

Notes on *Seedlings*

by Norman D. and Patricia (O'Brien) Hellmers, 22 October 1995

Revised 30 August 2012

The following notes offer clarification and some additional information on *Seedlings of the EHLER and O'BRIEN family tree from Dearborn and Ripley Counties Indiana*, by Arethusia Katherina Watts, 1966.

Page 8

Patrick O'Brien [Sr.] did not have an "H." as a middle initial. No middle name or initial is known for him. The name Patrick H. O'Brien comes from Dearborn County, Indiana, land records, and probably refers to the Patrick O'Brien that was the son of Solomon O'Brien. There is no Kevin Killislander Township in County Kildare, however, there is a Killashandra Parish in County Cavan. The family Bible of Patrick O'Brien [Jr.] says that Patrick [Sr.] was born in County Cavan. The "stowaway" story is apparently a family tradition and should be so treated.

If Patrick O'Brien "worked his way north," it would have been to Ohio, as that is where he apparently was by about 1812. The best evidence today is that Patrick married Phoebe Loree.

If Phoebe was a Loree, a sister of hers may have been Polly [Mary] Loree Burnett. The wife of Judge Jacob Burnett of Cincinnati, Ohio, was Rebecca Wallace. There is apparently a misunderstanding here. There may be a connection between the Jacob Burnett that was the husband of Polly [Mary] Loree Burnett and Judge Jacob Burnett of Cincinnati, but it is not known as of now.

Patrick O'Brien, according to Dearborn County probate records, died in August 1851. The specific date is not given. He is apparently buried with other O'Brien family members in the east end of the Five Points Cemetery at Hubbells Corner in Jackson Township, Dearborn County, Indiana. Phoebe later married a widower, John Cunningham, who was previously married to Phoebe's sister, Elizabeth. Phoebe's death date is recorded in the Cunningham family Bible as 9 October 1880. She is buried in the Melville (Cunningham) Cemetery near Fairview in Cotton Township, Switzerland County, Indiana.

Page 9

Based on an analysis of land, census, and Bible records, it can be determined that the O'Briens lived in Ohio in about 1813, and moved to Lawrenceburg Township, Dearborn County, Indiana in about 1819. [A further explanation of the family's moves and a list of their children, in a more likely birth order, can be found in "O'Brien Family Notes," by Norman D. and Patricia (O'Brien) Hellmers.] Regarding the notes on the children in *Seedlings*, the following can be clarified:

Miles - died at about the age of 29. He was married twice before his death.

Hester Ann - died in 1851 at the age of 24 or 25.

Elizabeth - died in 1851 at the age of 24.

Polly - probably died between the ages of 0 to 6.

Patrick [Jr.] - married Eunice Gary.

The information about the land records in this list should be checked carefully:

F-157 The description should include Range 1.

C-310 This property was in Kelso Township, not in Jackson Township.

R-465 This tract may have been 80 acres, rather than 40 acres.

8-433 This record relates to Patrick O'Brien [Jr.], not Patrick Sr.

Page 10

William O'Brien died 19 February 1900, and not 1899 (see page 15 of *Seedlings*, the William O'Brien family Bible, and the tombstone of William O'Brien). Thomas P. O'Brien was apparently born 11 June (not 7 June) 1848 (see the family Bible and his tombstone).

The Patrick O'Brien who became a Mason was almost certainly Patrick O'Brien [Jr.], as Patrick O'Brien [Sr.] died in 1851. Patrick O'Brien [Jr.] was a Mason, both in Indiana and in Illinois.

Pages 10-12

Much of the information on these pages is based on traditions of the William O'Brien family, and would be difficult or impossible to prove.

Page 12

William O'Brien could not have had "nephews" by the name of Burnett; it is also unlikely that these were cousins.

Page 13-14

Modest attempts have been made to verify the Mississippi connections described here, but thus far without success.

William O'Brien apparently died in 1900, not 1899.