

O'Donovan's Cove

by

John J. S. McCarthy

I am a young fellow Dunmanway left lately,
For to view each plantation that comes in my way.
The whole of this Kingdom I have travelled quite freely
To behold its scenery on fine Summer's day.
My tours I kept on in a progressive motion
Where most charming were the places through which I did roam
Until nature terminated my perambulating
Till I met that fine arbour named O'Donovans Cove.

With wonder I roved through each green shady bower,
Where flora luxuriantly perfumed so fine
And fabus too its course onward was steering
Which aggrandized its beauty most grand and sublime
Of the feathered race you'll find various species
In the trees taking shelter in its noble fine groves.
Whilst the finny tribe we see leaping and sporting
In the charming fine lakes of O'Donovan's Cove.

You will find here the lemon, the orange, the peach and pomengranate
The hyacinth, the melon and grape
The plum and the cherry, the nut and gooseberry,
The apple, the cinnamon, and likewise the pear.
Its various productions to me are innumerable
For the plants of all climates it's here they do grow
Whilst the fox and the hare by the Hounds are here chased
By the Gentlemen of fame through O'Donovan's Cove.

Its noble possessor is Timothy O'Donovan
A gentleman of valour none can him excel,
His ancestors so famous were old Erin's heroes
The same the ancient historians can tell.
Some of them 'tis true in France reigned victorious
And England's great bullys' they conquered you know.
May their far famed celebrity ne'r be excelled by any,
But with more lustre shine through O'Donovan's Cove.

They are civil and courteous and so meritorious,
And their abode so commodious none with them can vie.
For her a King or an Earl may partake of a dinner
And cheer himself after with whiskey and wine.
Their hospitality is well known to many
And their equal can't be found in Erin's green shore.
In peace and contentment may their name reign forever
In that lovely plantation named O'Donovan's Cove.

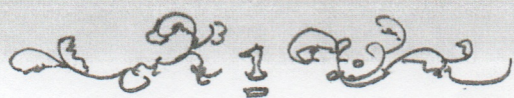
Near Dunmannus Bay their harbour is situated,
And most reluctantly I did part it as the evening drew nigh,
For it exceeds Glengariff, Killarney, Castlehyde's beauteous harbour
The scenery of Wicklow and likewise Glenmire.
There is not a place in the nation to rival this station -
For gladly each evening through it I would rove
For all grief and trouble are banished forever
Of an evening perambulating through O'Donovan's Cove.

So now to conclude and to end these few verses,
I hope you will excuse this unqualified lay
Were I possessed of the learning of Homer
Its praise most gloriously I would then dictate.
I was not aided by the Muses - being possessed of no genius,
So I hope you are contented with this simple scroll,
Here is an end to my ditty, three cheers with some whiskey,
And we will drink to that place named O'Donovan's Cove.

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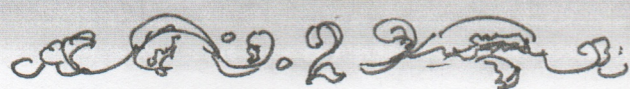
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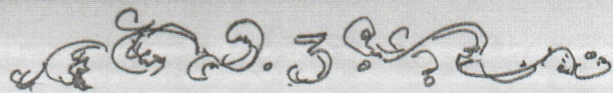
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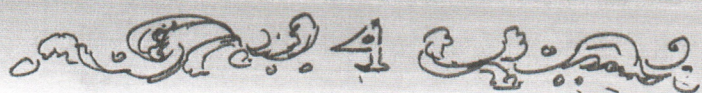
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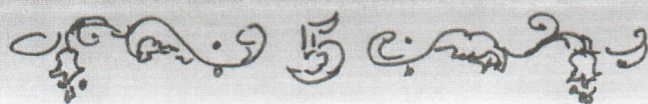
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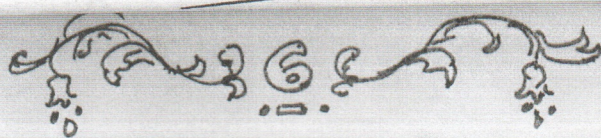
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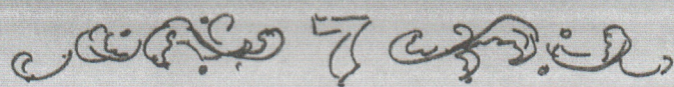
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Born near
Carberry's
Hundred
Isles

Father
Charles McCarthy
Parnellite

Possibly connected
to
Timothy O' Donogh
O' Donogh's Cove
Derry

Wrote Poem
O' Donogh's
Cove.

A STURDY PIONEER PASSES TO REWARD

Death of John J. McCarthy, Friday,
Brings to a Close a Life
of Active Service.

John J. McCarthy was born in County Cork, Ireland, in November, 1859, and passed this life at his residence in Ogallala, Friday, September 25th, 1931.

He came to America in 1880 and located for a year in Louisville, Kentucky, then moved to Pottawatomie county, Iowa, and to Keith county Nebraska in 1884 where he made his residence until the time of his death.

Shortly after his arrival he obtained employment with the Ogallala Land and Cattle Company whose range lands were mostly on the north side of the North Platte river.



In 1888 he married Miss Mary Hester Holloway, a daughter of David P. Holloway, a widely known ranchman of that date. Soon after his marriage he that date. The year before his marriage he filed on a homestead sixteen miles northeast of Ogallala near the present site of Keystone. It was to the sod house on this homestead that he took his bride. The home was small but they were happy with what they thought to be bright prospects. But a prairie fire in 1893 which swept over a number of counties in western Nebraska ruined their prospects. They lost sixty-four horses in this fire.

It was during these early days of '84 that he carried the ballot box or election results from the first election held in Whitetail precinct to Ogallala. At the time he was obliged to swim the North Platte river on his buckskin horse through snow, slush and ice.

Later he ceased active ranching and became a prominent figure in state and county affairs and served for years on the Democratic State Committee. He was a member of the Electoral College that cast the vote for Wilson when elected in 1912.

He was elected County Treasurer in 1907 and served two terms. That he left a fine set of books is attested by the fact that his form of bookkeeping has been adopted all over the state and every county treasurer following him in Keith county has appealed to him in difficulty they have had.

In 1914 he was elected County Assessor and in 1915 he was appointed postmaster of Ogallala in which position he served until 1924, and since that time has held some position of trust and honor.

Hundreds of old and newer associ-

ates attended the last rites to pay their respects and to express their sympathy for the bereaved family.

Two members of the North Platte council, No. 1211, Knights of Columbus, C. J. Pass and Wm. Landgraf, also attended the funeral thus paying respects to a brother member.

Following the committal service at the grave members of the Ogallala Camp, No. 2228, Modern Woodmen of America, of which order Mr. McCarthy was a charter member, gave him honor by depositing sprigs of evergreen in the grave.

The active pallbearers were: John McCusker, Charles Thalken, C. R. Hillyer, Wm. McK. Burford, Mike McFadden, and Cy Brogan.

Honorary pallbearers were: Mark Leonard, B. G. Mathews, C. L. Contryman, Peter Girmann, George McGinley, L. A. DeVoe, Mans Sheffield, H. Brogan, Thos. Duffy, B. W. Sheldon, H. A. Patrick, C. D. Gaston, Louis Martin, Jens Sillasen.

In Memory

Like all outstanding individuals in the tide of life they are known and estimated by traits of character that scatter roses or thorns in the pathway of others.

If the deceased had had a chance to choose, "Live by the side of the road and be a friend to man," or wear a crown that would only benefit himself he would not have hesitated: service to the world was his pride.

He was true to his faith and his religion and yet he was willing to extend a helping hand to a faltering brother who was striving to follow the way in which he had been taught.

His adherence to duty was never questioned; it made no difference whether he was balancing books for himself or helping some one else less able he gave them the same painstaking attention. He was always at his post. He asked no vacation from duty, and worked, with his daughters' help, until within a few hours of his death.

The distinctive features of his life that made him worthwhile to the world were: service, fidelity, and honesty. He was an inveterate reader of the best literature, regardless of cost. Those who heard him review some of Victor Hugo's works in after dinner talks in early days will always remember them.

Funeral services were conducted in St. Luke's Church by Father McMahon who gave an able delineation of a true Christian life. Dr. McCartan sang a solo that touched the hearts of all present.

The entire service gave evidence of the fact that when Christian people, from a sense of duty or devotion, meet under the uplifted cross they are striving to follow in the footsteps of Him who taught as the school men never knew.

The deceased leaves to mourn his passing, his wife and five children; Margaret Bicknell, Manzanola, Colo.; Eleanor Vandiver, Ogallala; Mary E. Lycan, Detroit, Mich.; Justina Wishek, Huntington Park, Calif.; John J. Jr., A Junior in Nebraska Medical College, Omaha. Ruth, the second born, died in infancy. Also a sister and brother in his native country.—A. G. C.

—Keith County News, October 1, 1931.