved from Cincinatti, Ohio to the Belle Plaine, Scott
County, Minnesota area. Later moved to the Belle River,
Douglas County area in 1871.
Occupation..Farmer
Married.....1853 in Cincinatti, Ohio
Died.....February 25, 1899 (76 years)
Cause.....Heart Attack
Buried.....St Nicholas Cemetery in Belle River, Minnesota
Parents.....unable to locate documentation

SPOUSE: ANASTASIA MAHER

Born.....April 12, 1826 in Waterford, Kilkenny County, Ireland
Religion....Roman Catholic
Occupation..Homemaker
Died.....April 13, 1903 (77 years)
Cause.....Heart Attack (had heart problems for several years previously)
Buried.....St Nicholas Cemetery in Belle River, Minnesota
Parents.....unable to locate documentation

Seven Children:

Mary.....Born.....July 16, 1854 in Belle Plaine, Minnesota
Religion....Roman Catholic
Occupation..Homemaker
Married.....in 1880 to James Quinn
(James died in 1916)
Died.....March 20, 1915 (59 years)
Cause.....Heart Attack
Buried.....Calvery Cemetery in Osakis, Minnesota
Children....Frances (Frank) -- 1881 thru 5-6-1964
Married Emma Sibell
Children: Irving
Howard
Re-Married
Child: Rosemary
Anna (Annie) ----- 1884 thru 9-23-1972
Married John C. Miller
Children: Cliff
Clarence (Bud)
Rosemary (Mrs LeRoy Grindei)
John A. -----
Married Anna Walters
Children: LaVerne
Glendon
Mary (Mayme) ----- 1895 thru 1977
Married Peter Geris
Had no children however raised a
niece, Alice Kennedy.

Robert.....Born.....1856 in Belle Plaine, Minnesota
 Religion....Roman Catholic
 Died.....between 1857 and 1860 according to the
 Scott County Census
 Unable to locate any other documentation.

James Frances.....Born.....October 22, 1867 in Belle Plaine,
 Minnesota
 Religion....Roman Catholic
 Occupation..Farmer
 Married.....May 5, 1890 to Sarah Quigley in West
 Union, Minnesota
 Died.....May 18, 1934 (77 years)
 Cause.....Heart Attack
 Buried.....St Nicholas Cemetery in Belle River,
 Minnesota
 Children....John William --- born in 1891
 of Long Prairie, Minnesota
 Anastasia ----- born 8-26-1893
 Mrs John A. Pasch
 of Leslie Township, MN
 James Francis -- born 3-10-1895
 married Mabel Miller
 of Osakis, Minnesota
 Sarah J. ----- born 8-1-1897
 Mrs Joseph F. Lucas
 of Staples, Minnesota
 Nellie ----- born 12-8-1899
 Mrs Alvin Bows
 of Gordon Township, MN
 George Edward -- born 9-27-1900
 married Ellna Weishair
 of Leslie Township, MN
 Thomas Raymond
 (Raymond)----- born 1-15-1904
 of Leslie Township, MN
 Died on 8-10-1975
 Florence ----- born in 1906
 Mrs Dilman Eaton
 of Long Prairie, Minnesota

Thomas.....Born.....August 3, 1861 in Belle Plaine, Minnesota
 Religion....Roman Catholic
 Occupation..Farmer
 Married.....November 14, 1887 to Katherine Botzet
 Died.....April 25, 1945 (84 years)
 Cause.....Pneumonia
 Buried.....St Nicholas Cemetery in Belle River, Minnesota
 Children....Anastasia A.
 Johannah ----- died as an infant
 Thomas N.
 Mary ----- Mrs August Hedlund
 John L.
 Alice ----- Mrs C.E. Pasch
 James P.
 William Paul ----- 1902 thru July of 1944
 Winifred ----- Mrs Ted Housen
 Michael E.
 Raymond P.

Alice.....Born.....May 18, 1863 in Belle Plaine, Minnesota
 Religion....Roman Catholic
 Occupation..Homemaker
 Married.....November 26, 1889 to George Reichert
 Died.....April 27, 1936 (73 years)
 Cause.....Colon Cancer
 Buried.....St Mary's Cemetery in Long Prairie,
 Minnesota
 Children....John ----- of Minneapolis, Minnesota
 Francis ----- of Wood Lake, Minnesota
 George Jr. -- of Long Prairie, Minnesota
 Edward ----- of Richmond, Minnesota
 Raymond ----- of Minneapolis, Minnesota
 Winnifred --- of Long Prairie, Minnesota

John William.....Born.....November 28, 1865 in Belle Plaine, Minnesota
 (J.W.) Religion....Roman Catholic
 Occupation..Farmer
 Resided.....Baudette, Minnesota
 Married.....June 26, 1901 to Mattie Sordahl
 Died.....November 23, 1950 (85 years)
 Cause.....Stroke
 Buried.....Elm Creek Cemetery in Baudette,
 Minnesota
 Children....Alice ----- (adopted)
 Mrs Lloyd Baldwin
 of Baudette, Minnesota

Until the Collins were driven away by the English, they were lords of Barony of Connello in the County of Limerick. They moved further south to settle in west County Cork, where the majority of Collins are now found.

There were distinguished Collins including a patroit Jesuit who was hung in 1602 and a Dominican who led an attack on Bunnathy Castle in 1647. A Collins poet earned the epithet of 'The Silver Tongue of Munster'.

The hero of the Collins family was Michael Collins, 'The Big Fellow' whose promising political life was cut short by the Ireland Civil War in 1922. (see next page)

FOLLOWING WERE TWO PROMINENT RELIGIOUS COLLINS:

COLLINS, JOSEPH BURNS

Leader in catechetics in the U.S.; b. Waseca, Minn., Sept. 7, 1897; d. Washington, D.C., Jan. 23, 1975. After attending school in Waseca, he went on to study at St. Mary's College in Winona, Minn., the St. Paul Seminary in Saint Paul and the Urban University in Rome, receiving an S.T.D. in 1924. He was ordained for the Diocese of Winona in Rome May 17, 1924. Returning to the United States, he taught philosophy at St. Mary's College and the College of St. Teresa in Winona, 1925-1930. He did post-graduate work at Johns Hopkins University and was awarded a Ph.D. in 1934. He taught one year at Notre Dame College of Maryland and at Sulpician Seminary in Washington, D.C., 1933-1937. His acquaintance and association with the Sulpician Fathers at St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore led him to join the Society of Priests of Saint Sulpice in 1935. In 1937 Collins began teaching at The Catholic University of America. He became a regular faculty member in 1939 and taught moral theology and catechetics there until his retirement in 1968.

Early in his career Collins became interested in the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine as a practical solution to the problems and task of catechizing children and adults. In 1942 he became the director of the National Center for the CCD, a post he held for 25 years. Following his resignation as director in 1967, he remained at the National Center as Assistant Director and later as a consultant until his death. As director of the National Center for the CCD in the years from 1942 to 1967, Collins was a very influential figure in catechetics in the United States. For 24 years (1942-66) he edited the bi-monthly aid for catechists, *Our Parish Confraternity*. In 1964 under his leadership the National Center began to publish the quarterly catechetical journal, *The Living Light*.

He authored or edited 14 books and countless articles which appeared in such publications as *The Register*, *Our Sunday Visitor*, *American Ecclesiastical Review* and the *New Catholic Encyclopedia* (cf. Volume 15:44). Among his more important books are *Kerygmatic Renewal and the CCD*, *Updating the CCD High School of Religion*, *CCD Methods and Modern Catechetics*; and *Some Guidelines for a New American Catechism*.

His long and dedicated service in the field of catechetics was recognized and rewarded in 1964 by Pope Paul VI with the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice Medal. He also received the Benemerenti Medal in 1965. He was working on a history of the CCD at the time of his death.

COLLINS, DOMINIC, Irish martyr: b. Youghal, Ireland, 1567; d. Cork, Oct. 29, 1602. He was born of a noble family, and his brother was mayor of Youghal in 1600. Dominic went to France in 1586 and served as a soldier for Philip Emmanuel of Lorraine, who made him commander of cavalry. He served in the Spanish army from 1594 until 1598 when he entered the Society of Jesus. After his profession as a lay brother in 1601 he was chosen as companion to Father James Archer, who was then about to return to Ireland. Dominic sailed there in the Spanish fleet in 1602. He was at Dunboy during the siege, not as a combatant, but as one concerned with the spiritual and temporal needs of the besieged, who chose him to treat for terms with the English. Taken prisoner, he was offered his liberty on condition of the renouncing of his faith and swearing allegiance to Elizabeth I. He was hanged, apparently without trial. All contemporary accounts state that he died at Cork. Such details as disemboweling and quartering are found only in later (Jesuit) sources.

Michael Collins

Michael was described as boyish, full of enthusiasm and jokes, utterly ruthless and would never give you a second chance.

The (IRA) Irish Republican Army was formed in 1919 by people who wanted an independent Ireland from England. Led by the 'Big Fellow', Michael Collins, the IRA raided English barracks and ambushed patrols.

In turn the English formed a police force called the 'Black and Tans'. There are elderly people in Ireland today who remember how these two groups sprayed the streets with gunfire during the 1920's.

NOTE: To understand the reasons for the ongoing civil war in Northern Ireland, please read the history of Ireland in this book under the tab of 'Maps and Country History'.

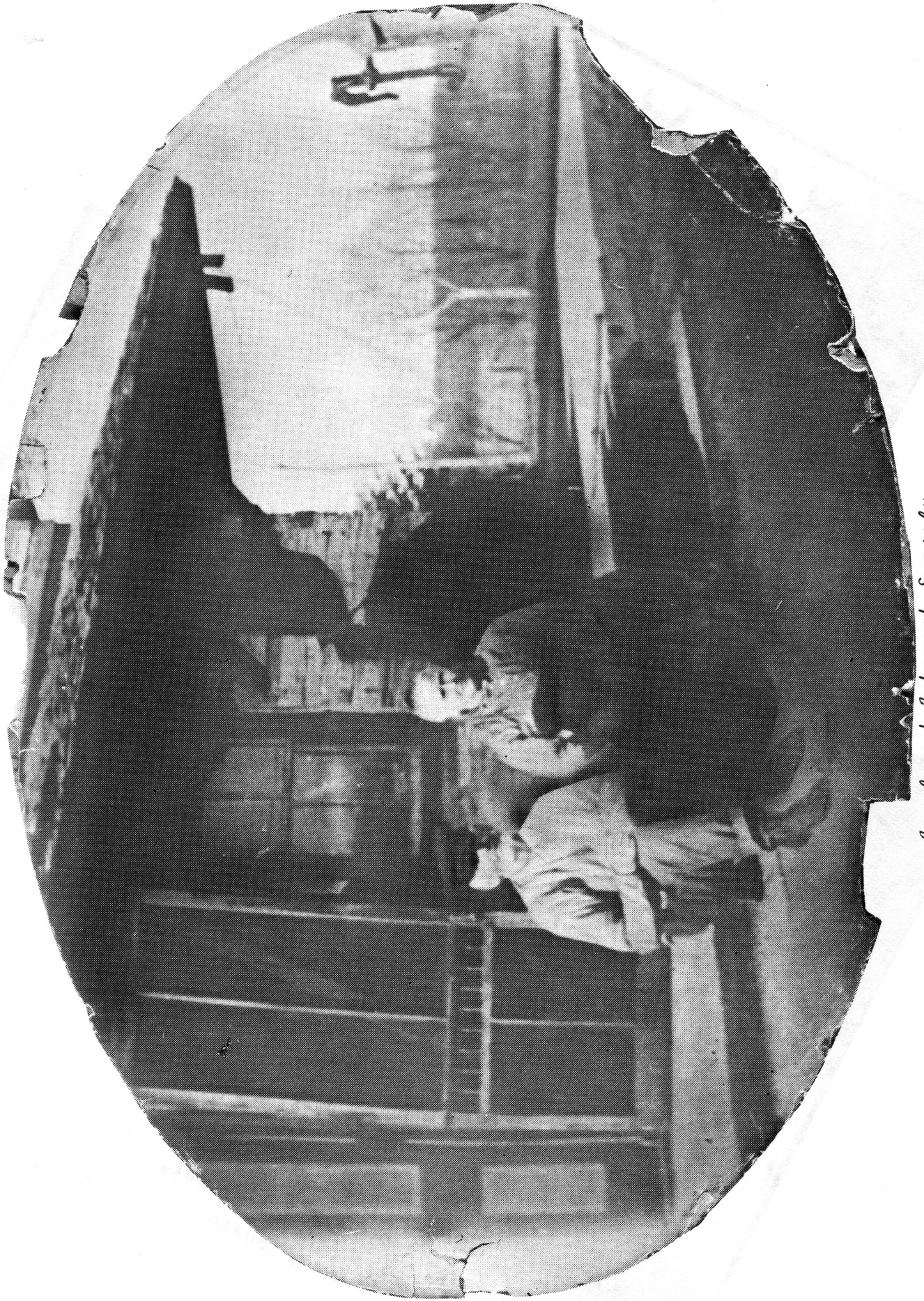
COLLINS, Michael (1890-1922), Irish patriot, who was a leader in the Irish war for independence (1919-1922) and in the creation of the Irish Free State. He was born on Oct. 16, 1890, near Clonakilty, County Cork, the youngest of eight children. At the age of 17 he went to work as a postal clerk in London, and it was there that he soon joined the revolutionary Irish Republican Brotherhood.

After the outbreak of World War I, Collins returned to Ireland to participate in the Irish Volunteer movement. He fought in the abortive Easter Rising of 1916 and was captured and interned for eight months at Frongoch in Wales. He emerged as a nationalist leader, and in the sweeping Sinn Fein electoral victory of December 1918 he was elected to Parliament from West Cork. When in January 1919 the Sinn Feiners, instead of taking their seats at Westminster, met in Dublin and proclaimed themselves Dail Eireann (the Assembly of Ireland), Collins was appointed minister of finance and head of intelligence for the Irish Republican Army.

From the outset of the Irish revolution Collins was brilliantly successful in raising money in Ireland to finance the war for independence. At the same time he organized a superb intelligence service that enforced the loyalty of Irishmen while it successfully cultivated sympathizers and informers among the British. In 1921, British authorities, realizing that Collins was their most formidable enemy, offered £10,000 for him dead or alive. In the few remaining months of fighting Collins narrowly escaped capture on several occasions. He displayed the most extraordinary courage and became an almost legendary figure in Ireland.

A truce ended hostilities on July 11, 1921, and Collins accompanied Arthur Griffith and three other delegates to London in September to discuss the final settlement with Britain. He played a prominent part in persuading his colleagues to accept the British terms that established the Irish Free States as a self-governing dominion of the British Commonwealth, and he was largely responsible for engineering the Dail's ratification of the treaty in January 1922. As chairman of the provisional government and commander of the Free State army during the ensuing civil war between proponents and opponents of the treaty, Collins took vigorous action to end the fighting. He had almost succeeded when he was killed in ambush at Beal-na-Blath, County Cork, on Aug. 22, 1922.

"EVERYONE NEEDS TO BE ACCEPTED FOR WHO AND WHAT THEY ARE"

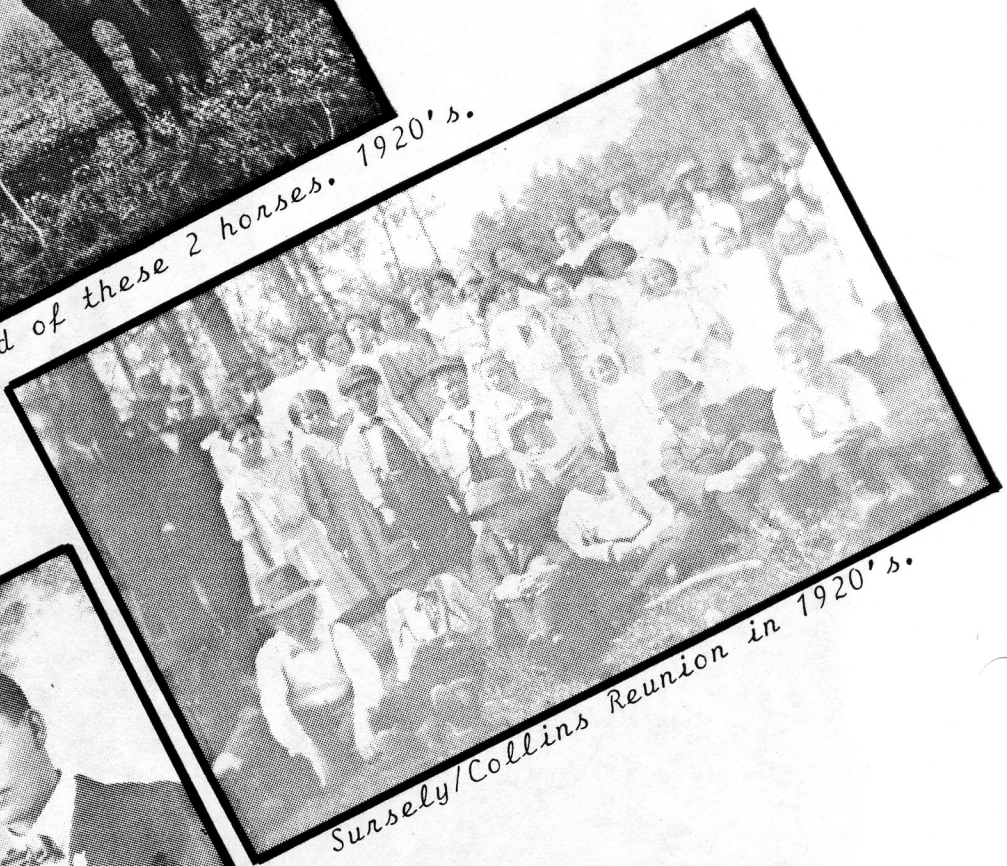


Jacob and Johannah Sursely

Using their newly installed stoop in approx 1914.



Jacob was very fond of these 2 horses. 1920's.



Sursely/Collins Reunion in 1920's.



John William Sursely and Helena Frances Housen
Wedding Day - November 23, 1915
Best Man: Frances (Frank) Sursely
Maid of Honor: Anna Housen

JACOB and JOHANNAH SURSELY FAMILY



FOUR GENERATIONS OF SURSELY'S

*Thomas J. Mechels (baby), Vernice Lucy Mechels (Schultz),
Jacob Edward Sursely and Anastasia S. Schultz (Sursely)
in 1939. (left to right)*



*Ted Housen, Winnifred Collins, Henry and Margaret Sursely,
Edward J. Sursely and Louise Housen (Ridler). (left to right)
At the baptism of triplets; Elaine, Patty and Margaret
Sursely, children of Frank Sursely in the 1950's.*

JACOB EDWARD SURSELY

Born.....March 10, 1856 in Perth, Lanark County, Ontario, Canada
 Religion....Roman Catholic
 Emigrated...in 1877 from Canada to Bay City, Michigan, United States
 Occupation..Lumberjack / Farmer
 Homesteaded..in 1882 in Leslie Township, Todd County, Minnesota with John.
 In approx. 1905 Jacob bought his own farm in the Belle River
 area in Douglas County, Minnesota.
 Personal....Jacob & Johannah built a new house in 1913. It was completed
 in February of 1914. A telephone was installed in January 1914.
 Married.....January 28, 1888 in Belle River, Minnesota. They were
 married on Johannah's birthday.
 Health.....Jacob was an invalid the last 12 years of his life. He had
 chronic arthritis in his right knee. In the last years of his
 life he lived with his son Henry and family.
 Died.....September 19, 1940 (84 years)
 Cause.....Heart Attack (Auricular Fibrillation)
 Buried.....St Nicholas Cemetery in Belle River, Minnesota
 Father.....John Edward Sursley
 Mother.....Mary Kehoe

SPOUSE:

JOHANNAH COLLINS

Born.....January 28, 1860 in Belle Plaine, Minnesota
 Religion....Roman Catholic
 Occupation..Homemaker
 Died.....October 23, 1919 (59 years)
 Cause.....Hodgkins Disease (Died from Lympho Sarcoma following a six
 month illness. Every effort had been made by specialists in
 Rochester & Minneapolis to prolong her life, but to no avail.)
 Buried.....St Nicholas Cemetery in Belle River, Minnesota
 Father.....John Collins
 Mother.....Anastasia Maher



Seven Children:

John William.....Born.....November 25, 1890 in Bertha, Minnesota
 Religion....Roman Catholic
 Occupation..Farmer / Natural Gas Repairman
 Resided.....farmed in Osakis, Minnesota before moving
 to Rochester, Minnesota in the 1940's.
 Married.....November 23, 1915 to Helena Francis Housen
 in the Immaculate Conception Catholic
 Church in Osakis, Minnesota.
 Died.....January 15, 1984 (94 years)
 Cause.....Stroke
 Buried.....Calvery Cemetery in Rochester, Minnesota
 Children....Ruth ----- a Franciscan Nun (1916-1964)
 Professed name: Sister Elaine
 Edward J. - of Lake City, Minnesota
 Myles J. -- of Seattle, Washington
 Frank ---- of Stewartville, Minnesota
 Died in 1991 of Colon & Liver Cancer.
 Children: Elaine
 Patty
 Margaret
 Daniel
 Elmer ---- of Snohomish, Washington



Ruth / Sister Elaine

James Andrew.....Born.....November 11, 1892 in Bertha, Minnesota
 Religion....Roman Catholic
 Died.....January 20, 1902 (10 years)
 Cause.....Diphtheria
 Buried.....St Nicholas Cemetery in Belle River,
 Minnesota

Anastasia S.....Born.....January 25, 1893 in Bertha, Minnesota
 Religion....Roman Catholic
 Occupation..Homemaker / Farm help
 Personal...member of Christian Mothers / quilter
 Our family's only help and support after
 our mother, Vernice, died in 1957.
 Married.....October 16, 1913 in Todd County, Minnesota
 Died.....December 31, 1960 (76 years)
 Cause.....Stroke
 Buried.....Calvery Cemetery in Osakis, Minnesota
 Children...Ralph Henry
 Alice Marie
 Vernice Lucy
 Raymond George
 Lawrence Howard
 Harold Jerome
 Francis Louisa



Francis Edward.....Born.....April 2, 1894 in Bertha, Minnesota
 Religion....Roman Catholic
 Occupation..Farmer
 Married.....no
 Died.....August 11, 1925 (31 years)
 Cause.....Arthritis deformation affecting all
 joints.
 Buried.....St Nicholas Cemetery in Belle River,
 Minnesota
 Children...none

1991-92 MJM

Mary Magdalene.....Born.....September 22, 1897 in Bertha, Minnesota
 Religion....Roman Catholic
 Occupation..Homemaker
 Married.....October 16, 1914 to Charles Sumner at St
 Nicholas Catholic Church in Belle River,
 Minneosta



Divorced

Died.....January 30, 1930 (33 years)
 Cause.....Pneumonia
 Buried.....St Nicholas Cemetery in Belle River, MN
 Children....Virgil --- born on 8-13-1916
 Robert --- born in 1920



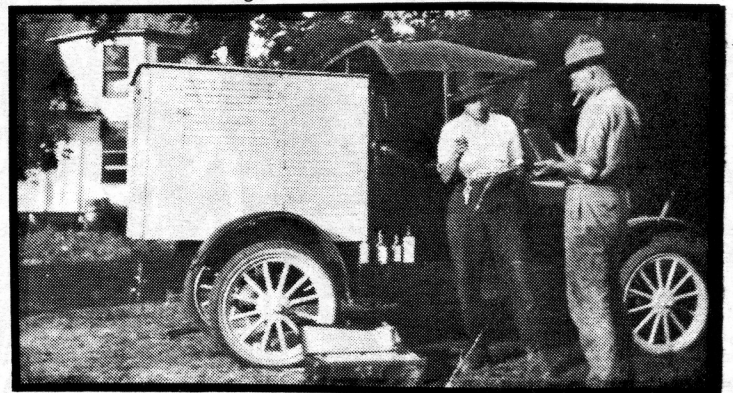
Robert Sumner,
 Alice Schultz and
 Virgil Sumner
 in the 1930's

Virgil in
 the 1960's

Mary's History: Mary's husband, Charles, a Rawleigh salesperson left for work one day and never returned. Mary tried to find him but his family claimed they did not know where he was. After several years, Mary hired detectives and Charles was found in the state of Washington where his parents lived. He was brought back to Minnesota and Charles and Mary were later divorced. (Divorce was rare at this time.) Charles never did give a reason for leaving his family. This happened during the depression. The Schultz's and Sursely's helped Mary and children by providing a place for them to live and food. Mary worked whenever she could find work.

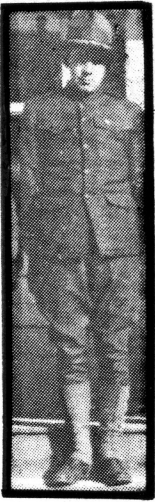
Mary died in 1930 and Virgil and Robert were put into the St Cloud Orphanage Part of the reason for this was because Mary had stipulated they must be raised Catholic. Charles's family was not Catholic and apparently Mary's family were unable to take them in. Virgil said they had no idea what happened to their home and belongings, as they were only able to take their clothes with them when they were taken away. The Nun's were appointed as their guardians and Virgil went to St Francis High School, a Catholic boarding school in Little Falls, MN and Robert was placed on a farm near Sauk Centre, MN. After Virgil graduated, she worked in Osakis, MN for the Telephone Company. She later moved to Seattle, Washington where her brother Robert was then living. From there they both moved to California. It was in California where Virgil and Robert saw their father for the first time since the divorce. He had no remorse for leaving them and Virgil and Robert were never close to him. Charles had married the woman he left his family for and they had several of their own children. Charles died at 67 years of age from a severe fall while drinking.

Virgil married George Martin in 1940, had a very happy marriage and three lovely daughters. Robert moved back to Minneapolis, MN, was a veteran of World War II, married a woman named Elaine and had a son named Gary. He died of a heart attack and is buried in Fort Snelling Cemetery in Minnesota. Virgil still lives in California. (Story obtained from Virgil.)



Charles Sumner (Rawleigh Salesperson) and
 Walter Schultz (½ brother to George) in the
 1920's

Thomas Stephan.....Born.....December 27, 1896 in Bertha, Minnesota
 Religion....Roman Catholic
 Military....Veteran of World War **MI**
 Occupation..Farmer
 Married.....September 3, 1919 to Hazel Fearing at St
 Nicholas Catholic Church in Belle River, MN.
 Died.....May 19, 1951 (55 years)
 Cause.....Colon and Liver Cancer
 Buried.....Calvery Cemetery in Osakis, Minnesota
 Children....Corene ---- born on 9-5-1924
 Dallas ---- teacher in Stillwater, MN
 Judy ----- (twin) deceased
 Jean ----- (twin)



Thomas

Jacob Henry (Henry).Born.....September 25, 1902 in Bertha, Minnesota
 Religion....Roman Catholic
 Occupation..Farmer
 Married.....July 25, 1933 to Margaret Woodard at St Mary of
 Mount Carmel Catholic Church in Long Prairie,
 Minnesota
 Health.....Ulcers
 Died.....June 7, 1983 (81 years)
 Cause.....Liver Cancer
 Buried.....St Nicholas Cemetery in Belle River, Minnesota
 Children....Dennis --- born in 1935
 Daniel --- born in 1955



First train trip in Minnesota in 1862.