

# **Cornelius Boyle and Family: North Dakota Pioneers**

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## **Part Four**

### **The Boyle Beginnings: Ontario Antecedents**

*By Daniel C. Boyle, youngest grandchild of Cornelius.*

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## Chapter One — Roseanne Boyle

I will start with **Roseanne Boyle, ancestor of us all**. She arrived in Holland Landing, Ontario in October 1844. The records show her arriving with four children, but there were actually five, perhaps babies were not counted. Her youngest, Cornelius, was only two years old. Roseanne was indigent; a third party had paid the costs of her transportation.

She came with her five sons John, Peter, Patrick, Tully, and Cornelius from Innishatieve Townland, Termonmagurk Parish, County Tyrone, Ireland to Mara Township, Ontario County, Ontario Province, Canada. The County Tyrone village nearest to Innishatieve is Carrickmore.

Roseanne and her husband, Patrick Boyle, along with their two oldest sons had moved to Innishatieve in about 1835. Patrick either lost or sold the lease he had held on an eight-acre farm in Aughinduffe Townland in Killeeshil Parish. Patrick's brother Conor had moved from Aughinduffe to Innishatieve a few years earlier. (Conor's descendants still live there.)

Patrick and Roseanne were married in Killeeshil parish January 4, 1830. Aughinduffe (now spelled Ackinduff) and Innishatieve are about ten miles apart. Boyle was Roseanne's maiden name as well as her married name. The date of Patrick's death is not recorded. It likely occurred in the 1842-1844 time frame.

I do not know whether Roseanne and her children traveled to Ontario alone or with others from Innishatieve or Aughinduffe. However, many surnames common in Killeeshil Parish, County Tyrone in 1828 also are found in the early Catholic Church registers covering Brock and Mara Townships in Ontario. One township, Thorah, separates Mara from Brock. Besides Boyle and Doyle, the names include Bloomer, Corrigan, Coyle, Devlin, Donnelly, Fox, Kelly, Loughran, and McVeagh. Brock and Mara townships were not entirely strange territories for Roseanne. Mara is pronounced "Mare a"

Roseanne came to an area where she had relatives. I believe two of her sisters were already in Brock and that the Doyles residing in Brock were relatives on Roseanne's mother's side. The sisters were Ann Boyle who had married Daniel Doyle and Mary Boyle who had married Thomas Nellis (sometimes' spelled Neilus). Daniel Doyle died April 10, 1894 in Mara Township, aged 85 years. His wife, Ann, was dead before the 1851-1852 census.

Finding the record of Roseanne's marriage in Brock Township was a real discovery. The ceremony occurred on June 1, 1845. Few records were being kept then. It was the first entry on a register, which had only three or four items. This was a very early time in the settlement of Brock, before railroads, schools, or churches.

The witnesses at Roseanne's wedding to **James Kaine** were Patrick Doyle and Mary Doyle. A Patrick Doyle was a first settler in Brock on May 2, 1827 when he claimed the N 1/2 of Lot 9 in Concession 8. He acquired it as a free grant. I am reasonably sure that these Patrick Doyles are the same person. This Patrick Doyle and his wife Mary (maiden name, Toal) were both long lived. According to the tombstones, he died November 11, 1882, aged 92 years. She died December 27, 1888, aged 96 years.

**James Kaine** arrived in Ontario from Ireland as a young man. He served seven years as an indentured servant before acquiring property in 1837 in Vaughan Township near present day Toronto. He was living in Brock Township when he married. The spelling of his name varies from document to document. The later Ontario records spell it Kean(e). From the census records he appears to have been a year or two older than Roseanne. (Roseanne's name shows as Rosey on her marriage record and as Rosa on later Kean(e)-related documents.) I find no record of a previous James Kaine marriage.

James was first settler on the north 1/2 of Lot 10 in the 6th Concession of Brock West Township, Ontario County. He received the title to this property June 2, 1857, but probably had already been living on it for many years. The 1861 agricultural census entry for him is comparatively meager. James owned 100 acres, but only about 20 were cleared. Five acres in fall wheat yielded 60 bushels; 14 acres in spring wheat yielded 240 bushels; a 1/4 acre in potatoes yielded five bushels. He had harvested two tons of hay. In addition he owned one horse, two cows, and four pigs valued at \$76.

I have visited this farm. The present buildings are on the same site as those shown on a 1877 Directory, but do not date to that time. Presently the farm is used as a feed lot. The land on either side of the property has been returned to timber. Land in this area has been used in a variety of ways over the years, grain farming, orchards, dairying, and now timber. The farm is now in the upper range of acceptable commuting distance to Toronto.

Roseanne had her last child on November 17, 1846, when **James Joseph Keane** was born. His baptismal record shows his name only as James. But all the other records show his name as Joseph. He eventually married Johanna Cuddahee and was the father of six children including Mary and Rose who later had a restaurant in a hotel in Dickinson, North Dakota.

James Keane did take on the parenting responsibility for the five Boyle children besides his own child. At the time of the marriage the Boyle children were 14, 12, about 8, 6 and 3 years old. By the time of the first census in 1851-1852 the only Boyle children in the household were Tully and Cornelius. John, Peter and Patrick were already gone although only John would have been as old as 20. I do not know whether this says more about the time and place or the family situation.

The names of both Tully and Cornelius are subject to confusion. Tully is used in Irish records, and Toal in Ontario records, except for the 1851 census record where he is listed

as Tool. Cornelius has also been a problem. On his baptismal record in County Tyrone he is shown as Constantine; on the 1851-52 Brock township, Ontario census record, he is Conrad. Such problems are commonly encountered when doing family history.

The 1871 census record for **John, the oldest son of Roseanne**, is sad indeed. It shows him alone with five children ages 11, 7, 5, 2 and 1. The children were Annie, Mary, Roseann, Patrick and Margaret. According to a tombstone, the mother had died February 17, 1870, aged 33 years, probably in childbirth with Margaret or shortly afterwards.

There is an interesting story about this family. John Boyle and his wife, Roseanne Doyle, were first cousins. She was the daughter of Daniel Doyle and Ann Boyle, who had been married in Killeeshil Parish, County Tyrone in 1828 or 1829. They were in Brock township by 1836 when their son Francis was baptized. I think they came to Brock soon after their marriage. Ann Boyle, I believe, was a sister of Roseanne. In any event the priest would not marry John and Roseanne so they lived apart after the birth of their first daughter in 1860. (At least they do not show in the same household in the 1861 census.) Eventually after the birth of a second child, and with a third one on the way, they were married. The stipend paid to the priest was \$20, a substantial amount of money then.

John Boyle is shown as first settler on the East 1/2 of Lot 15, Concession 9, Mara Township. The date is January 1857. They later lived in Pennsylvania where their second child was born, but they returned to Mara township for their marriage on January 16, 1865.

Patrick Boyle, son of John Boyle and Roseanne Doyle, emigrated from Mara to North Dakota in the 1890s. He married Catherine McGrath and founded the Boyle family of New Rockford, Eddy County, North Dakota..

**Peter Boyle, second son of Roseanne**, is listed as the first settler on part of Lot 18, Concession 6, Mara Township. The date is March 1877. Peter died August 18, 1914. His stone calculates his age correctly as 82. (Ages on old tombstones are notorious for being inaccurate). His wife, Bridget Kelly, died April 9, 1911, aged 75. They are buried in St. Columbkille's Cemetery, Uptergrove, Ontario. Peter and Bridget were married February 5, 1856. She was born in Ontario, but her father likely was from Killeeshil Parish, County Tyrone. The children of Peter and Bridget were Roseann, John, Arthur James, Patrick, Susan, Peter, Bridget, Elizabeth, Barbara, Louisa, Catherine (called Lavinia) and Mary.

During the 1861 census, **Patrick Boyle, third son of Roseanne**, was visiting the Keanes in Brock with his wife, Sarah Devine, and children. His children, born before 1861, were Patrick, Hugh, and John. Patrick emigrated with his family from Ontario to a farm in Kalamazoo Township, Kalamazoo County, Michigan. Children born later were Rossana, Edward, Bridget, Catherine and Peter. The youngest two were born in Michigan.

My research on **Tole (Tully) Boyle, the fourth son of Roseanne**, is incomplete. I have not found Tole in a census record after 1851. He did, however, own land in Mara Township and is listed in a 1877 Directory. He was first settler on Lot 20, Concession 12, Mara Township in February 1864. He was single at the time he last sold property in Mara Township. Tole was often a sponsor at the baptisms of his nieces and nephews.

**Now back to James Keane and Rosa.** In September 1868, they sold their farm to their son, Joseph Keane. At that time real property of a married couple was held in the name of the husband with the wife having a "dower" interest. If the husband died, the wife would have one-third interest in the property. Two thirds would be divided among the children. The husband could not sell the property unless the wife agreed by "Barring her Dower."

This is leading up to a story. When the farm was sold the consideration seemed strange. It was an explicit transfer of title, but the consideration was called an annuity or rentcharge. James Keane would get \$120 a year from his son Joseph and Rosa would get \$50. Joseph was required to pay off a \$700 mortgage.

I do not know if this was an old mortgage or a new which gave James and Rosa a cushion to start their retirement. By October 1869, Rosa had decided that \$50 a year was not enough; she wanted \$75. Instead of this being worked out informally, it went to court. Joseph Keane agreed to pay the \$75 annuity to his half-brother, Cornelius Boyle, as trustee for their mutual mother, Rosa Keane. The \$75 was to remain out of the control of her husband, James Keane. If Joseph was more than 40 days late with an annuity payment, Cornelius had the right to enter Joseph's property and take something that could be sold for enough to cover the \$75 payment. I don't know what this means. It does seem like there was a problem within the family, but maybe it was the way things ordinarily were done then. In any event, it was all handled by a law student!

James Keane died in Brock Township in 1878. His death certificate lists him as "gentleman," one who did not labor for his living. According to Rosa's tombstone, she died September 6, 1872. Her tombstone is in St. Columbkille's Cemetery just outside of Uptergrove, Ontario. Uptergrove is in Mara township on the outskirts of Orillia, Ontario. Near her stone are those of her son Peter Boyle and his wife, Bridget Kelly; and the stone of her daughter-in-law Roseanne Doyle, wife of John Boyle. Also nearby are stones for Margaret Donnelly and Owen Doyle. They were the parents of Ellen Doyle, who married Rosa's youngest Boyle son, Cornelius.

I wonder about Rosa's tombstone. It was obviously erected by her Boyle children. It reads, "Rose, wife of Patrick Boyle, died September 6, 1872, aged 75 years. There is no recognition of a second marriage even though James Keane was alive when Rosa died. I believe Rose was closer to 70 than 75 when she died. Her last child was born in 1846. The various census entries suggest a birth year of 1801 or 1802.

## Chapter Two — Cornelius Boyle And the Doyles

Now let us deal with **Cornelius Boyle, fifth son of Roseanne**, and the Doyles. Cornelius shows in the 1851 census with his mother and stepfather. I have not found him in the 1861 census. But apparently he came to work for his relative Owen Doyle and his wife, Margaret Donnelly, sometime in 1861 or early 1862. Owen Doyle had been the first settler on the South 1/2 of Lot 20 in Concession 10 Mara township in January 1853. He acquired the property by sale. A John Doyle, probably the second oldest son of Owen, was first settler on a nearby piece of property in November 1848.

By 1862, Owen Doyle and Margaret were well along in years. The 1861 census shows them as living with their youngest daughter, Ellen, and with Bridget Donnelly, the spinster sister of Margaret. No younger men were in evidence. The 1861 agricultural census showed Owen's farm to be prosperous. It had 100 acres; 50 were under cultivation with 27 in crop, 22 in pasture, and 50 were wild. Cash value was \$1600, implements were worth \$22. Eight acres of spring wheat yielded 100 bushels; two acres of barley, 50 bushels; four acres of peas, 80 bushels; 12 acres of oats, 300 bushels; an acre of potatoes, 150 bushels; one half acre of turnips, 50 bushels. In addition they produced two tons of hay, 20 yards of fulled cloth and 40 yards of flannel. They had two bulls over 3 years of age, five steers or heifers, three milk cows, two horses over two years old worth \$130, ten sheep, and six pigs. The value of the livestock was \$237. They also produced 200 pounds of butter and four 200 pound barrels of pork.

I cannot date the immigration to Ontario of Owen Doyle and his family for certain. One record for an Owen Doyle shows him arriving in 1846. I believe this to be our Owen Doyle. He, of course, had to be in Ontario before 1853, when he acquired the land. Often title to property was not obtained for years after first settling on it. Owen may have spent some time in Brock Township before moving up to Mara. There is only one township, Thorah, between Brock and Mara. Since there were several Doyle families and the same names were used, it is difficult to sort them out.

An Ellen Doyle was a sponsor at a baptism of Mary Doyle, daughter of John Doyle, in Brock in March 1846. Also an Ellen Doyle was a witness at the wedding of Patrick Doyle and Elizabeth Crayton in Brock on October 18, 1848. I believe these Ellen Doyles are the same person; my grandmother, the daughter of Owen Doyle and Margaret Donnelly, then newly arrived in Brock Township.

Patrick and John likely were Ellen's older brothers. In addition, I believe the Henry Doyle, who married Catherine Nellis was another brother of Ellen. Henry apparently died young, since his widow later married Hugh Corrigan. (To emphasize the number of Doyles who were in Brock, try this for size. On October 9, 1844 when 16 children were confirmed in Brock, 11 of them were Doyles).

Our immediate Doyle ancestors almost certainly had left Ireland in 1846 before the Famine was widespread. Roseanne Boyle, whatever her problems in being left a widow with five young sons, did not experience the Famine at all. She was already in Brock and married a second time by the time the potato blight struck Ireland in the Fall of 1845. The Famine started in 1845, was really serious by 1847, and continued on through 1849. The Famine was not as severe in County Tyrone as it was in the extreme West and South of Ireland.

Still it was severe enough. Conor Boyle, brother-in-law of Roseanne was reduced to hauling turf (peat) in a donkey cart from Innishatieve into Dungannon, a town ten or so miles away. He would get enough money from his load of turf to buy a pig's head. The pig's head would be prepared into soup with oatmeal and cabbage. This was a lucky family!

**The children of Owen Doyle and Margaret Donnelly** were baptized in Killeeshil Parish, County Tyrone, Ireland. The family lived in Aughinduffe townland. They were Patrick, baptized March 23, 1820; John, September 9, 1821; Anne, July 1823; Henry, July 10, 1825; Francis, no record, but about 1829; and Margaret, October 16, 1831. A gap in the records accounts for the youngest daughter, Ellen, not being listed. She was born about 1835 or 1836. (For any modern day visitor, Aughinduffe Townland is north of the main road midway between Ballygawley and Dungannon).

Margaret Doyle married John Harrington from County Cork, Ireland in Mara township, Ontario. They immigrated to Oakwood, near Grafton, in Walsh County, Dakota Territory. She died there in 1888. One of her descendants was Ann Van Sickle, who lived in Fargo, North Dakota.

Francis Doyle married and had a large family in Ontario. In his later years he decided to see the American West. His wife was content to stay, so he went without her. He died on the home Boyle farm in Highland township, Cass County, North Dakota. The date was May 23, 1904; he was 77.

Seeing the American West meant Francis spent his last years living with his three bachelor nephews, Henry, Francis and Martin Boyle. Francis Doyle is buried in St. Mary's Cemetery, Sheldon, North Dakota. There is a memorial to him there and a newer one at St. Columbkille's cemetery in Uptergrove, Ontario. His wife, Ellen Murray, lived on in Ontario until 1930 when she died, aged 93. Ellen was addicted to tobacco in a clay pipe. She is buried in St. Columbkille's Cemetery, near Uptergrove.

**On May 6, 1862 Cornelius Boyle married Ellen Doyle** daughter of Owen Doyle and Margaret Donnelly in St. Columbkille's Church in Uptergrove. That church had been opened and blessed as recently as 1857. Cornelius and Ellen had to get a dispensation to wed as they were second cousins. According to the marriage record, their dispensation came from the Holy See of Rome. Other records usually mention dispensation by a

power invested in the priest, or by the Archbishop of Toronto. I do not know what this means; whether it is a variant wording, or indicates a problem that required very special handling. Cornelius is listed as 21 years old and Ellen as 27. The witnesses were Thomas Neilus and Mary McVay. I believe Thomas Neilus was a cousin of Cornelius; his mother being Mary, a sister of Roseanne.

'The next year, Cornelius bought Owen's farm. Cornelius and Ellen's children began arriving promptly. Owen, Jan 11, 1863; Patrick, April 5, 1864; John, February 11, 1866; Cornelius, October 15, 1867; Peter (I have not found a baptismal record for him); Henry, Jan 16, 1873; Francis, Jan 13, 1874; Mary, December 27, 1875, and Martin, May 13, 1878. (These are all birth, not baptism dates).

Ellen's mother, Margaret Donnelly, died Jan 17, 1866. The register says she died after having received the last Sacraments with great faith. The church register indicates she was 70, but her tombstone shows she was 74. Owen died in February 1870, aged 78, according to the stone. Margaret's death was one of the few recorded in the Church register in those years.

In Oct 1869, Cornelius sold the farm he had purchased from Owen. In 1863, the purchase price had been \$40. In 1869, the selling price was \$1850. It is interesting that Ellen signed the documents although she had her mark witnessed later when they were acquiring property in Dakota Territory. Cornelius always had his mark witnessed until just before his death in 1894, when his signature appeared as C. Boyle on at least one mortgage. But after the death of Cornelius, Ellen administered the estate and signed all the necessary documents. The property Cornelius sold in 1869 was free of any encumbrances. The children from Owen to Cornelius would have been born on this first farm owned by Cornelius and Ellen.

Cornelius was not without a farm for long. In May 1870, he bought the South 1/2 of Lot 13 in Concession 8 of Mara township. In December 1877, he added the adjacent South 1/2 of Lot 14 of Concession 8. Peter and the younger children would have been born on this farm. I have seen this farm. It is level and appears to be fertile. It is located on the main road going south of Orillia, Ontario. Orillia is located on the shores of the large Lake Simcoe.. Within a mile or so of that farm is a two storey brick school, no longer used. It has a corner stone dated 1880. The older Boyle boys may have had a term or two in what must have been an impressive structure when new, and a far cry from what was available in Ransom County, Dakota Territory. None of the buildings on the farm appear to date to the time of Cornelius and Ellen.

In December 1880, Cornelius and Ellen sold their farm before moving on to Dakota Territory. They sold the 200 acre farm for \$6,000. The sale was subject to assuming a \$4,500 mortgage. So apparently the land then was worth \$10,500 (Canadian dollars). Cornelius had paid \$1760 for the 100 acres he purchased in 1870, and \$1,600 for the 100 adjacent acres he had purchased in 1876. Cornelius and Ellen with their family remained

on the farm after they sold it at least through early 1881. The entire family is enumerated in the 1881 census for Mara. Living with them is Bridget Donnelly, the aged spinster aunt of Ellen, who also emigrated with them from Mara to Dakota Territory. Bridget is listed as 74 in this census.

It is not entirely clear when the family left for Dakota Territory. Records show that Cornelius and Owen declared their intent to become citizens at Fargo, Dakota Territory on April 5, 1881. Patrick's papers indicate that he arrived at the same time, although he did not declare his intent to become a citizen until August 1, 1882. The Dakota Territory homestead papers indicate that Cornelius and Owen filed papers on their Ransom County, Dakota Territory homesteads in October 1881, but did not stay over the winter. I believe they returned to Ontario and came out again in the Spring of 1882. Records show that Bridget Donnelly arrived in Ransom County, Dakota Territory in May, 1882 and declared her intent to become a citizen on June 4, 1882. This is probably when Ellen and the younger Boyle children first arrived.

In his declaration of intent to become a citizen, Owen Boyle exaggerated his age by several years. He claimed to be 25 years old when in fact he was barely 18. Patrick also exaggerated his age. He claimed a birth year of 1861 instead of the correct 1864. The opposite phenomenon occurred with Bridget Donnelly. When she homesteaded in 1882 she claimed to be 65, when it is more likely she was 75. I think this was about meeting homesteading age requirements, at least 21 years old but no more than 65.

A puzzle that remains is the amount of money Cornelius and Ellen brought with them to Dakota. No one I have asked can easily determine what the exchange rate between the Canadian and United States dollar was in 1881-1882.

### **Chapter Three — Other Relatives who came from Mara in Ontario to Dakota**

Besides Cornelius Boyle and his family, other relatives moved from Mara to Ransom County, Dakota Territory and later to North Dakota

**Bridget Donnelly, the aunt of Ellen.** She may have been responsible, at least indirectly, for the Cornelius Boyle family coming to Ransom County, Dakota Territory. At least she was the first member of the family to acquire a property interest there. In 1878, she had acquired a soldier's right to claim military property, which formerly had been part of the Fort Ransom Military Reservation. It is unclear to me how an illiterate woman living in Ontario would access this Dakota Territory property from a former soldier living in St. Louis, Missouri. She did homestead a claim, which she soon signed over to Ellen for "love and affection and \$1," With it came an unpaid \$500 mortgage. There was one witness, Thomas McGrath, to her homestead documents who claimed he had known her for 30 years and that she was 65 years old.

**Susan Boyle and Elizabeth Boyle, daughters of Peter Boyle and Bridget Kelly and nieces of Cornelius and Ellen.** Susan married William P. Corrigan in Mara. They came to Ransom County, Dakota Territory in the mid-1880s. Elizabeth came out to visit her sister and met and married Patrick Falvey. Elizabeth lived out her life with Patrick in and near Valley City, North Dakota.

The Corrigan's successfully homesteaded in Springer Township near Fort Ransom, and remained there until about 1905 before moving on to British Columbia. Several Corrigan children are buried in the Catholic cemetery in Lisbon. Susan served as midwife at the delivery of Elizabeth's son, Arthur. Susan acquired some Ransom County property in her own name at a Sheriff's auction.

**Francis Doyle, brother of Ellen.** He left his family behind in Ontario. One census record indicates he was divorced. There is a story that he was responsible for a fire, which destroyed the entire farmstead, including all of the newly harvested crop, of his nephew, Patrick Boyle. The loss was so great that Patrick abandoned this farm in favor of rented property in Walburg township, Cass County. This happened about 1895. After his sister Ellen retired to Fargo in 1902, Francis spent his last years with his bachelor nephews Henry, Frank and Martin on the original Boyle farm in Highland township, Cass County, North Dakota.

**Margaret Doyle, sister of Ellen.** Margaret married John B. Harrington in Mara on March 8, 1859. Their children were John Henry, Michael Joseph, Andrew James, and Patrick. This family came to Oakwood, near Grafton, Walsh County, Dakota Territory about 1880. Margaret died there in 1888.

**Joseph Keane (now spelled Kane), half- brother of Cornelius,.** He brought his family from Mara Township to North Dakota in 1893. He tarried briefly in Ransom County and

then homesteaded near Fessenden in Wells County. Joseph died in 1898. His widow, Hannah Cuddahee, completed the homestead requirements. Joseph died at the same age (52) and from the same disease (apoplexy) as his half brother Cornelius. They were both buried in the Catholic cemetery in Lisbon, North Dakota. The family of Joseph Kane later lived in Napoleon, North Dakota and after that in Dickinson, where his daughters Mary and Rose had a locally famous restaurant for a number of years.

**Patrick Boyle, son of John Boyle, brother of Cornelius.** He came from Mara in the 1890s and married Catherine McGrath in North Dakota. They settled near New Rockford, North Dakota and raised a large family there. Catherine McGrath was a sister to Margaret (Maggie) McGrath, who married Owen Boyle, the oldest son of Cornelius and Ellen. Thomas McGrath, father of Catherine and Maggie, filed his homestead papers on the same day in October 1881 as Cornelius Boyle. He was the witness who lied so convincingly about the age of Bridget Donnelly, when she filed her homestead claim.