

Patrick Larkin: A Brief Biography

By: James Hannigon

Patrick Larkin was born in March of 1824 in Athenry, Ireland. He was born into a blacksmithing family, his father owned "Larkin's Forge" in Athenry. Larkin's Forge was located at 8 McDonald's Lane. When visiting, it is hard to pinpoint the exact location of where it was, but it is easy to see the general area. The lot has been bulldozed over and there are no traces of the old forge left. The forge was said to have been a place for young men to discuss Athenry Nationalism and Fenianism, and was under 24/7 surveillance from the Peelers. The Peelers were what the Irish police force were called in this time, who were watching the forge very closely to make sure that nothing regarding Irish independence would occur.

The conditions of Athenry (as well as the entirety of Ireland itself) were terrible. In 1845, the Potato Famine started which deprived the country of their main crop and many families from their only source of food. Not to mention the fact that the country was still controlled heavily by Britain, and there was much tension in the air. In 1849, Patrick finally decided to leave. He arrived in Massachusetts that same year, and settled in Waltham. He ended up setting up his own forge and acquiring a contract with the armory during the civil war which allowed him to make certain equipment for the government, such as caissons for cannons.

A year after his arrival to Waltham, a woman named Mary Manhon sailed to there as well with intentions to wed Patrick. On November 3rd of 1850, Patrick married her. They had 6 children, 3 daughters and 3 sons. In order from oldest to youngest they had Patrick Jr, Margeret, Julia, Mary, John, and James. Unfortunately, when Patrick Jr was 2 years old, he suddenly wasn't able to breath and it turned out he had pneumonia, he then died from lack of an antidote. The remaining 5 kids all lived to adulthood, although only Margeret, Mary, and John married. Margeret married Patrick Nugent in 1882, Mary was wed to Andrew Donlan in 1883, and John married Mary Ryan in 1888. The family who has instructed me to make this website, their bloodline follows John. In total, Patrick and Mary Larkin had 21 grandchildren. However, only 15 survived to adulthood. The other 6 all died before the age of 4. Patrick Larkin died in 1907.