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Bridget Moran

Born Bridget Moran in 1853 in Cong, County Mayo, Ireland to parents John Moran and Mary Moran. In total John and Mary had nine children. As several of the later children have dates of birth which are past Mary's logical child bearing years, there is a likelihood that there was a second wife around 1871-72. I have not found these details yet.

Cong Ireland is an incredibly beautiful place. I'll quote from the Wikipedia page for Cong
"Cong is situated on an island formed by a number of streams that surround it on all sides. Cong is located on the isthmus connecting Loughs [Corrib](#) and [Mask](#), near the towns of [Headford](#) and [Ballinrobe](#) and the villages of [Clonbur](#), [The Neale](#) and [Cross](#)."

From <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cong,_County_Mayo>

This is the village that was used for filming the John Wayne, Maureen O'Hara movie "The Quiet Man"



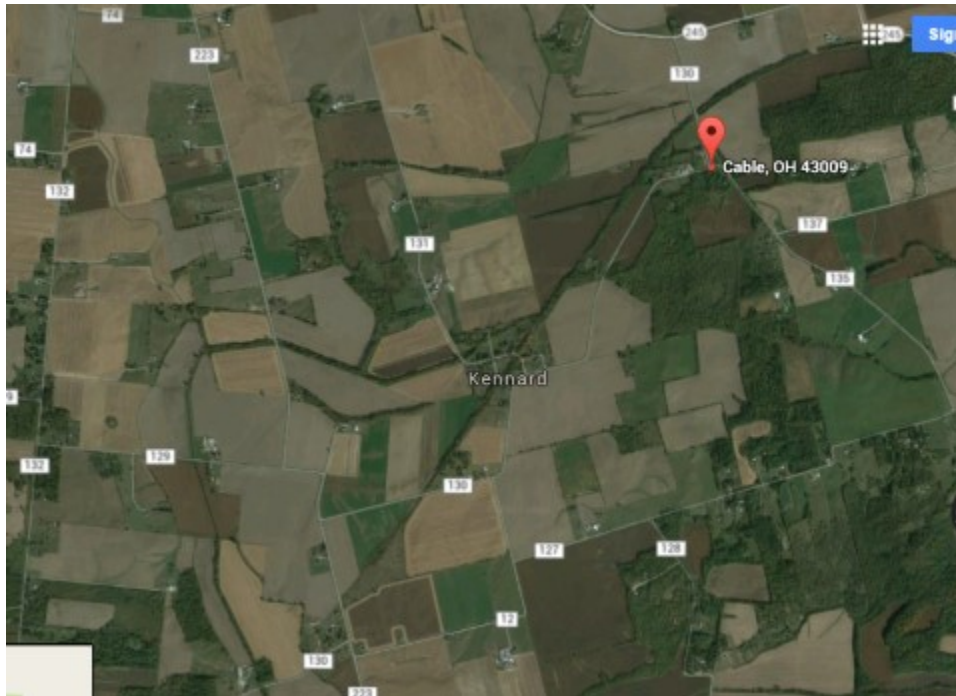
The village's charms were stretched to the breaking point during the Irish famine. Irish peoples who lived inland fled to the coastal regions in the middle and late years of the famine to escape.

The famine years are a very complex mix of cultural, religious, agrarian, and monetary factors. A brief history of the famine's impact on this county can be found here - <http://www.mayo-ireland.ie/en/about-mayo/history/the-great-irish-famine.html>

The Morans left Ireland shortly after Bridget was born. Her younger sister Mary was born in Pennsylvania in 1862.

The Morans were not finished moving. The next child 'Anna Moran' is born in Ohio in 1864. They are in a part of Ohio that has town names that mimic the town and city names of Pennsylvania. Working as a laborer for the railroads brings many Irish immigrants into the Mid West in this era. William Moran is one.

The Moran family appear in the 1870 Federal Census for Salem Township, Champagne County, Ohio. Mary is not with the family. William is now married to Bridget Cusick. He is a laborer for the railroads and Bridget (step-mother of Bridget Moran) is at home with her young babies and about half of her step children. I don't know what became of William's first wife Mary. The Federal Census entries for the family show them living in a tiny unincorporated area known as 'Kennard'.



This part of Ohio has almost no train tracks or history of railroads being within 20 or 30 miles of Kennard. It could be understood that William traveled with a railroad crew and was away from the family for long periods.

This is where Bridget and her sister Mary separate from the family. They appear in this same 1870 federal Census in Des Moines in the extended household of George W. Savery. They live at the Hotel Savery and are employed as 'Kitchen Girls'. There are more than fifty people listed in this extended household. All the hotel staff who live at the hotel as well as the resident guests. Federal Marshalls, Circuit Judges, Sales Men, Railroad Executives... all are counted in this household.





Venetian Ball Room. Hotel Savery. Des Moines, Iowa.

The railroad has just come to Des Moines and the town is expanding at an incredible rate. Living and working at this luxury hotel at this boom time must have been a great adventure for Bridget and Mary. Des Moines had much to offer. Street cars could take you to most of the city for just a few cents. The coal industry was just beginning to slow to a stop and people who had made their fortunes in the mining of the coal vein were reinvesting in all types of new businesses. I bet the Moran sisters worked really hard. In the historic photos of the Original Hotel Savery you can see signage for the Hotel Restaurant in the front corner of the building. The kitchen would have been either below the Restaurant or behind.

Bridget buys a small farm plot around this time. I think this is evidence that she knew the importance of saving and owning.

She meets Patrick Tiernan about this same time (1871-72). He was from Ireland in the county just east of County Mayo where Bridget's mother and father were from. The farm plots for he and his brother are within a 1/4 mile of Bridget's plot. You can imagine his Irish accent may have reminded her of her father's.



Bridget and Patrick marry in 1873 on the 14th of April. The marriage is recorded at St. Ambrose Catholic Church.



Patrick works as a laborer for Capital City Gas Light Co. The family begins to add children and property. Living in a house at 313 W S 6th Street in Des Moines. This part of town is now given over to industrial properties but at the time Patrick and Bridget lived there it was 'mixed use' land. The houses were suited for people who worked at the companies that had warehouses and shops in the area.

The couples last child (Rose Tiernan) is born in 1893 and Patrick dies the following year. Bridget never remarries.

I don't know what caused Patrick's death. His last will and testament were drawn up about seven months prior to his death. I think he knew he was going to die soon. There are several beautiful expressions of his love for Bridget written in the will document.



Within a couple years of Patrick's death Bridget builds the family a new house in the 'River Bend' residential area of Des Moines. And Bridget begins a three year career selling Patent Medicines for the Chamberlain Medicine Co. In Des Moines. Chamberlain's is one of the largest Patent Medicine Companies in the world. They sell products all over the globe. Bridget works in the Down Town Des Moines Store Front Shop selling the companies remedies for Coughs, Colds, Croup, Colic, Cholera and Diarrhea.

Chamberlain's
COLIC, CHOLERA AND
Diarrhea Remedy

A few doses of this remedy will invariably cure an ordinary attack of diarrhea.

It has been used in nine epidemics of dysentery with perfect success.

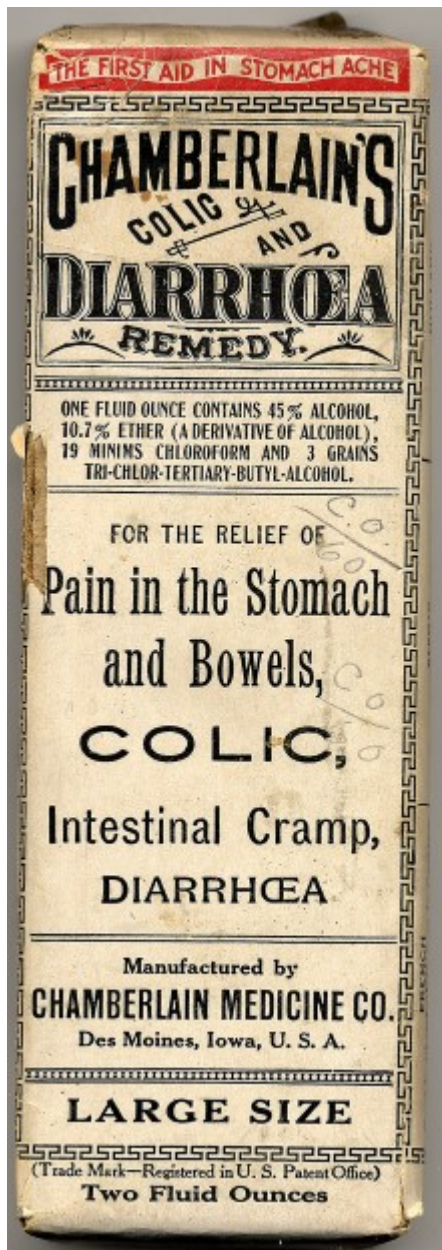
It can always be depended upon, even in the more severe attacks of cramp colic and cholera morbus.

It is equally successful for summer diarrhea and cholera infantum in children, and is the means of saving the lives of many children each year.

When reduced with water and sweetened it is pleasant to take.

Every man of a family should keep this remedy in his home. Buy it now. It may save life.

PRICE, 25C. LARGE SIZE, 50C.



Bridget's son and daughter-in-law worked for Chamberlains for several decades. The company eventually transformed into a hand lotion and cosmetic company.

Bridget's Father dies in 1906 and she inherits some property from his estate.

Bridget lives out the rest of her years in and around Des Moines and the farmlands to the northwest of town. She appears often in the family photo albums from these years.



This photo shows her standing between her youngest daughter Rose and her grandson Fred Preston. I love her glasses and her cotton dress with the lace edged collar.

Bridget dies in 1933. She was 80 years of age. She is buried beside her husband Patrick in Woodward, Iowa (a small township to the northwest of Des Moines)



TIERNAN

MOTHER
BRIDGET
1853-1943

FATHER
PATRICK
1845-1894