

ADIN BABER
Cattle Loans

History

KANSAS, ILLINOIS
June 11, 1957

*This is the date the Ill. O'Hairs
first got in touch with the
Spiermoore O'Hairs.*

Mr. & Mrs. Noah O'Hair,
Laverne, Okla.

Dear Cousins:

I have your recent letter which was accompanied by a copy of a letter written by the late Frank T. O'Hair, July 23, 1929, and pertaining to the O'Hair family, and it occurs to me to make a copy of that letter, together with some carbon copies, and to make annotations to it, and to distribute them to the few who may be interested.

I shall place what Frank says in quotation marks, and my comments in brackets. I knew Frank T. very well; he died in 1932, and his wife died a year or so ago. He was known locally as a very able attorney, and politically as the 'Man who beat Joe Cannon.'

* * *

Law Office of
O'HAIR & MC CLAIN
Paris, Illinois

July 23, 1929.

"I will proceed to give you what I know and I regret that it isn't more extensive and more exact. My information comes from word of mouth from older members of my family.

"J. Green Trimble died nine or ten years ago at the age of 93 years. he was a grandson of Michael O'Hair, Sr., (and) a very intelligent man and I got more from him than anybody else, but I have also a little information other than what I got from him. He had made some study of his family and I preserved what he said.

*Our son Rusty
spent 2 days
with O'Hairs
in Ireland in
1958 while he
was in Army
in Germany*

"When I was in Ireland in 1903 I visited the O'Haire family in the little city of Newry in County Down; that is the location of the clan of the O'Haires for centuries. There is or was a clan in Ireland on the West Coast by the name of O'Hara; that clan was composed of large people and I always called them the flannel mouth clan. The clan O'Haire were small people and that is the shanty clan.

"The archives of this clan of peasants in Newry indicates a record of this family had been kept for about 800 years and when Ireland was conquered, had been reduced by warfare to about thirty-five who got back on this little river Newry in one of the bleakest and most mountainous parts of Ireland. Prior to the conquest, the clan name was O'Haire. When the British took possession and numbered the people, the British spelled the name O'Hare, and that is the way it is spelled today.

*We met this
girl at O'Hair
reunion
in 1968 in
Indiana*

(Mrs. Orville Easter, Iroquois, Illinois, who was born Marie Elizabeth O'Hare, in Newry, Ireland, and came here as a War bride, a few years ago, confirms these traditions and the spelling of the name as O'hare in Ireland. In the courthouse records of Jessamine County, Kentucky, Michael spelled his

name on a paper and without an X mark as, MICAL OHARE; but on the same record, which is of the marriage of his daughter, she signed her names as spekked O'Hair. This item was discovered by Nancy Baber, a descendant of Michael O'Hair.)

*He is the
first O'Hair
to come to
U.S.*

¹⁷⁴⁹⁻¹⁸¹² ^(signed) ^(TGI)
"Michael O'Haire, Sr., left County Down in Ireland in about 1776 because the records in the War Department of Washington indicate that he was serving in the Continental forces in 1777. From the War records, he was engaged in the Revolutionary War both with Virginia and Pennsylvania recruits.

(Karl R. O'Hair, Paris, Illinois, has photo-copies of payments to Michael for military service as early as 1776, and the last payment he received was as late as 1783; the last one from the State of Virginia.)

"After the War he immigrated to Kentucky. I have it from Mr. Trimble, who himself was born in about 1821, (b. June, 15th 1823) that Michael O'Haire, Sr., fought in the Southern campaign under Gen. Morgan and Green and took part in the battles of Cowpens, Eutaw Springs, Guilford Courthouse, and other southern skirmishes and battles. (Records show that Michael was under Captain William Henderson in Morgan's famous Rifle Corps.)

"When Michael O'Haire first settled in Kentucky it was in the County of Kentucky and State of Virginia about ten miles south of Lexington in what is now Jessamine County. Here he was married to his first wife, whose name I do not know but she soon died and left a son, Thomas, and three daughters, whose names were Sally, Betsey, and Katie. His son, Thomas, after arriving at manhood immigrated to what is now Edgar County, Illinois, and I know that he was in the vicinity about five miles south of Paris in 1820, because about twenty-five years ago in a large open ravine on what has always been known as the Michael O'Haire Jr. farm, a dry land tarpine was found by a native and there was plainly on the underneath side of its shell the following, "O'Haire, 1820."

"I afterwards made inquiry from an old uncle of mine and asked him if any of the family lived near this spot in an early day, and he said his uncle Thomas had lived there, so he was informed, in about 1820. (Land west of the Indian Boundary Line was thrown open for settlement about 1820; it is a family tradition that Thomas came to Edgar County first as one of a Surveying party; sent back word to his folks about the land here)

*They have
contacted
all these
now*

"Thomas then immigrated to Texas and I do not know what became of him, except that he was one of the Texans under Gen. Sam Houston at San Jacinto and helped Texas win her Independence. (Descendants of Thomas O'Hair now reside in and about Lampasas, Texas; Romans O'Hair is a banker there.)
Lampasas,

"After the death of his first wife, Michael O'Haire, Sr. then moved to the vicinity of Mt. Sterling, Kentucky, in what was then known as Clark County, where he was married the second time to Elizabeth Tribbett, who herself was an orphan born in Virginia.

"Michael O'Haire, Sr. and his second wife were the parents of ten children, whose names were as follows: John, William, James, Michael and Washington, Nancy, Polly, Sibley, RoseAnn and Eleanor. These people are all dead and their ages range from 58 to 104 years. the one who died at 58 was shot during the Civil War. The average age would proximate eighty years or better.

(William was the one killed during the War; was assassinated by one Osborne, who was later killed in New Orleans by an Union soldier. It was Wash, who by tradition, lived to past age 100, and in Texas.)

"About the beginning of the nineteenth century, Michael O'Haire, Sr. moved from Mt. Sterling about forty miles into the mountains of Kentucky and settled near Hazel Green. He died about the year 1818, the exact date is unknown apparently to every one to whom I have ever spoken.

first O'Hair (According to some family data that was unknown to Frank T. O'Hair, Michael died in 1813; this is confirmed in this way: by tradition, it has been reported that Wash and a twin brother, Harrison, who died in infancy, were post humous children. The 1850 census of Rusk County, Texas, Family # 960, gives the age of Wash as 36; therefore he was born in 1814, the year after his father's death, if tradition holds true.)

"He was buried within a mile of Hazel Green but nobody knows the exact place of his grave. There is a little graveyard there near the place where he was buried and about thirteen or fifteen years ago, one of his grandson's, Frank Trimble of Memphis, Tennessee, left a considerable sum of money to build a monument in this cemetery to his memory.

(In a letter dated Aug. 11, 1894, J. Green Trimble stated to James A. Curtis of Putnamville, Indiana, of which letter I have a copy, "... that the Michael OHair grave was unmarked. I know within a few feet of the location of his grave. Peace to his ashes." About 1930, the late Judge James Swango of Terre Haute, Indiana, pointed out to me and to others, the spot that Uncle Green had indicated, and further stated that the information was had from Aunt Eleanor, his mother, and the daughter of Michael, and that she had attended the funeral. Ten years ago, the same spot was indicated to my father and me by William O'Hair, a great grandson through the son, William of Michael; so by two family traditions the spot of the grave was determined. Also, a small headstone that was removed from the grave has some lettering that was overlooked, for moss had covered it. It reads, "MOhare", and would have to be the stone of Michael or Harrison, for no other ones of the family were buried there.)

(As for the report that Frank Trimble left a sum of money to build a monument, - no monument was ever built, until this last May 26, 1957, a marker, furnished by the Government, and a plaque, supplied by some of the descendants, were set, and the token grave dedicated by the local DAR.)

*It is a Bronze marker put to his grave in Hazelgreen, Ky
Noah & I have made the trip to Ky. & to his grave.*

"I know that John O'Hair, my grandfather and Michael O'Hair, Jr. with their wives came from Kentucky to Edgar County, Illinois, on horseback, in 1842 and settled in the hilly and timber country Southwest of Paris.

(The Land Entry Books indicate that the O'Hairs arrived here ten or fifteen years earlier than 1842.)

"Elizabeth Tribbett O'Haire, the wife of Michael O'Hair, Sr. was married the second time to a man by the name of Josiah Bryant; he was a worthless, good-for-nothing fellow and she had to support him, and I understand got a divorce from him and then lived near Brick Chapel with her son, James O'Hair and is buried at Brick Chapel, Indiana. (Putnam County, Indiana)

(It is family tradition that Elizabeth came to Edgar County, Illinois, in 1833 and returned to Kentucky; then, in 1835, accompanied by her son, Wash, went to Putnam County, Indiana)

*Here by
Michael Jr.
is where grand
family
starts & comes
down thro
John -
Henderson -
Floyd -
Loren
& you*

John O'Hair, a son of Michael O'Hair, Sr. was born about 1793 and died in 1886. (Born Sept. 23, 1798; died June 17, 1886, by his tombstone. He married in Morgan County, Kentucky, Oct. 20, 1830 to Eliza Hardwick. She was born May 20, 1806; died Aug. 24, 1882) He was married twice. By his first wife there was born three daughters and one son who grew to maturity, and the daughters all had rather large families. The names of these children were - Henderson, Ellen, Sibby and Sidney.

(I am doubtful about that name being Henderson, for William Henderson, your grandfather was born of the second wife, Eliza Hardwick. You, yourself, have his dates; you see the marriage date of Eliza, which I got at the courthouse at West Liberty, Kentucky many years ago, so I know it is correct) (Ellen married Thomas Tichenor; Sibby married Miles Murphy; Sydney married Hilary Weeden; my father, age 90, thinks the son never married.)

"His second wife was Eliza Hardwick who came from Kentucky with him on horseback with six children. they had eight children who grew to maturity, namely,

Elsherry, born Feb. 22, 1829; died Aug. 13, 1914.

Polly, born (Oct. 28, 1830; died Sept. 27, 1925)

(William) Henderson ("Hent") born June 11, 1833; died Sept. 19, 1907.

James, born Mar. 18, 1835; died Aug. 27, 1866.

Nelson, born (1845; died Nov. 24, 1870)

Jesse Ogden, born Aug. 25, 1847; died Apr. 18, 1918.

Sarah, born Aug. 26, 1849; died Feb. 8, 1916.

*at Spacemaore
Alk.
your
Great Granddad.*

(For the reason this list of children are brothers and sisters of your grandfather, Henderson, I have supplied the dates that Frank missed)

"John Henry O'Hair, who was the son of John O'Hair, who was the son of Michael O'Haire, Sr. had three children namely, - Emma O'Hair Overstreet, now living in California, born Oct. 3, 1861; Wigfall S. O'Hair, born Aug 11, 1864, now living ten miles south of Paris, Illinois, and Frank T(rimble) O'Hair, born Mar. 12, 1870, now living in Paris, Illinois. Very truly yours, Signed (Frank T.O'Hair)

(Wigfall S. O'Hair, died June 14, 1942; and his wife, who was Beatrice Smith, born Dec. 30, 1866; died Apr. 7, 1945. They had three children, namely: John Henry III, Smith and Lucile. John Henry III is now a famous cattleman of Phoenix, Arizona. Lucile was a rather famous movie actress under the name Jean Paige; she married Alfred Smith, the producer. ~~Smith is deceased~~)

(Frank T. O'Hair died Aug. 3, 1932. He had married, May 10, 1905 to Ruth Huston, who deceased a year or so ago. They had two children, - Ruth Frances, who married John Asher, and they reside at Paris, Illinois. A son, Huston, was an aviator in the last World War, and won a medal. He is married, has several children, and resides in Arizona.)

Mr. Grady O'Hair, a son of Jesse Ogden, a brother of Henderson, is the Postmaster at Paris, Illinois. He has long been in the cattle business. He is an honest and honourable man. The other children of Ogden are deceased.

*Frank is
the one we
visit in
Ill. and
he is Noah's
4th cousin.*

Mr. Frank Swango O'Hair, son of Zollicoffer O'Hair, and a descendant of Michael O'Hair Jr., is engaged in the wholesale gasoline and oil business. I once heard a man say that Frank's father, Zollie, who died not long ago, was the most honourable man he had ever known, and I, who also knew him, can so affirm.

Fred and Robert O'Hair, of Greencastle, Indiana, are the bankers there; they are descendants of Uncle James, an uncle of your Henderson.

Karl O'Hair of Paris, whose grandfather was James, a brother of Henderson, is a very successful automobile and kindred business operator.

Romans O'Hair, a descendant of Thomas, who went to Texas, is a banker at Lampasas, where was had recently the awful flood.

Dr. James E. O'Hair, of Arlington, Texas, is a descendant of Wash; he is a dentist there, and writes a very fine letter.

In Paris, are descendants of the Trimble family, engaged in the wholesale grocery business, and very successful operators, and their family name is Frey.

So, dear cousins, it is very fitting and appropriate that some of us do honor to old Michael in Kentucky.

Fraternally,

Adin Baber
Adin Baber.

P.S. I thank you for trusting me with the old letter; have made these copies; am sending one to Virginia Brann, our historian.

AB.

*Adin is also 4th cousin
and we enjoy him so
much, he is up in years
now.*

Bob

