

Wednesday, February 16, 1977

My Dear Lloyd,

Here are some stories told to me by my mother. Your great-grandmother, Ellen Hayes, was born in Limerick Ireland to Patrick and Joanna Hayes in 1834. She had several brothers and sisters as you see by the diagram. When she was about eight years of age she and her sister Bridget came home from school one day and Bridget had what they called a stone bruise. But from that day on, Bridget could not walk in her leg stopped growing. I think it might have been polio. So Ellen did not go to school again. She was kept home to help her mother with Bridget and the housework. Ellen's father was a weaver and an educated man, and had quite a few weavers working for him. Many evenings the men had to work overtime and then Ellen's father would read to them. So Ellen listened also and that is how she got a little education she had. Ellen was very good at quoting Shakespeare and many other stories. She could also tell how her father described the future with trains in the air and under the sea. She lived to be 92 and saw the planes and the submarines and many other things her father told her about.

When Ellen was about 19 or 20, she married Daniel Hanley and came to America. They landed in Germantown, Pennsylvania, where Daniel worked in the worsted Mills and contracted tuberculosis. When Ellen's father died, her brothers and sisters and mother came to America. Bridget who was lame, and her mother lived with Ellen. Bridget had been educated to be a seamstress, particularly on riding habits; so the wealthy people would come and take her to their home for a few days while she sewed for them. When she thought she could not work anymore (she had saved quite a bit of money), she went into a convent and was buried from their in Germantown. Ellen's mother lived with her and your grandmother, Catherine, told me the story how she would always sit on the porch and the Quaker ladies of the town used to stop and talk with her and give her a jar of jam or jelly, etc. My mother was very interested in them as they wore it the old-fashioned habits of the day (mother was about seven years of age at the time). Her grandmother was buried in Germantown and after that Ellen and her family came to Brooklyn. At that time your grandmother, Kathryn Hanley, was seven years of age and it was not long before her father died and she took care of her brothers while her mother went to work. When she was 14 years of age, her mother (Ellen) married Mr. Graham and they had two children, Daniel and Mary.

When Ellen was in America awhile, her brothers started to come to America. They came to Germantown but eventually wandered elsewhere. Edward Hayes went to Erie, Pennsylvania. He became an alderman and Justice of the Peace. He had a son, Edward, and a daughter, Ida. I visited them in Erie and had a

wonderful time. They were much older than myself but treated me very nice. They also visited us in Brooklyn. Ellen's other brother, John wandered away and they did not hear from him until he was dying. He had no family. The other brother, Patrick, came to New York and worked for an insurance company. He married Kate and had a son, James, who was the same age as Sydney and they were very friendly when they were young. James was a very smart young man. He became an accountant and a lawyer. He is married and lives somewhere in New York. Ellens sister, Mary, I never knew except for the fact that she lived in New Jersey and was married to a man named "Morrison" and she had two daughters.

Ellen had three children; Katherine, your grandmother, a son, Daniel, who died at 28 years of age and a son, Patrick, who was a policeman. One day Patrick was on duty at the waterfront and was shot and lived for three years after that and when he died left six children, all grown, and his wife. After that we never saw them again as my mother had a difference with his wife.

Ellen married the second time to Patrick Graham and had two children, Daniel and Mary. Daniel married and had no children. Mary married George O'Neill and had six children. I still hear from some of the children at Christmas. They are your grandmother's stepsister's children and if you want any more details on them, I could find out; but I do not think that you are interested in them.

Love

Aunt Grace and Uncle Sidney.