

Abigail Foley

and other Famous McKelloggs

I've heard stories of the illustrious McKellogg ancestors since the first days I was adopted into the clan, almost 30 years ago. Family lore claims the McKelloggs and Fitzgeralds are descendants of American revolutionaries and Irish nobility, a proud heritage to be sure.

Rufus Putnam

The most famous relative in the McKellogg family tree belongs to Robert McKellogg. Grandpa Bob's 4th Great Grandfather was Rufus Putnam (1738-1824), Brigadier General in the American Revolution. He signed up in the Continental Army after the Battle of Lexington, and served as an engineer in the American Revolutionary forces. After the war Rufus Putnam helped form the Ohio Company, surveying the North-West Ordinance and founding Marietta, Ohio. He is revered in official histories and even has his own postage stamp.

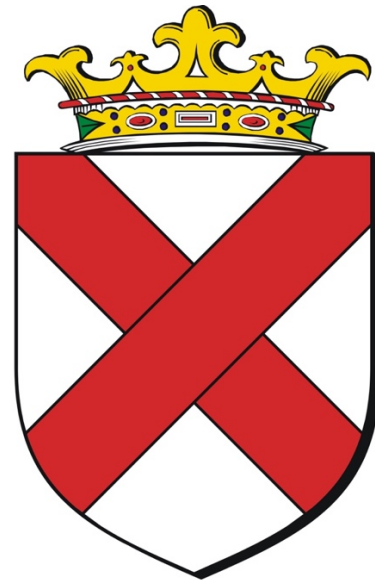
Postage stamp with famous McKellogg relative Rufus Putnam, who was a General in the Continental Army.



The Royal Fitzgeralds

Not to be outdone, the FitzGerald wing of the family claim to be descendants of Irish nobility. Granma Claire's brother, Uncle Bob, points out that his father's family, who settled on the Hudson River in Saugerties, New York, were descendants of Irish Lords and Earls. His proof: they spelled their name with a big G and not a little one, making them heirs to the royal FitzGerald (Sons of Gerald), dating back to the 14th century in Ireland. (One hopes the big "G" is genuine, and not the product of a little "g" Fitzgerald ancestor who decided to move up in the world with the stroke of the pen.)

*FitzGerald
Coat of Arms.
The big G,
indicating Irish
nobility.*



FitzGerald

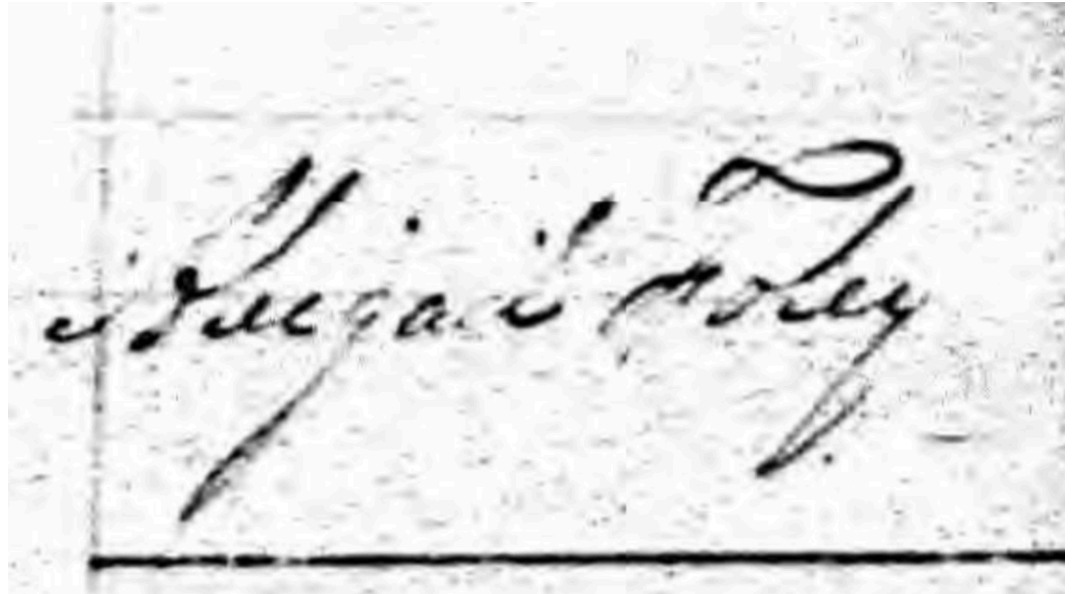
Abigail Foley

The contemporary McKelloggs are known for their wonderful work ethic, their smarts and sense of humor. These fine qualities may have more to do with a less famous ancestor from their family tree, one Abigail Foley. We know from Claire and Bob that she left her home in Ireland, escaping the Potato Famine to settle in New York City. Abigail is the grandmother of Mary Agnes Kraemer (FitzGerald), affectionately known to us as "Little White Grandma" or "Little White" for short.

Uncle Bob recalls that his mom, Mary Agnes, told him that Abigail Foley traveled to the US from Cork, Ireland. His notes on a family pedigree chart indicate that she was born about 1829. Records from Ireland's Catholic Parish Registers (1655-1915) list four children from Cork baptized Abigail Foley (1824, 1827, 1832,

and 1836). It is difficult from these records to know which of these might have been our Abigail Foley.

*Irish Baptismal
record
showing
Abigail Foley.*



Databases from the Castle Garden Immigration Station show an “Abigal” Foley traveled from Youghal, Ireland in County Cork in 1850 on the brig *Charles*. On the passenger list, she is 23 years old, making her birth year 1826 or 1827. Her passenger card lists her permanent residence as Ireland and her occupation as servant. Abigail arrived in Boston Harbor on July, 6, 1850. Over a million Irish died due to the potato blight which wiped out the island’s staple crop, and over a million escaped “The Great Hunger,” as the famine was dubbed, by coming to American shores. There were several Abigail Foley’s arriving at the time of the Great Potato Famine (1848-1853), although only one I could locate coming from Cork.

*1850 Passenger List
from the brig Charles.
It set sail from
Youghal, Ireland in
County Cork and
arrived in Boston
Harbor*

COPY of Report and List of the Passengers taken on board the Brig *Charles* of *Youghal Ireland* whereof *J. P. Pittman* is Master, burthen *170* tons, and $\frac{9}{16}$ ths of a ton, bound from the Port of *Youghal Ireland* for *Boston*

NAMES.	AGE.	SEX.	Occupation, Trade, or Profession.	Country to which they severally belong.	Country to which they intend to become inhabitants.	Remarks relative to any who may have died or left the vessel during the voyage.
<i>John Lynch</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Labourer</i>	<i>Ireland</i>	<i>No State</i>	
<i>John Hyde</i>	<i>12</i>			✓		
<i>Ellen</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Servant</i>	✓		
<i>William Molyneux</i>	<i>25</i>			✓		
<i>Margaret Hyde</i>	<i>14</i>			✓		
<i>Hynd</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>Male</i>		✓		
<i>Edward Murphy</i>	<i>4</i>			✓		
<i>Thomas Mollony</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>Female</i>		✓		
<i>Oliver Thompson</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>Male</i>		✓		
<i>William Coffey</i>	<i>17</i>			✓		
<i>Morgan Kofel</i>	<i>70</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Labourer</i>	✓		
<i>Richard O'Connell</i>	<i>17</i>			✓		
<i>Abigail Foley</i>	<i>23</i>			✓		
<i>James P. O'Connell</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Labourer</i>	✓		
<i>Maurice Tormey</i>	<i>22</i>			✓		
<i>Henry O'Connell</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Servant</i>	✓		
<i>Elizabeth O'Connell</i>	<i>53</i>			✓		

The trip across the Atlantic that Abigail took was not an easy one. The first vessels to take Irish immigrants to the US were called “coffin ships” for a reason. They were overcrowded, poorly ventilated, and one in five passengers did not survive the trip. The US passed the Passenger Acts, in order to improve the conditions on vessels entering our harbors. We do not know the specific condition of the ship Abigail arrived on. Nevertheless, the voyage from Ireland to our shores could last from forty days to three months, a tough trip for anyone.

Abigail Foley's name appears as the 13th passenger on the brig Charles. To the right is her passenger card from the voyage from Ireland



The ship *Charles* arrived in Boston Harbor, a common destination for Ireland's destitute peasants. Irish immigrants in the 1850's made up over one quarter of the city's population, but they faced discrimination too. “No Irish Need Apply” signs donned the door of some businesses, as many native Bostonians resented the newcomers.

Family Name		Given Name	
FOLEY		ABIGAIL	
Accompanied by			
23			
Age: Yrs.	Mos.	Sex	Occupation
23		F	SERVANT
Nationality		Last permanent Residence (TOWN, COUNTRY, ETC.)	
IRE		IRE	
Port of entry		Name of vessel	
BOSTON		CHARLES	
Date		Date	
7-6-1850		7-6-1850	

If the records are accurate, after landing in Boston, our Abigail Foley made her way to New York. An 1855 New York census lists an “Abbe Nonan and Timothy Nonan,” husband and wife, both 30 years old. Five years later, in the 1860 US Federal Census Timothy and Abby Noonan are again living in New York Ward 21, District 4. For the next half century, our Irish Abigail Foley would appear in the censuses as the married American, Abigail “Abby” Noonan.

Abby Noonan is listed in the 1870 Census. Her birth year is 1826. She is living in New York Ward 19, District 20 of New York City. In 1870 she has two daughters, Mary Noonan age 9 and Catherine Noonan age 4. We know that Little White Grandma's mother was Mary Noonan, who according to Uncle Bob was born in 1860. The Noonans, Abby (Abbie), Mary, and Catherine appear 10 years later in the Census of 1880. Each is ten years older. The one significant change is that Abigail Noonan's marital status is listed as widowed. Twenty-five years later Abby Noonan's name appears again in the 1905 New York Census. She is listed as "Abbey" Noonan, living as mother-in-law to August and Mary Kraemer, both 35 years old. Also, listed in the household, living with her parents and grandmother, is an eight-year-old girl, Mary A. Kraemer (our Little White Grandma.)

*1905 New York
Census shows
mother-in-law
Abby Noonan
living with
August and
Mary
Kraemer. Our
Little White
Grandma,
Mary A is 8.*

Kraemer August	Head	W	M	35	United States
Mary A	Wife	W	F	35	United States
Edward C	Son	W	M	11	United States
Mary A	Saughter	W	F	8	United States
Amelia F	Saughter	W	F	6	United States
Noonan Abby	Mother-in-law	W	F	70	Ireland
...

The rest, as they say, is history. Grandma Claire has regaled us with the twentieth century family tales of growing up in NYC, Buffalo and Cleveland, to the important day when the McKelloggs hopped on TWA Flight 4 to set down roots in southern California. Perhaps the McKellogg magic springs from the ancestors who were revolutionaries and royalty. However, I like to think the amazing McKelloggs owe some of their best qualities to an Irish lassie named Abigail Foley, who escaped poverty and deprivation in Ireland to put down roots in America. And oh, how her descendants have thrived.