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I am seeking all genealogical and biographical details for the family documented below including their ancestors, children, and grandchildren and the spouses thereof, including the full names of those spouses' parents. All additions and corrections within this scope, however speculative, will be greatly appreciated.

Dennis O'Keeffe of West Union, Steuben County, New York

Undoubtedly, Dennis¹ O'Keeffe was born in County Cork. The name appears in the records pertaining to Dennis and his descendants as *O'Keeffe*, *O'Keefe*, *O'Kieff*, *Kieff*, etc. The modern reader must remember that in earlier times names were much more subject to modifications in spelling, especially if the bearer was illiterate. Similarly, Dennis appears as Denis, Dinus, etc. Dennis and its variants are usually an anglicization of the Irish name, *Donnachadh*; which may appear as *Dionisius* or *Dionysius* when rendered in latin.

In the records of the O'Keeffe families of West Union, Steuben County, New York, the spelling, *O'Kieff*, and variations thereof are inconsistently found. I initially assumed that *O'Kieff* was an "incorrect" spelling of *O'Keeffe*. However, I subsequently learned that *O'Kieff* is actually closer in spelling to the ancient name, *O'Kief*. Albert E. Casey published *O'Kief, Coshe Mang, Slieve Lougher and the Upper Blackwater in Ireland* series, a collection of 16 enormous volumes of primary and secondary genealogical and historical records of Ireland.

Casey found the almost incomprehensible title for his series on a 1605 map. The O'Kief's were the kings and owners of southern and western Duhallow Barony (Cork) before that time, Coshe Mang (from the Maine River) is in eastern Magunihy Barony (Kerry) and Slieve Lougher ("Bog with Cattle") and Upper Blackwater (from the river of the same name) comprise portions of Muskerry West (Cork) and Trughanacmy (Kerry) Baronies.

The area is bounded roughly by Newcastle, Tralee, Killarney and Mallow... (Ray Marshall, "The Mother Lode of Irish Genealogy," first published in *The Septs*, the Quarterly Journal of the Irish Genealogical Society, International)

Unfortunately, Casey's collection is so vast that one finds it a rather daunting task to review the index, much less the actual content!

The O'Keeffes not only originated in Co. Cork, but they also stayed there. It is still an out-and-out County Cork name, judging by birth registrations, voters' lists, directories and such like tests. It is true that, like so many powerful native Irish septs, they were forced out of their original territory by the invading Normans

early in the thirteenth century, but in their case it was only a trek westwards within the bounds of what is now Co. Cork. So firmly did they establish themselves on the lands they then acquired in the Dunhallow country that their new territory got and kept the name of Pobal O'Keeffe. O'Keeffe, in Irish *O Caoimh*, is derived from the personal name *Caemh*. The eponymous ancestor of the sept was Are Caemh whose father, slain in 902, was King of Munster. Unlike most O names, O'Keeffe is one which has retained the prefix fairly consistently. Even in the 1880's, when Gaelic ideals were at their nadir, registration of O'Keeffes and Keeffes was about equal and to-day the O'Keeffes largely predominate. Though, as already stated, not numerous outside Co. Cork, they total enough to be included in the list of the hundred most common names in Ireland. (Edward Lysaght, *Irish Families*)

1. ___^A O'KEEFFE, the otherwise unknown father of Dennis¹ O'Keeffe and his siblings, was born, probably in County Cork, Ireland circa 1786 or earlier.

From the settlement of his son Timothy's estate, we have the names of at least some of his children.

Children (Administration of Timothy Keefe's estate, dated 3 February 1890, *Steuben County Wills and Administrations*, 10-A:49):

2.
 - ii. DENNIS O'KEEFFE, b. 1806.
 - iii. CATHERINE, b. Ireland (1880 Federal Census) 1816 (*Death Record*); d. West Union 26 March 1900 (*Death Record*); m. JAMES FEELEY, b. Ireland ca. 1810 (1880 Federal Census).
Children, surname *Feeley*: 1. *Ann*, b. NY ca. 1856 (1880 Federal Census). 1. *Michael*, b. NY (1880 Federal Census) 26 Oct 1859; d. Hornell, Steuben Co., NY 24 Oct 1941 (*Death Record*).
 - iv. TIMOTHY KEEFE, also known as Thymothy O'Keeffe, b. 1821; d. [West Union] 27 Dec 1889; estate administration executors were Catherine Feeley, John Feeley, A.W. McCormick and Richard Lyon; "Timothy O Keeffe" resided as Farm Hand in the household of William and Eliza (___) Cobb in the Town of Independence, Alleghany Co., NY in 1880 (1880 Federal Census).

2. DENNIS¹ O'KEEFFE was born in [County Cork] Ireland in 1806 and died, probably on Irish Hill, Town of West Union, Steuben County, New York on 4 May 1880. He was married, probably in St. Lawrence County, New York, probably circa 1837, to MARY DUNNE. Mary was born in Ireland in 1809 and died in the Town of West Union, New York on 31 December 1889. Mary was probably the sister of Catherine (Dunn) Coleman; perhaps they were related to Gene¹ Dunn of Ireland and the Town of Troupsburg, Steuben County, New York. From census returns we first learned that Dennis was a literate farmer and naturalized citizen.

Per the index to the naturalization records of St. Lawrence County, New York, "*Dennis Kiff*," farmer, immigrated there from Ireland in 1832. According to the index, he either intended

to reside in the Town of Oswegatchie then or was residing there when a report pertaining to his naturalization was filed on 11 February 1840. However, on 9 July 1844, he was identified as resident of the neighboring Town of Lisbon when he was officially made a citizen:

ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY,

July circuit & Oyer & Terminer 1844

Dennis Kiff of the Town of *Lisbon* in said county, appeared in open Court before the Judges of this Court and produced a record of his report, and also of his declaration to become a citizen of the United States in conformity with the acts of congress establishing a uniform rule of Naturalization; and having proved to the satisfaction of the said Court that he had in all respects complied with the requirements of said acts of congress to entitle him to become naturalized, took the oath required by said acts, and was by the said Court duly admitted a citizen of the United States.

Recorded the *9th* day of *July* 1844.

M. Thatcher Clerk.

In index cites Dennis's age as 30; this is probably in reference to his report of 1840. A birth year of 1810 roughly corresponds with the birth year of 1806 cited in other sources.

The Towns of Oswegatchie and Lisbon lie along the St. Lawrence River, the former contains the port of Ogdensburg. The death certificate of Dennis's son, Michael, indicates that he was born in Ogdensburg. In June 2003, I had a brief opportunity to review the parish records of St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg. Baptismal records were found for some of Michael's siblings but not for him.

The 1840 baptismal record of Ellen (O'Keefe) Doyle at St. Mary's Cathedral identifies her parents as "*Denis and Margaret [sic] O'Keefe*" with sponsors Timothy McCarthy and Margaret Dunn. However, Ellen's marriage record identifies her as the daughter of "*Denis Kieff et Maria [Dunn]*." All other sources indicate that Dennis¹ O'Keefe had but one wife, Mary Dunne, and that she was the mother of Ellen and his other children. Therefore, it appears that Mary (Dunne) O'Keefe's otherwise unknown sister, Margaret, served as a sponsor for Ellen's baptism and that Fr. Bacon wrote *Margaret* in error as the name of Ellen's mother when he should have written *Mary*.

Between 1847 and 1849, Dennis and Mary migrated from St. Lawrence County to Ontario County, New York (*1855 New York State Census*). In 1850, the "O'Keefe" household in the Town of Canandaigua included Dennis, Mary, Mary, Ellen, Michael, Bridget and Catherine (*1850 Federal Census*).

Also found in the Town of Canandaigua in 1850 was another O'Keefe household whose members were Ann, Hugh (2), John, and Margaret. Hugh and Ann (Armstrong) O'Keefe were both born in Ireland and arrived in Canandaigua in 1841 and 1842 respectively. Ann apparently died in 1878 and Hugh died the following year in 1879; they are buried in the cemetery of St. Mary's Church, Canandaigua. (Ginny L. Owen, correspondence 5 April 2001).

On 5 October 1853, or perhaps 15 October 1853, John O'Keeffe established a contract with Goldsborough LeRoy Banger of New York City to purchase land in the Town of West Union, Steuben County, New York. A deed was executed on 20 October 1857 by grantee Dennis O'Keeffe of West Union to purchase title to the property from Goldsborough LeRoy Banger for \$150 (*Steuben County Deeds*, 85:93). This plot in the "Banger Tract" was part of Lot 76; it was bounded by Lot 85 on the north, Lot 77 on the East, Lot 75 on the South, and part of Lot 76 on the West. The deed was witnessed by Mary W. White of No. 43, West 21st Street, New York City. Was John O'Keeffe the father, brother, son or other kinsman of Dennis O'Keeffe?

That the Dennis and Mary (Dunne) O'Keeffe settled in the Town of West Union, Steuben County, New York in 1853 is confirmed by the *1855 New York State Census*. Farmer Dennis "O'Koife" was a naturalized citizen and lived in a log home; Mary was still of Alien status. Next door was the household of John and M. (___) "O'Koife." John (37), M. (30), and his brothers, P.(30) and Dennis (26), were all born in Ireland. John and M. had a three-year-old son J. who was born in Steuben County but they reported that, like Dennis and Mary, they had only resided in West Union for two years. At age 37 in 1855, John was born about 1818. This John "O'Koife" probably matches with the death certificate for John O'Kief who was born 9 March 1819 and died in West Union on 21 November 1902. Obviously, John was not the brother of Dennis¹ and John was born too early to have been the son of Dennis¹; perhaps he was a nephew. In any case, it seems likely that these two O'Keeffe households, each with a resident named Dennis, were closely related.

Immediately following the "O'Koife" households in the 1855 New York State Census of West Union is the household of Dennis and M. Hamilton. Dennis O'Keeffe's grandson, Legouri Michael³ Kieff, would later marry Mary Magdalene³ McGill, granddaughter of Dennis¹ and Margaret (McKendry) Hamilton. John and C. [Catherine (Walsh)] Mahony lived nearby; their son Thomas would later marry Bridget² O'Keeffe (*Dennis*¹). The Mahonys settled in West Union in 1851.

In 1857, Dennis and Mary's daughter Ellen was married at St. Ann's Church in Hornell, Steuben County, New York to Michael Doyle. This ceremony was witnessed by "*Mareticus Kieff and Maria Dixon*." (*Liber Matrimoniorum; Missionis circa Hornell's-Villam* [predecessor to St. Ann's Church], Hornell, NY). *Mareticus* may be latin equivalent of *Maurice*.

John O'Keeffe's contract of 5 October or 15 October 1853 probably encompassed more land than just that purchased by Dennis¹ O'Keeffe, for on 7 December 1860 another deed was executed by grantee Bridget O'Keeffe and "her son" Jeremiah O'Keeffe of West Union to purchase title to the "west half of land contracted... to John O'Keeffe on 15 October 1853" from Goldsborough LeRoy Banger for \$126 (*Steuben County Deeds*, 92:94). This plot in the "Banger Tract" was also part of Lot 76, as surveyed by William Wentz in 1842. It was bounded by Lot 85 on the north, part of Lot 76 on the East belonging to Dorance Austin, Lot 75 on the South, and 22 acres of Lot 76 on the West belonging to W.H. Olmstead. The deed was witnessed by John C. White.

The Bridget O'Keeffe who executed a deed with her son, Jeremiah, in 1860 was not the daughter of Dennis¹ cited above—she had only been born in 1847. This elder Bridget was born circa 1840 and potentially as early as 1820 or earlier if her son, Jeremiah, was old enough himself to be identified as a deed grantee in 1860. Was Bridget the widow or widowed daughter-in-law of the John O'Keeffe who established the land contract in 1853?

The 1860 Federal Census for West Union includes the following households:

- "Dinis Keef" (55), "Marey" (50), "Mackle" (18), Bridget (13), Catherine (10), and "Agnis" (8)
- John "Keffe" (44), Mary (35), "Jerreymi" (8), and Catherine (3)
- "Dinis Keeffe" (23) and Ann (19).

The household of Dennis and Mary (Dunne) O'Keeffe was adjacent to that of Daniel "Coalman"; Dennis' wife, Mary (Dunne) O'Keeffe, and Daniel's wife, Catherine (Dunne) Coleman, were probably sisters as discussed in greater detail below.

Some of the other O'Keeffes in West Union were probably relatives of Dennis¹ O'Keeffe. Another Dennis O'Keeffe died 5 January 1900, age 65; Mary (O'Brien) Keefe, wife of Dennis, also died 5 January 1900. The will of Dennis O'Kieffe, age 67 of West Union (*Steuben County, New York Probate Records*, 31:906), identifies sons Dennis, Patrick and John; daughters Margaret (O'Kieffe) Towney, Mary Ann, and Ellen; and nephew, John P. O'Kieffe. This Dennis O'Kieffe apparently had a brother, John O'Keefe of West Union, who in his will (*Steuben County, New York Probate Records*, 33:151), at age 86, identified wife Mary, son John P. O'Keefe and daughter Catherine. John's land lay on the north side of the highway from Whitesville to Wileyville.

The *1873 Atlas of Steuben County* indicates residences in the Town of West Union for D. O'Keefe (district 4, section 26), D. Keefe (district 3, section 57), and D. Kieff (district 4, section 13)! The residence for D. O'Keefe on Irish Hill Road is the same one later occupied by Dennis' grandson, Legouri Michael³ Kieff.

From the records of St. Mary's Church, it appears likely that Mary (Dunne) O'Keeffe was a sister to, or otherwise closely related to, Catherine (Dunne) Coleman, wife of Daniel Coleman. The Colemans were sponsors at the baptism of Agnes Mahoney in 1873, daughter of Thomas and Bridget (O'Keeffe) Mahoney and granddaughter of Mary (Dunne) O'Keeffe. Other Colemans served as baptismal sponsors for other descendants of Dennis and Mary (Dunne) O'Keeffe as noted below. Catherine (Dunne) Coleman was born 26 November 1824 and died 26 April 1894. Mary and Catherine may or may not have been related to the descendants of Gene Dunne that also worshipped at St. Mary's Church in Rexville and resided just across the town line in Troupsburg.

Unidentified relatives from old photographs include members of the Sweeney and Mahoney families. In August 2000, the identify of Aunt Ellen (O'Kieff) Doyle was established from a marriage record found at St. Ann's Church in Hornell, Steuben County, New York. Dennis and Mary (Dunne) O'Keeffe's son, Michael² O'Kieff, married a native of Sartwell, Annin Township, McKean County, Pennsylvania. Perhaps Mary (Dunne) O'Keeffe was related to some of the Dunns of McKean County. The follow excerpt is from *A History of St. Mary's Catholic Church, Sartwell, Annin Township, McKean County; The First 130 Years: 1847-1977* by Joseph A. Plunkett:

Sartwell Parish records supply us with a list of nearly a hundred of its pioneers, in many instances giving the names of wives and children as well. For the sake of brevity we cite here only the names of heads of families and, where possible, the year of their coming to Sartwell...

1845—Murtaugh and Patrick Driscoll, Dennis Driscoll, Jeremiah and James Splain, Cornelius and Michael Doyle and Michael Doyle, Jr.; James Lundrigan;
 1846—Timothy and Joseph Mullin, Michael and John McAuliffe...
 1852—Bernard and Robert McNally, Thomas Dunn (his two nephews were Bishop Thomas and Father James Brennan), Patrick Dunn, Timothy and James Phalin, Thomas Bly...

It is interesting to ponder a potential connection between Joseph A. Plunkett of St. Mary's Parish in Sartwell, Pennsylvania and Dennis Plunkett Dunne, youngest son of Edward and Mary (McCormick) Dunne, of St. Mary's Parish in Rexville, New York.

In the *Index to Griffith's Valuation of Ireland, 1848-1864*, there is an interesting possibility for the origins of the O'Keeffes, Dunnes and Colemans within the County Cork. Edward Dunne is a rare combination of names in Cork. The only two households so designated in Cork were both in Mogeely Parish, one in Knockanarrig and the other at Lyremountain. Patrick Jr., Patrick Sr. and Thomas Coleman were also residents of Lyremountain. Mogeely Parish included other Colemans and numerous Keefes/Keeffes including John (3), Michael (3), Maurice, and Timothy.

Children:

- i. JOHN KEEFE, identified as resident of the "Southern U.S." in the 1890 administration of Timothy Keefe's estate; assumed to be the eldest son since he was not listed as member of his parents' household in 1850 or 1860.
- ii. MARY, b. St. Lawrence Co., NY ca. 1838 (*1855 NYS Census*); [possibly m. St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Rexville, Town of West Union, Steuben Co., NY 2 Dec 1855 DANIEL O'HAGAN, son of Patrick and Margaret Rose (Treanor) O'Hagan, sponsors Michael O'Hagan and Elenora Keefe [Mary's sister Ellen] (*Register Matrimorium*, St. Mary's, Rexville, NY [hereinafter *SMRM*]).] However, she is identified as simply "Mary Keefe," resident of New York City, in the 1890 administration of Timothy Keefe's estate.
- iii. ELLEN², b. St. Lawrence Co., NY ca. 1839 (*1855 NYS Census*); bapt. St. Mary's Cathedral, Ogdensburg, Town of Oswegatchie, St. Lawrence Co., NY 13 May 1840 by Fr. Bacon as the dau. of "*Denis and Margaret [sic] O'Keefe*" with sponsors Timothy McCarthy and Margaret Dunn; m. as the dau. of "*Denis Kieff et Maria [Dunn]*" at St. Ann's Church, Hornell, Steuben Co., NY 8 May 1857 MICHAEL DOYLE, son of "Cornelis and Elena Doyle," witnessed by "*Mareticus Kieff and Maria Dixon.*" (*Liber Matrimonium; Missionis circa Hornell's-Villam* [St. Ann's Church, Hornell, NY). Michael was b. [Ballyclough Parish], Co. Cork, Ireland ca. 1834; d. Sartwell, PA 17 Sep 1889. "Ellen Doyle" was named as a resident of McKean Co., PA in the 1890 administration of her paternal uncle, Timothy Keefe's estate. Michael Doyle was the son of the Cornelius and Ellen (___) Doyle of County Cork, Ireland and Sartwell, PA. See *Michael McAuliffe of Annin Township, McKean County, Pennsylvania* for more

information on how the Doyles were connected to the family of Ellen's sister-in-law, Mary (McAuliffe) O'Kieff.

J.C. DOYLE, lumberman, Crosby, P.O. Newerf [*sic*], is a native of McKean county, Penn., born in Sartwell, May 10, 1860. He was reared and educated in his native county, and when but a boy began to work in his father's mill, and finally was appointed its superintendent, and on reaching his majority was admitted as a partner, the firm name then being M. Doyle & Son. Mr. Doyle was married October 16, 1884, to Miss Katie C. Butler, of Sartwell, and they have two children: Helen B. and Clayton P. Michael Doyle, father of J.C., came to this country with his parents from County Cork, Ireland, when but nine years of age. At twenty-three he married Ellen Keefe, a native of Canandaigua, N.Y. Michael Doyle died September 17, 1889, at Sartwell, Penn., surrounded by his family and a few intimate friends; the firm name was then changed to that of J.C. Doyle & Bro., who will in future carry on the business on the same system s before. Mrs. Katie C. (Butler) Doyle is a daughter of James Butler, the eldest of seven children, and who came to this country from County Kilkenny, Ireland, about the year 1850, and was married one year later at Cuba, N.Y., to Bridget Phelan, a native of Ireland. ("Norwich Township Biographical Sketches")

Children, except first, bapt. St. Mary's, Sartwell, McKean Co., PA, surname *Doyle*: 1. *John C.*, b. Sartwell, PA 10 May 1860; age 2/12 in *1860 Federal Census*; m. 16 Oct 1884 Katie C. Butler, dau. of James and Bridget (Phelan) Butler. 2. *William Francis*, bapt. 20 Feb 1862, sponsors James Doyle and Ellen Mullins. 3. *Mary Ellen*, bapt. 24 April 1864, sponsors William Doyle and Honora Murry. 4. *James*, bapt. 30 May 1866, sponsors Cornelius Rielly and Mary Mullens; d. probably before 1880. 5. *August Denis*, aka *Denis A.*, bapt. 6 Aug 1869, sponsors Michael McAuliffe and Mary Doyle. 6. *Arthur Raymond*, bapt. 2 Nov 1874, sponsors Michael Keefe and Mary Keefe. 7. *Leonard Alphonse*, bapt. 23 April 1876, sponsors Timothy O'Connor and Mary A. Connelly. 8. *Agnes Joanna*, bapt. 19 March 1881, sponsors Henry Connelly and Ellenora Connelly.

3. iv. MICHAEL, b. Ogdensburg, St. Lawrence Co., NY 11 March 1843; m. MARY MCAULIFFE.
- v. WILLIAM, bapt. St. Mary's Cathedral, Ogdensburg, Town of Oswegatchie, St. Lawrence Co., NY 10 Feb 1845 by. Fr. Mackey as the son of "*Denis Keef*" and "*Mary Dunn*" with sponsors John Halvey and Anne Kelly; d. before 1850.
- vi. BRIGID ANN, b. St. Lawrence Co., NY ca. 1847; bapt. St. Mary's Cathedral, Ogdensburg, Town of Oswegatchie, St. Lawrence Co., NY 25 June 1847

as the dau. of "*Denis Keefe*" and "*Mary Dunn*" with sponsors James Feely and Cattery Hardy; d. Town of West Union, Steuben Co., NY 6 Dec 1902; m. St. Mary's, Rexville, NY 6 April 1865 THOMAS MAHONEY, sponsors Michael O'Keefe and Marsha Jane [Harmother?] (*SMRM*), b. Ireland 9 March 1838, d. 9 Oct 1912, son of Joseph and Catherine (Walsh) Mahoney; bur. St. Mary's Cemetery, Rexville, Town of West Union, NY. Bridget "O'Keef" was a servant in the household of her parents' neighbors, John and "Elliner" Shean in 1860 (*1860 Federal Census, West Union*). In the *1873 Atlas of Steuben Co., NY*, "T. Mahoney" is designated on the north side of what is now known as Mahoney Road; this house is still standing. Thomas was farming 150 acres in West Union in 1891 (*Directory of Steuben County*).

Children, surname *Mahoney*: 1. *Anna* m. West Union 10 July 1907 Terrance Dempsey; resided in Troupsburg, Steuben Co., NY. Anna graduated from St. James Mercy Hospital School of Nursing in Hornell, Steuben Co., NY in 1934. She worked at her alma mater for 42 years; mother of the following children, surname *Dempsey*: i. *Margaret*. ii. *Robert*, d. before 9 March 2001; resided in Hornell, NY. iii. *Madeline*, d. St. James Mercy Hospital, Hornell, NY 5 Sep 1985; bur. St. Mary's Cemetery, Hornell, Steuben Co., NY; m. Florian Raymond Widmer. iv. *Rita A.*, b. Rexville, NY 15 Oct 1915; d. McAuley Manor, Hornell, NY 9 March 2001; bur. St. Mary's Cemetery, Fremont, NY; m. (1) 10 Jan 1951 (1) Harold Smith, d. Nov 1969; m. (2) 25 Sep 1972 Charles Williams, d. October 1972; resided in Arkport, NY. v. *J. Eugene "Gene"*, d. before 9 March 2001; resided in Umatilla, FL. vi. *Sister Mary Agnes*, d. before 9 March 2001, resided in Allegany, NY. 2. *Mary*, b. 31 Jan 1866; bapt. 4 Feb 1866, sponsors James Hamilton and Catherine O'Keefe; probably served as a baptismal sponsor for Dennis Edmund³ Kieff (*Michael¹, Dennis¹*). 3. *Catherine*, b. 2 May 1869; bapt. 19 May 1869, sponsors Michael Keefe and Margaret Coleman. 4. *Theresa Ann*, b. 20 Aug 1868; bapt. 5 Sep 1868, sponsors Jeremiah Kelagher and Agnes Keefe. 5. *John*, b. NY ca 1870 (*1880 Federal Census*); probably d. young. 6. *Alice*, b. 29 Oct 1871; bapt. 1871, sponsors Dennis and Mary O'Keefe. 7. *Agnes*, b. 21 April 1873; bapt. 1873, sponsors Daniel¹ and Catherine (Dunne) Coleman. 7. *Thomas Lewis*, b 21 June 1888; d. 13 Dec 1932. 8. *Matilda*, b. NY ca. 1877 (*1880 Federal Census*). 9. *Anna*, b. NY ca. 1879 (*1880 Federal Census*).

- vii. CATHERINE, b. [Town of Canandaigua], Ontario Co., NY ca. 1849 (*1855 NYS Census*); [possibly m. (1) James² Hamilton, b. Canada ca. 1843, son of Daniel¹ and Alicia (McAuley) Hamilton].; m. (?) before 3 Feb 1890 [WILLIAM E.] DUBOIS [b. NY ca. 1849; Cigar Dealer] when "Kate" was identified as resident of New York City in the administration of Timothy Keefe's estate; probably identical with the Kate Dubois, age 29, b. NY found in the 1880 Federal Census, residing in the 22nd Ward, District 4, Brooklyn, Kings Co., New York City.

[Child, surname *Dubois*: 1. *Louis J.*, b. NY ca. 1870.]

- viii. AGNES, b. [Canandaigua], Ontario Co., NY ca. 1851 (*1855 NYS Census*); m. before 3 Feb 1890 ___ SPARKS when she was identified as resident of New York City in the administration of Timothy Keefe's estate; probably identical with Agnes Keefe, age 28, b. NY found in the 1880 Federal Census teaching at a Catholic girls' school in Flushing, Queens Co., New York City.

3. MICHAEL² O'KIEFF (*Dennis¹ O'Keefe*) was born at Ogdensburg, St. Lawrence County, New York on 11 March 1843; he died at home on Church Street in the Village of Rexville, Town of West Union, Steuben County, New York at 9:00 pm on 18 October 1924 of arteriosclerosis and senility; and was buried in St. Mary's Cemetery in Rexville on 21 October 1924 (*Death Certificate*). Michael "Keef" was married at St. Mary's Church, Annin Township, McKean County, Pennsylvania on 28 September 1870 to MARY² MCAULIFFE (*Michael¹*), as witnessed by "Jeremiah Kellahor" and "Eliza McCauliff." Mary was born near Sartwell, Eldred Township, McKean County, Pennsylvania on 17 March 1849; she was baptized at St. Mary's Church, Sartwell, Pennsylvania on 20 May 1849 with sponsors Jeremiah Reilly and Mary Mullens. Mary died at home in Rexville, New York at 3:00 pm on 19 April 1934 of senility; a fractured femur from a fall on an icy cement sidewalk in front of her home three months prior was a contributing factor to her death (*Death Certificate*). Mary was buried in St. Mary's Cemetery on 23 April 1934. Mary was the daughter of Michael¹ and Bridget (Regan) McAuliffe of Sartwell, Eldred Township, McKean County, Pennsylvania; her death certificate incorrectly identifies her parents as Dennis and Mary (Driscoll) MacAuliffe.

In 1860, "Mackle Keef" was a day laborer still residing in his parents' home.

According to their granddaughter, Mary Rita (Kieff) Brown, Michael and Mary reportedly lived at two different places on Irish Hill in the Town of West Union before moving down to the Village of Rexville. As the only son of Dennis¹ and Mary (Dunne) O'Keefe, Michael undoubtedly inherited his father's farm on Irish Hill following Dennis' death in 1880 or Mary's death in 1889. Legouri Michael³ Kieff began occupying the O'Keefe farm in 1916.

On 18 August 1920, just after their fiftieth wedding anniversary, Michael and Mary purchased a house and lot on Church Street in the Village of Rexville (*Steuben County, New York Deeds*, 365:434). They had either shared the O'Keefe farm on Irish Hill with their son Legouri since 1916 or resided elsewhere on Irish Hill from 1916 to 1920. The latter scenario would be consistent with story told by Mary Rita (Kieff) Brown. Michael and Mary's home still stands, largely unchanged, two doors down from the former rectory of St. Mary's Church, on the south side of Church Street.

In Mary's will, (*Steuben County, New York Probate Records*, Will 53:184 and File A-21415), she identified "my house and lot on Church Street in the Village of Rexville." She also directed her executors to "sell my 240 acre farm located in the Town of Jasper." However, by the time that the administration of the estate was executed "the 240 acres farm lands, Town of Jasper, Steuben Co., NY were lost to the estate by reason of tax sales prior to the decedent's death and were not an asset." With \$2,000 worth of real estate and \$5,000 worth of personal estate, one wonders why Mary or her family would have allowed the farm to be lost in a tax sale. This farm in Jasper is presumed to be identical with the one occupied by her son, Legouri, and his family prior to 1916.

According to Mary Rita (Kieff) Brown, Michael was a patient and sentimental man. When he quit smoking he used to drive behind another wagon where the driver was smoking just to get a whiff. Mary was a stern woman but she had a heart of gold. During the late 1800s, she prepared victims of black diphtheria for burial; they were buried at night.

In his will, Michael was identified as "Michael O'Kieff, sometimes used Kieff." In the administration of his estate, it is stated:

The testator always signed his signature and used the name O'Kieff while the other members of the family spelled the sir name [*sic*, surname] of the family as Kieff. (*Steuben County, New York Probate Records*, Will 48:406 and File A-21414)

All of Michael's and Mary's children dropped the "O" from "O'Kieff," except their son Harry. According to family stories, their daughters Catherine, Margaret, and Mary sought work in New York City and encountered discrimination. They quickly dropped the "O" and changed the spelling of the family name to Kieff to hide their ethnic heritage. Their brothers back home soon followed suit. Apparently, Michael and Mary made a compromise; they kept the "O" but changed the spelling! However, as indicated above, someone in West Union was already using the Kieff spelling as early as 1873.

Children, surname *Kieff* except Harry, probably all born on Irish Hill in the Town of West Union, Steuben County, New York:

- i. GERTRUDE³, b. 22 Jan 1872; bapt. 3 Feb 1872; d. 1882; sponsors Thomas Feeley and Elizabeth McAuliff; Elizabeth McAuliffe was probably her maternal aunt.
- ii. STEPHEN J., b. 1873; d. 1896. He was working in the Panhandle of Texas with his brother Frank when his appendix burst and he died.
- iii. WILLIAM EMMETT, b. 23 Sep 1875; bapt. 8 Dec 1875; sponsors John Coleman and Joanne O'Keefe; d. Jasper, Steuben Co., NY about 1902.
- iv. GEORGE FRANCIS "FRANK G.," b. 1 Nov 1877; bapt. 13 Nov 1877; sponsors Thomas and [Brigid (O'Keefe)] Mahoney; m. KATE MCCARTON; no descendants; resided in Bradford, PA; he was involved in the oil business.
- v. MARY K., b. 30 July 1879; bapt. 15 Aug 1879; sponsors John Carey and Teresa Morton; m. 26 Aug 1908 JOHN TALBOT by Rev. J.E. Casey, sponsors F.G. Kieff and Theresa Kieff; resided at 122 Sterling Place, Brooklyn, NY at time of father's death; resided in Kings Co., NY at time of mother's death.
 Child, surname *Talbot*: 1. *Marian Jean*, b. 9 July 1909; d. 25 March 1981; m. Joseph W. Ryan; resided at 144-50 Roosevelt Ave., Flushing, NY at time of grandmother's death.
- vi. DENNIS EDMUND, b. 9 May 1881; bapt. 24 May 1881; sponsors John Grumley and Mary Mahoney; d. 1962; m. AGNES (____) MOSKOW, m. (1) _____ Moskow; resided in Rexville, NY at time of father's death.
 Child, by _____ Moskow, surname *Kieff*: 1. *Harry*.

4. vii. LEGOURI MICHAEL (bapt. MICHAEL LIGOURI O'KEEFFE), b. 23 March 1884; m. MARY MAGDALENE MCGILL.
- viii. HARRY O'KIEFF, b. 1885; d. 1955; resided in Rexville, NY at the time of father's death.
- ix. CATHERINE, b. 18 April 1887; bapt. 8 May 1887; sponsors John P. O'Keefe and Agnes Lee; d. 8 Oct 1912.
- x. MARGARET "MARGE," b. 13 Feb 1889; bapt. 3 March 1889; sponsors James McCormick and Jennie McCormick; m. (1) JACK MCKINLEY; m. (2) _____ SCAHILL; completed nurse's training in New York City; resided at 122 Sterling Place, Brooklyn, NY at time of father's death; resided at 180 E. Main St., Gouverneur, St. Lawrence Co., NY at the time of mother's death.
- xi. TERESA, b. 23 Dec 1890; bapt. 14 Jan 1891; sponsors John Sweeney and Maude Sweeney; d. Jan 1915; m. 2 Aug 1911 FARLEY PAUL DRAKE of Jasper, NY, b. ca. 1891, son of Martin and Emily (Wyckoff) Drake, m. (2) 1 March 1916 _____ HARKENRIDER.
 Child, surname *Drake*: 1. *Robert*.

4. LEGOURI MICHAEL³ KIEFF (baptized as MICHAEL LIGOURI O'KEEFFE) (*Michael² O'Kieff, Dennis¹ O'Keefe*) was born, probably on Irish Hill, in the Town of West Union, Steuben County, New York on 23 March 1884. He was baptized at St. Mary's Church, Rexville, Town of West Union, Steuben County, New York on 4 April 1884; his maternal grandparents, Michael and Bridget (Regan) McAuliffe, were the sponsors. He died at 66 Maple Street, Canisteo, Steuben County, New York on 4 February 1961. Legouri was married at St. Mary's Church by Rev. John E. Casey on 10 January 1912 to MARY MAGDALENE³ MCGILL (*James², William^{1-A}*); Daniel McKinley and Catherine Hamilton were sponsors. Mary was born 31 January 1889 and died 24 August 1965. She was the only child of James² and Rose Ann (Hamilton) McGill. They are buried in the cemetery adjacent to St. Mary's Church in Rexville, New York.

Legouri was about 5'10" tall with blue eyes and light red hair. He attended school on Irish Hill through approximately eighth grade. Following marriage, Legouri and Mary first settled near Jasper, Steuben County, New York. This farm, on Van Scoit Road, was probably identical with the one owned by Legouri's parents; perhaps it was a wedding gift. In January 1916, they moved to the O'Keefe farm on Irish Hill. The house and outbuildings on Irish Hill Road have since burned; all that remains are some trees and foundations. In 1949, they moved to 66 Maple Street in Canisteo, Steuben County, New York. This residence is currently the home of their granddaughter, Mary Magdaline (Brown) Drake. Legouri died at home of bladder cancer. Mary was about 5'6" with brown eyes and dark brown hair.

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Index

This is a complete every-name index for the entire document; each woman is indexed under her maiden name and her married name(s). A question mark, (?), indicates an unknown maiden name.

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