Notes on James O'Sullivan of Clare St. Limerick

By Noel Murphy

Source: - Book of Claims. Limerick Archives. L/OC/2/1 and L/OC/2/3.

Court of Claims. April 7th 1825.

Pages 115 and 116 of 297.
"No.1. Joseph Wallplate.
Docquet of Freedom of the late James O'Sullivan produced under the Corporate Seal and signed by Thomas Francis Wilkinson, Mayor. Dated the 8th June 1814. Produced as evidence of the said James O'Sullivan having taken out his Freedom.
James O'Sullivan Esq. sworn,(a younger son).
Stated he saw the late James O'Sullivan, deponent's father, sworn in a Freeman and saw him afterwards exercise the right of a Freeman by voting at the last Election for Limerick.
Bryan McMahon, Registrar of the Diocese of Limerick, Ardfert and Ahadoe, sworn. Proves the Certificate of the marriage of the late James O'Sullivan with Frances McAuliff on the 27th April 1769. Deponent has known the said late James O'Sullivan and Frances O'Sullivan otherwise McAuliff, his wife for many years and always knew them reputed as man and wife by all of their acquaintances and always considered them so himself. Deponent proves the hand writing of Henry Ivers Ingram, Rector of Kilmurry to a certificate of the marriage of claimant, Joseph Wallplate, with Miss Alicia O'Sullivan.
Examination of James O'Sullivan resumed.
Deponent swears that the said Alicia Wallplate otherwise O'Sullivan is the daughter of the said late James O'Sullivan and sister of the deponent by the said Frances O'Sullivan otherwise McAuliff and saith he was present when the claimant was married to the said Alicia O'Sullivan by the Rev Henry I. Ingram in the Parish church of Kilmurry in the Diocese of Limerick on the 3rd March 1821".

Court of Claims, 16th July 1828.

Page 146 of 297.
"No. 1, William Ferguson, claims in right of marriage.
Claimant appears.
James O'Sullivan sworn,
Is brother- in- law to claimant. Knows by reputation in the family for 36 years that claimant and Mary O'Sullivan have been reputed and lived together as man and wife up to the period of her death.
Certificate of the marriage of James O'Sullivan to Frances McAuliff on the 27th April 1769 at the Parish of St John's produced, which certificate is signed by Bryan McMahon, Registrar of Limerick, Ardfert and Ahadoe, which signature deponants proves and that claimant's said wife is issue of that last mentioned marriage.
Docquet of Freedom of said James O'Sullivan produced, dated 8th June 1814, signed by Thomas F. Wilkinson Esq. Mayor".

James O'Sullivan married Frances McAuliff on the 27 April 1769. Their daughter Alicia married Joseph Wallplate on the 3 March 1821 and Joseph claimed the right of admission as a Freeman by marriage to the daughter of a Freeman on the 7 April 1825. (The gap of 52 years between the marriages of mother and daughter needs explaining. The biggest problem seems to be the fact that there were at least 4 James O'Sullivans alive at the same time).

In Stradbally Graveyard in Castleconnell there is a Tomb erected by Joseph Wallplate in memory of his wife Alicia Wallplate who died, aged 52 on the 11 December but the year is not legible. Presumably this is Alicia Wallplate nee O'Sullivan.

On Limerickcity.ie/Localstudies/Obituaries we have the dates of the deaths of Joseph Wallplate and some of his children but no report of his wife's death.

Joseph Wallplate of Stormont, Castleconnell died in 1855.
Alicia, his daughter, of Woodlands, Castleconnell died in 1845 aged 20.
Henry Joseph, his son, of Stormont, died in 1851 aged 22.

Therefore Alicia Wallplate, the daughter, was born circa 1825 and Henry the son was born circa 1829. Alicia, the mother, married in 1821 and was dead by 1855. She must have been born in the 1790's and must have been one of the last children born to James O'Sullivan and Frances McAuliffe.

The North Munster Antiquarian Journal, Vol. 3-5, 1942-1948 omits the name of James O'Sullivan from its List of Freemen 1746 – 1836. However Limerick Archives, L/OC/1 in its list of Freemen 1719 – 1817 does have James recorded as admitted on the 8 June 1814. James, son of James and brother of Alicia is noted as a witness and this removes any doubt as to which James, father or son, was admitted in 1814. (L/OC/I and L/OC/2/2 were the primary source for the N.M.A.J. list which contains a number of omissions and errors).

James and Frances had another daughter, Mary O'Sullivan who married, in Dublin, a William Ferguson, a Woollen Draper and William, after being married to Mary for 36 years claimed for admission as a Freeman by right of Marriage on the 16 July 1828. James O'Sullivan Junior was a witness once again. This time it was also mentioned that James and Frances were married in St. John's church. It was also noted that their daughter Mary, Ferguson's wife, was deceased. (I calculate her year of death as 1825. Married 1789 + 36 years of marriage).

William Ferguson was admitted a Freeman on the 10 July 1829, his son also William, claimed the right of admission as an eldest son on the 24 July 1830. Both Williams appear to have died in the 1832 cholera epidemic.

The Limerick Chronicle reported the death of one Frances O'Farrell of Laurel Hill Cottage, Victoria Terrace, who died on the 17 Feb 1860. Aged 80. She was the sister of the late Henry O'Sullivan of George's St. and she was a niece of James O'Sullivan who built Clare St. from Park Hill to Ball's Bridge and also built a range of houses on Clare St.
Which James O'Sullivan was the Builder? James Senior or his son, James Junior.

Mr O'Sullivan = Mrs O'Sullivan James O'Sullivan
Builder in Clare St.

Henry O'Sullivan	**Frances O'Farrell nee O'Sullivan**
Tobacco products	**B.c. 1780**
George St.	**M.**
D. 19/12/1842.	**D. 17/02/1860**
Moved from Broad St.	
To George St. in 1818	

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James O'Sullivan = Honora Keane, dau. of Dr. Keane.

B	**B.**
Fm.	**M. 26/02/1808**
D. 06/08/1836	**D. 26/05/1853**

James	**William Keane Henry**	**Robert**	**Teresa**		**Honora**
1st son	**2nd son. Solicitor**	**Solicitor**	**Clare St.**	**Youngest Dau.**	
	B.c. 1818	**B.c. 1823**		**B.c. 1828**	
D. 1849	**D.**	**D. 15/01/1848**	**D.09/03/1849**	**D. 28/06/1844**	**D.1855**
		Aged 25	**Unm.**	**Aged 16 Unm.**	
			Effects £800.	**Effects £600.**	

James, Honora and Henry were buried in the same grave in St Patricks Graveyard. Clare St. was in St Patricks Parish.

William Keane O'Sullivan, Solicitor of 28 Arran Quay, Dublin was the brother of both Teresa and Honora to whom the administration of their wills was granted. He was also the 2nd son of James O'Sullivan and his wife Hanora who were both buried in St Patricks Cemetery. See Limerickslife. He entered Kings Inns at Easter Term, 1834, he had to be over 16 years of age to enter and an Affidavit had to be sworn to confirm his age. Robert, son of James, entered at Michaelmas term 1839 and his affidavit as to his age, was sworn by his eldest brother James.

Ancestry.com.

James O'Sullivan who died in 1837 and his wife Honoria Keane, died 1850 were the parents of William Keane O'Sullivan who was B. 1824. William married Marianne Terese Moran and had 6 children. Henry Paul O'Sullivan who died in 1927. Walter Edmund who also died in 1927. Robert John who was born in 1849. James Alexander who died in 1920. William Thomas who died in 1928 and Mary Honoria O'Sullivan who was born in 1856.

Rosemary ffolliott's Newspaper abstracts.

For O'Sullivans connected to Limerick.

Faulkner's Dublin Journal, Saturday 26 Nov 1768,

Married at Limerick, Mr William Quin, Merchant, to Miss Isabella O'Sullivan, daughter of the late Mr Paul O'Sullivan, Merchant

Clare Journal, Monday 23 Nov 1778,

Limerick 19th: - Married, Mr Donat O'Sullivan, professor of Mathematics to Miss Frost of Ballinacarig.

Limerick Chronicle, Monday 9 Oct 1786,

Advert: - Jonathan O'Hehir has just arrived from Dublin and opened a Drapery shop in English Town, next door to Christopher O'Sullivan, Mary Street

Limerick Chronicle, Thursday 12 July 1787,

Advert: - Those indebted to Michael Barry, a bankrupt, are requested to pay Hugh Holmes of Dublin or James O'Sullivan of Limerick, Merchants, assignees of the said bankrupt.

Clonmel Gazette, Thursday 30 April 1789,
Limerick 23rd: - Married a few days ago in Dublin Mr William Ferguson of Mary Street, Limerick, Woollen Draper, to Miss O'Sullivan daughter of James O'Sullivan of Limerick, Merchant. (Mary O'Sullivan). (Not found in Irish Genealogy's Dublin Church records. There were no Fergusons registered as Freemen of Limerick before William was admitted by right of marriage in 1829. He may not have been a native of Limerick).

Ennis Chronicle, Thursday 29 Jan 1801,
Advert: - John Healy has commenced the Grocery business in the house formerly occupied by Mr Christopher O'Sullivan at the corner of Creagh Lane, Limerick.

Limerick Chronicle, Wednesday 25 Nov 1801,
Advert: - George Hennegan has taken the extensive Livery stables at the rear of Mr O'Sullivan's buildings in Clare Street.

Ennis Chronicle, Wednesday 6 Jan 1808,
Married on Sunday evening, George Watson of Garrykennedy, Co. Tipperary, to Miss O'Sullivan daughter of James O'Sullivan of Limerick.

Ennis Chronicle, Wednesday 2 March 1808,
Married on Saturday, James O'Sullivan, Junior of Limerick to Miss Keane, only daughter of the late Dr. Keane. (Honora Keane?).

Ennis Chronicle, Wednesday 5 July 1809,
Bankrupt: - Murtough O'Sullivan of Limerick, Shopkeeper to surrender 10th and 11th inst.

Ennis Chronicle, Saturday 13 July 1811,
Died last Wednesday, Mr Donat O'Sullivan for many years the principal assistant in the Mathematical Department at Mr Fitzgerald's school in Ennis. Formerly, the Proprietor of a respectable Academy in Limerick City.

Limerick Evening Post, Saturday 25 Jan 1812,
Died lately, at Kilmurry, the Rev Denis O'Sullivan. P.P.

Limerick Evening Post, Saturday 31 July 1813,
Married on Monday, at Doraville, Miltown Malbay, Patrick Egan of Woodbrooke, Co. Galway to Theresa, 3rd daughter of James O'Sullivan of Limerick City.

Limerick Chronicle, Wednesday 6 Oct 1813,
Married on Monday, Timothy O'Sullivan, Hearth and Window Tax collector to Miss Anne Fennessy sister of Hugh Fennessy of Wilson's Quay, Limerick City.

Clonmel Advertiser, Wednesday 22 June 1814,

Died on Tuesday last at his seat at Woodbrooke, Co. Galway, Mrs Egan wife of Patrick Egan and 3rd daughter of James O'Sullivan of Limerick.

Limerick Chronicle, Wednesday 10 May 1815,
Married on Saturday last, Jeremiah O'Sullivan, eldest son of James O'Sullivan of Clare Street to Miss Creagh daughter of John Creagh of William Street. (Jeremiah was admitted a Freeman by birth on the 01/07/1822. Miss Creagh was the sister of Sir Michael Creagh, an Army officer. A Lt- Col when Jeremiah died on the 28 Nov. 1834).

Limerick Evening Post, Thursday 10 Oct 1816,
Died yesterday at her house in Clare Street, Mrs O'Sullivan wife of James O'Sullivan.

Limerick Chronicle, Saturday 13 May 1818,
Advert: - Henry O'Sullivan, Tobacco Manufactory has removed from Broad St. to No. 5 George's Street.

Limerick Chronicle, Saturday 2 Sept 1820,
Died in Grenville St. Dublin, Mrs O'Sullivan widow of the late Christopher O'Sullivan of Limerick City.

Limerick Chronicle, Saturday 3 March 1821,
Married this morning in Kilmurry church, Joseph Wallplate of Springfield, Co. Clare to Alicia daughter of James O'Sullivan of Limerick City.

Sworn evidence at Freeman claim. 8 Nov 1821.
Claim by Jeremiah O'Sullivan: - his father was admitted a Freeman on the 7th May 1814. James O'Sullivan junior sworn, says Jeremiah was his father's eldest legitimate son. (Jeremiah was therefore now over 21 years old).

James O'Sullivan = Frances McAuliffe (of Clare)
B. 1748 B. 1750
Fm. 1814 M. 27/04/1769 in St. John's
D. (pre 1825) D. (1816)?

Alicia O'Sullivan = Joseph Wallplate
B. 1790's B.
M. 03/03/1821 Fm. 27/06/1825

Jeremiah O'Sullivan = Miss Creagh, dau. of John Creagh of William St, Merchant.
B.
M. 06/05/1815
D. 1834
James O'Sullivan = Honora Keane, dau. of Dr. Keane of Clare
B. 1785
M. 26/02/1808
D. 1836
Mary O'Sullivan = William Ferguson
B.c. 1770
M. 1789

Miss O'Sullivan = George Watson
B.
M. 03/01/1808
D.

Teresa O'Sullivan = Patrick Egan
3rd daughter Woodbrooke, Co. Galway
B.
M. 26/07/1813
D. 21/06/1814

Henry O'Sullivan
B.c. 1783
D. 1806 aged 13. Limerick Chronicle Obits.
(Is this the same Henry, aged 14, son of James who was buried in St Patrick's graveyard with no year of death given thus making the James and Honora who are also on the same headstone his brother and sister-in-law. They cannot be his parents as they didn't marry until 1808).

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John Creagh = Honora Purcell
William St. B.
B. M.
D. D.11/03/1833 a widow.

Col. Sir Michael Creagh	**Catherine**	**Miss Creagh**	**= Jeremiah O'Sullivan Clare St. Eldest son and Heir.**
B	**B.**		**B.**
			M.06/05/1815
D. 19/09/1860	**D. 07/03/1849**		**D. 28/11/1834**

It wasn't the normal practice for an eldest son to embark on a military career so Michael probably had an older brother. Edward John Creagh might have been that older brother but so far I have not found anything to link them together other than Edward John Creagh having a business also in William St., apparently taking the place of John Creagh.

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The four James O'Sullivans.
James O'Sullivan the Tobacconist is the fourth James.

James(2) O'Sullivan. D. 06/08/1836 of Fever in Clare St. aged 51. Bu. St Patricks. (B. 1785).

Catherine O'Sullivan. D.28/03/1838 of fever in Liverpool, wife of James (3) O'Sullivan of Clare St. Dau of Henry O'Sullivan of George St.

One month after her wedding.

James(3) O'Sullivan. D. 17/11/1849 Son of James, in Clare St.

Honora, youngest dau of late James(2) D. 28/06/1844 of Clare St, aged 16. (B. 1828).

Henry, son of James, (1)D. 17/01/1806 Aged 13 of Clare St. (B. 1773).

Honora [Keane] widow of James,(2) D. 28/05/1853 of Clare St. aged 59. Bu. St Patricks. (B.1794).

Henry, of George St. D. 21/12/1842 Tobacco Manufacturer.

Teresa, dau of James,(2) D. 11/03/1809 in Clare St. Of Cholera.

Henry 3rd son of James,(2) D. 17/03/1855 of Clare St.

Teresa, dau of James, (2) and Honora , D.09/03/1849 of Clare St. Parents wed in 1808.

Robert, son of James,(2) D. 15/01/1848 of Clare St. Solicitor, aged 25. (B. 1823).

Honora, dau of James, (2) and Honora, D.28/06/1844 Parents wed in 1808.

William Keane O'Sullivan , son of James(2) D.10/04/1778. and Honora of Clare St. Brother of Teresa and Honora granted Admin of both their Wills. He was a Solicitor.

Allice O'Sullivan, mother of James,(1) Bu. St Patricks. Aged 36. (B. 1742).

James O'Sullivan in the Trade Directories.			Notes
1788. James O'Sullivan.	**Tobacconist**	**Broad Street.**	**Father of Henry of 1824?**
1809. James O'Sullivan. Sen.	**Merchant**		**Married to Frances?**
James O'Sullivan. Jun.	**Merchant**		**Married to Honora?**
James O'Sullivan.	**Tobacconist.**		**Died circa 1816?**
1816. James O'Sullivan. Sen.			**Died pre 1824?**
James O'Sullivan. Jun.			
1824. James O'Sullivan. Esq.	**Gentry**	**Clare Street.**	
Jeremiah O'Sullivan. Gent.	**Gentry.**	**19 Clare Street**	**Married Miss Creagh**

				and died 1834
	Henry O'Sullivan	Tobacconist	5 George Street.	Moved from Broad St. 1818
1838.	Henry O'Sullivan	Tobacconist	George Street	
1840.	Mr H. O'Sullivan	Gentry	Clare Street	3rd son of James and Honora
	Henry O'Sullivan	Tobacconist	George Street.	Died 1842
1846.	Henry O'Sullivan. Esq.	Gentry	Clare Street.	
1856.	Henry O'Sullivan. Esq.	Gentry	Clare Street	

O'Sullivan from Sargent Deeds held by Limerick Archives.

DO332 21st. Aug. 1798

This is a typical lease of a dwelling house, stable, yard and garden by James Sargent to one James O'Sullivan at a rent of £20- 7s- 6d, per annum. (James Sargent was acknowledged at this period in time as a great house builder, even though modern historians credit the O'Sullivan family as the builders of the Clare Street Georgian houses).

DO333 1798

William Sargent died on the 12th June 1794 and his brothers, James with Peter sold the right of redemption to the Lock Mills rents to James O'Sullivan for £200 some time between 1794 and 1798. (This Right of Redemption must have been given by O'Sullivan to his daughter Alicia when she married Joseph Wallplate as he held it later).

DO340 1813.

This deed states that in 1813 James Sargent leased land to James O'Sullivan for 890 years, with permission to O'Sullivan to build a house thereon, provided he left a passage 10 foot wide to Sargent's premises.

DO344 20th March 1826.

From this document we learn that James Sargent Snr. died in 1817 and that his will was annulled, as he was declared insane. He was father to James Jnr. and Mary amongst other children. Mary was married to Hugh Fennessy. Mary now returned her marriage portion on security of £100 Stg., paid to her by James Jnr., in order that she could claim a full 1/5 share of her father's entire estate. The house that Mary lived in was located between the Dublin Road and Old Clare Street, in St. Patrick's Parish. James O'Sullivan lived on one side and James Sargent lived on the other.

John O'Donavan in his O. S. field letters written in 1840 had this to say about Monamuck Townland, "It contains 34 acres, mainly under houses, the rest bog. The Proprietors were the Representatives of James Sargent Peter, vie: - Henry Staunton and others, who had leased it to James O'Sullivan of Limerick for 900 years. O'Sullivan has it let to his tenants @ £18 to £20 per house". O'Donavan must be in error when he gives James Sargent Peter as the last Sargent owner. James Sargent Peter was dead since 1817, he was declared insane and his wife Elizabeth Boyse was appointed as Executrix of his affairs. Mary and Anne would have gotten their share as their dowries on their marriages and his son John was already started on his army career. John's brother James would have been the older of the two and must have been of age at the time O'Donavan wrote his report. So O'Donavan should have named James Sargent James,

the son and heir of James Sargent Peter, as the owner. James Sargent James had by this time departed from Limerick to live in England.

I have a map (circa 1795) showing the three tall Georgian houses opposite St Patrick's church from the time that James Sargent sold the site of the right-hand house to a Richard Storey. The second two storied house on the left of the tall houses is clearly marked as the residence of James Sargent.