

Canavan Family Reunion - Chicago 2021

[5 PM – 6-PM Cocktail Hour Zoom Meeting]

[6 PM – End Cocktail Hour Zoom Meeting - Start Screen Share with Slide 1]

[Check Boxes for to Share Computer Sound and Optimize Video Clips]



[Announcement of Dinner]

If I may have your attention, please. We'll be starting the dinner service shortly, so please begin to **take your seats**.

[After Seating, Stop Screen Share and Go To Full Scree Zoom for Pre-Dinner Remarks]

[Pre-Dinner Remarks: Introduction of Hosts]

I'm Bill Bowe, one of our Reunion hosts. Before we begin our dinner service, I'd like to first introduce our other **Reunion hosts, Beth Hanley Dunn**, and a man whose name we all bow down before, **Mr. Anthony Canavan Bowe**. Beth works at the Chicago Botanic Garden and arranged for our private visit there tomorrow. Tony arranged the terrific architectural boat tour this afternoon. Although Beth, Tony and I are also your hosts, Beth and Tony have urged me to tell you that **if anything goes wrong** at the Reunion you should only blame me. Others who have been very important in pulling this Reunion together are **Meg Lynch Meyer**, and **Tony's brother, Rob Bowe**. Rob has helped set up our Zoom connection tonight to those who couldn't be with us and some of you may remember Rob from when he co-hosted our first Zoom get-together last Thanksgiving. **Patrick McNulty** has also pitched in today to help orchestrate our Zoom activities. **Pat, Tony, Beth, Meg and Rob, please stand** now so we can properly thank you?

[B.E.D.]

When you start dinner, do remember to **leave room for dessert**. The dessert buffet will more than tempt you. The Cliff Dwellers is famous for its **Daniel Burnham** deep dish pies, but there will be fresh fruit and lighter choices available to you at the dessert buffet as well. I want to caution you on the dessert buffet. Those of you at who were her for my brother Dick's memorial lunch in this room two years ago will remember I explained that both he and I suffered from a genetic disorder known as **B.E.D.** or BED. BED stands for Buffet Eating Disorder. When you have BED, and are given a buffet opportunity, you eat too much of everything, particularly dessert. The main symptom of a BED attack is that when you try to get up after dinner you can't. Just a word to the wise.

[Address Cards and Raffle]

If you haven't done so already, please fill out the **address card** inside the program at you place setting. With your complete contact information, we'll be able to send you pictures and other material after the Reunion. There's a pen at each table for you. Later we're going to put all the address cards in a jar for our big Reunion raffle after dinner. Fill out the address cards now so you don't forget later. We'll have multiple raffle winners, so the odds of someone at you table winning one of our reunion-appropriate pizes are pretty good.

[How We're Related and Self-Introductions and Raffle with John Hanley]

After dinner, we'll have a **short program** for you before the bar reopens. I'm going to be taking a stab at trying to explain **how you're all related to each other**. After that, **John Hanley** will help me get us all properly introduced and we'll have time for some family stories before.

[Bobby Schiff and Slide Show Introduction]

Beginning now and during dinner now we'll hear more great music from our piano player **Bobby Schiff** and we'll have a slideshow of **Old Chicago** on our screen. But first I want to show you a picture of Old Chicago that didn't really fit in the slideshow.

[Share Screen and Go to Slide 2]



Not included in the slideshow is this Old Chicago picture. I thought I'd share this for those of you who didn't know my important role in winning World War II. This is a October 1945 Chicago Sun newspaper picture of me in uniform when I was three. The caption explains I was doing "Something Sweet for Soldiers" by helping collect rationed sugar so it could be used to make cookies for our troops.

Now I'm not saying I was necessarily **the** critical factor in defeating Germany and Japan. Our fighting men and the A-Bomb had their part to play in ending the War. However, I don't think it was a mere coincidence that Germany and Japan surrendered just before this picture was taken. I think word had leaked that I would soon be joining the War effort. You don't have to take that as gospel, but that's my story and I'm sticking to it.

Looking back on this snapshot of my Old Chicago, I have one bad memory. I recall that I was so focused on not spilling sugar that I believe I **completely forgot to ask my attractive assistant for her telephone number.**

Enjoy your dinner. Now here are the more interesting pictures of Old Chicago.

[Play Slide 3 of Old Chicago Video]



[After Slideshow Ends, Go to Slide 4 in Transition to Opening Remarks]



[Stop Screen Share so Speaker is on Full Screen]

[Organizing Principals]

There are **two general organizing principles** for this Canavan Family Reunion. You must be a direct descendant of a Canavan or someone in your extended family must have had the wisdom to marry a Canavan descendant.

[Finish by Dawn]

My task now is to explain exactly **how everyone in this extended family is related** to one another. I'm not going to sugar coat this for you. My wife Cathy tells me that having a conversation with me about family history is like taking a **drink from a fire hydrant**. But I want you to know that I'll do all I can to finish by **dawn**. So, you might as well settle in. I've ordered the Club doors locked. Your only choice is to shelter in place until I've finished. On the bright side, there will be no test on this material.

["Aren't Families Wonderful" and the Lockdown]

My aunt **Martha Gwinn Casey** once joyfully exclaimed to me, "Aren't families wonderful!" They surely are lots of different reasons for this, including most recently missing our family members terribly in our recent lockdown.

[Faulkner: "The past is never dead. It's not even past."]

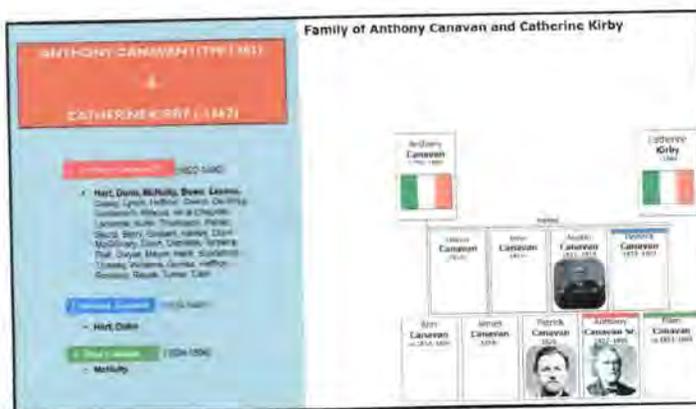
But since our ancestors and most folks in the great extended Canavan cavalcade are long gone, it's a fair question to ask why we should spend much time thinking about any of them. William Faulkner had a good answer to this. When he accepted the Nobel Prize for Literature he remarked, "**The past is never dead. It's not even past.**"

Faulkner explained that, when he wrote about courage, grit and sacrifice in his fictional characters, this was partly aimed at reminding his current readers that others before them have faced the worst that life can throw at them and emerged strong on the other side.

So when we recall the lives of our ancestors, and think in particular about the courage, grit and sacrifices of the Canavan family, leaving a famine-stricken Ireland for an uncertain life in America, we can find today a reservoir of strength to help us deal with the pitfalls of our own much easier lives.

For this reason alone, **the past of our ancestors, including the Canavan family, surely isn't dead and isn't even really past.**

[Start Share Screen and Go to Slide 5]



[Note: Hide Video Panel to See Family Trees Full Screen]

[9 Children]

With that in mind, let's look at the family tree of the earliest Anthony Canavan we know anything about. Our progenitors Anthony Canavan and Catherine Kirby at the top of this family tree were born in the late 1700s in County Mayo in west central Ireland and had nine children.

Throughout, I'm going to be calling their **red-tagged son Anthony Canavan, Senior**. **Typically, he would be a Junior**, having as he does the same name as his father, but there are several practical reasons in my mind to give him this senior suffix. He is the **first Anthony Canavan to come to America**. Also, we **know a lot about him** and next to nothing about his father. Finally, if you keep score on this kind of thing, with 13 children compared to his father's mere nine, he was clearly **senior to his father in the fertility department**.

Note on the left is a list of three of our progenitor's nine children with other family names underneath each of them. The **red tag** is that of their son **Anthony Canavan, Sr**. His sister **Honora Canavan** has the **blue tag**, and his sister **Ellen Canavan** has the **green** one. These colors are matched in the family tree.

Of the family names listed under **Anthony, Sr., Honora** and **Ellen Canavan**, note five family names are in bold type: the **Hart, Duhn, McNulty, Bowe** and **Lecour** family names. That's because these families all have a **double Canavan connection**.

That is to say they are **related both to children of Anthony Canavan and Catherine Kirby, and to children of their son, Anthony Canavan, Sr. and his wife Ann Hughes**.

[Go to Slide 6 – John Casey Clip]



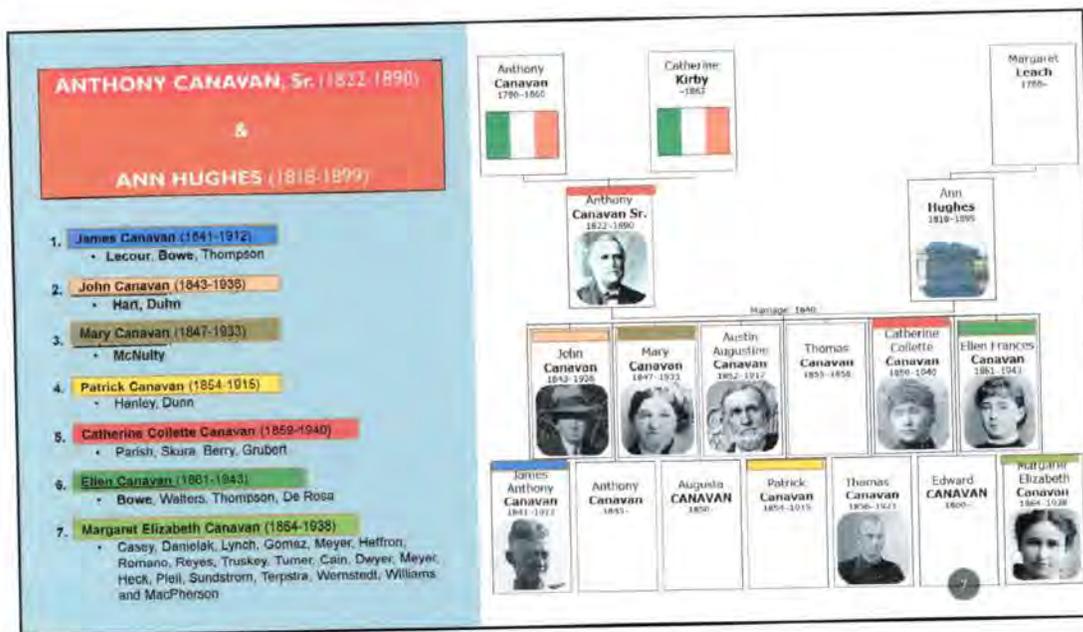
In 1989, I sat down with my uncle **John Casey**, a **grandson of Anthony Canavan, Sr. and Ann Hughes**. He was the **son of their 13th and their last child, Margaret Elizabeth Canavan**. In this clip, he recalls that his grandparents crossed the Atlantic in a sailing ship in a voyage that lasted nine weeks and three days. On arrival his grandfather Anthony, deathly sick from the voyage, was saved only by the care given to the impoverished immigrant by a hospital in the City of Brotherly Love.

[Play Slide 6 Video - John Casey Clip]

The Canavan family **spent nine years in Philadelphia** before the moving west **near Anthony's brother Austin's farm in Kankakee County**, Illinois just south of Chicago. There Anthony Senior and Ann adopted farm life, worked hard and the family prospered. In later years Anthony also took an active role in **Kankakee County politics**, serving over the years as a Township Treasurer, Supervisor, Trustee, Assessor and Collector.

Mindful of how much he and his family were helped upon arriving in Philadelphia, upon his death he left a **substantial bequest** to the Philadelphia hospital that had taken him in as a penniless immigrant and nursed him back to health.

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[13 Children]

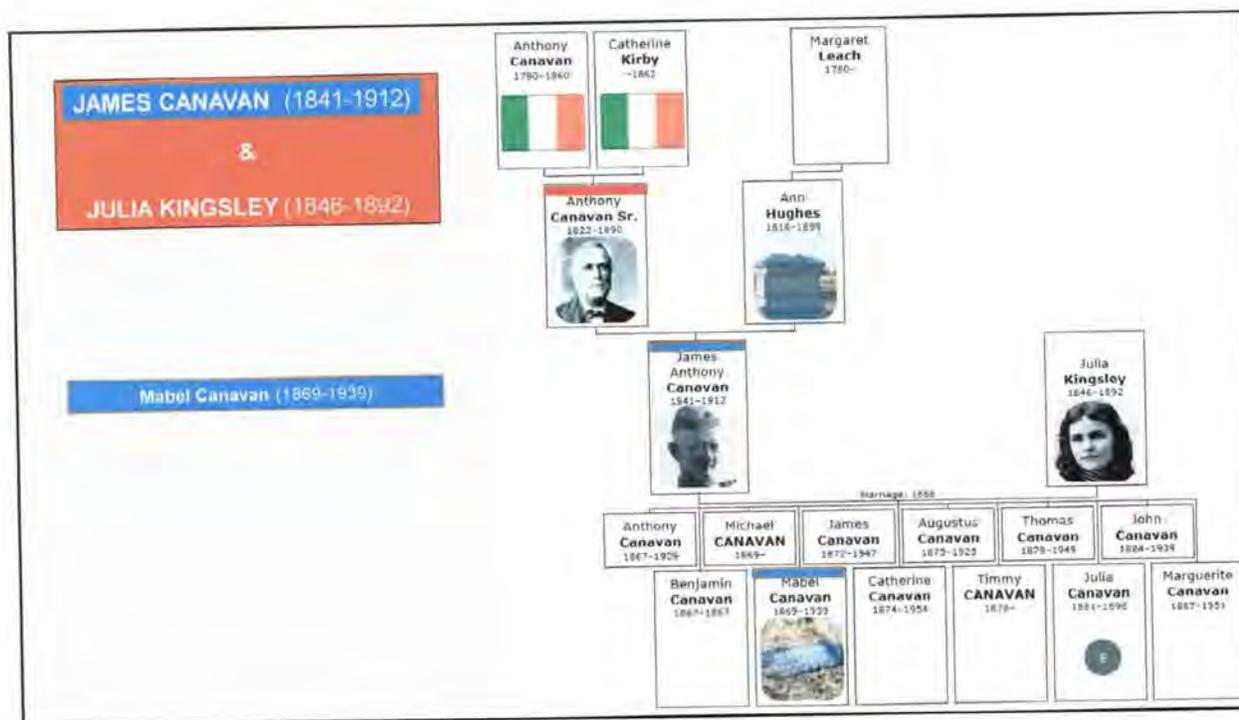
In this family tree, you see **all the 13 children** of Anthony Canavan, Sr. and Ann Hughes **in the order of their birth**. The oldest, **James** is on the **far left**. The youngest on the **far right**, is my uncle John Casey's mother, **Margaret Elizabeth Canavan**. On the left of the slide is a list of seven of their 13 children. Note the colors on the names again match that person's family tree color.

The families descended from each of these seven children on the list are shown underneath their names. As I go through the family trees, you can **follow your own family by tracking the color** of the person shown as your ancestor.

The older children, **James, John** and **Mary Canavan**, are the children who have **descendants in common both with their grandparents, Anthony Canavan and Catherine Kirby, as well as their own parents**. That's why the **Lecour, Bowe, Hart, Duhn** and **McNulty** family names on the left are in bold type.

A good place to start with how we'll all related is to first look at the five families with these double Canavan connections. I'll start with the oldest child, **James Canavan** and the **Lecour** and **Bowe** family double connection.

[Go to Slide 8]



[12 Children]

As the oldest of the 13 children of Anthony Canavan, Sr. and Ann Hughes, James had been born in County Mayo in Ireland in 1841. When he came of age in Kankakee County, he was **apprenticed to learn leather work**: making reins, saddles, boots and shoes.

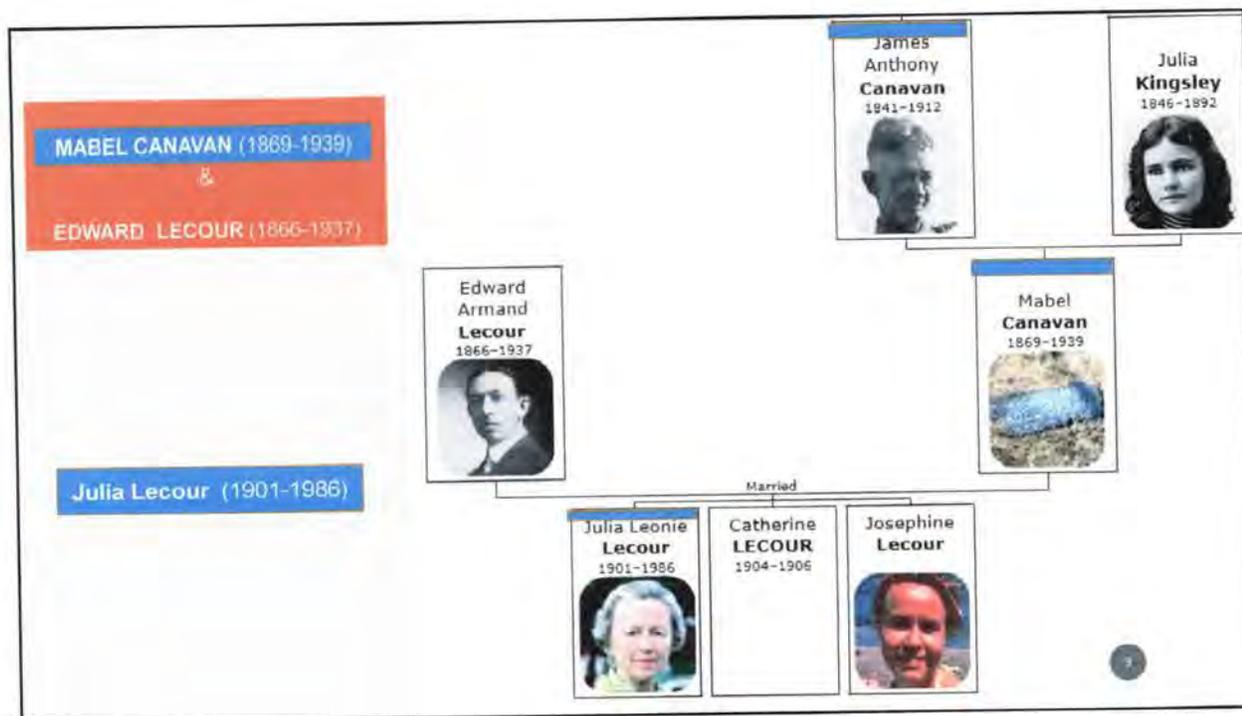
As soon as he learned his trade, he moved away from the Canavan farm and **took a steamer across Lake Michigan** to Saint Joseph, Michigan.

There he married **Julia Kingsley** in 1886. As you can see, they had 12 children before her untimely death at the age of 46 in 1892.

Later in life, like his father, James became politically active and went on to become St. Joseph's **postmaster** and later **mayor**.

Note that **the fourth of their 12 children, born in 1869, was Mabel Canavan**, shown here with the **blue tag**. Mabel is the source of our first Canavan double connection with the **Lecour** and **Bowe** families.

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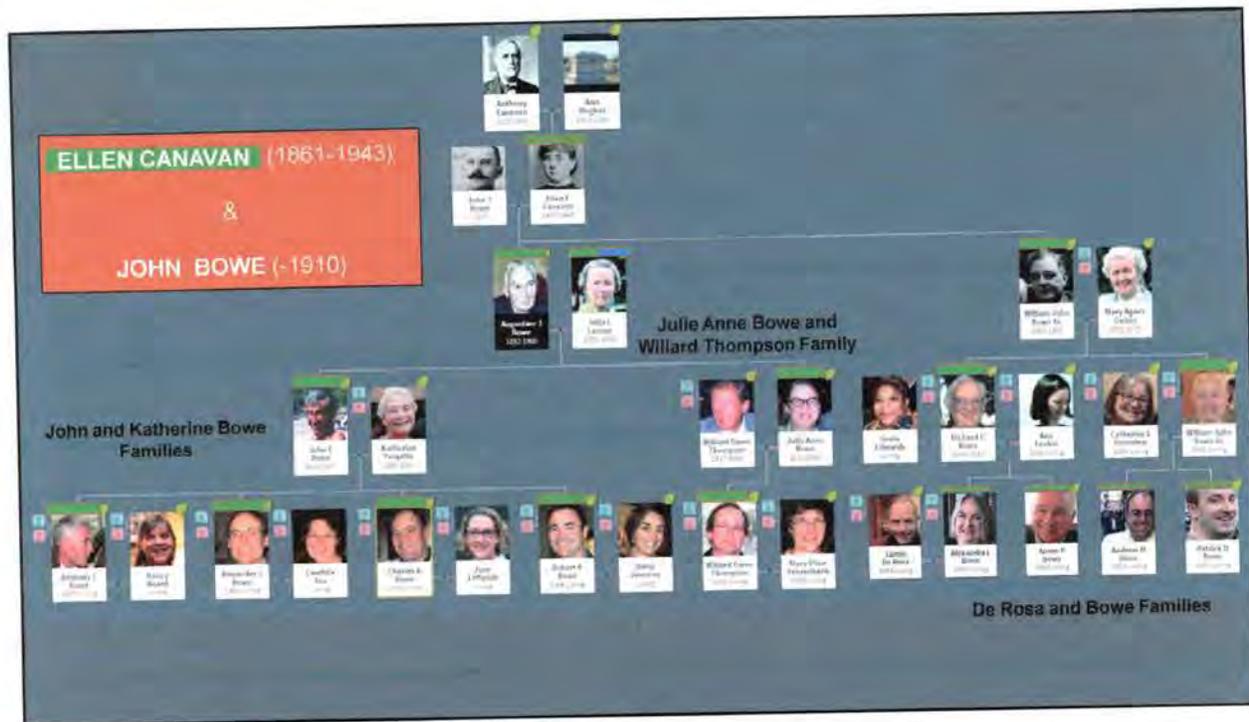


In 1900, **Mabel Canavan** moved from Michigan back to Kankakee County, where her father had grown up and married **Edward Lecour**.

Edward's family was of French extraction and had emigrated from Quebec, Canada to Illinois. He and his family owned and operated a **dry goods retail establishment** in downtown Kankakee.

Mabel and Edward Lecour had **two children surviving to adulthood**, **Julia** and **Josephine**, known as Dodi.

[Go to Slide 10]



[Ellen Canavan Bowe – 12th Child]

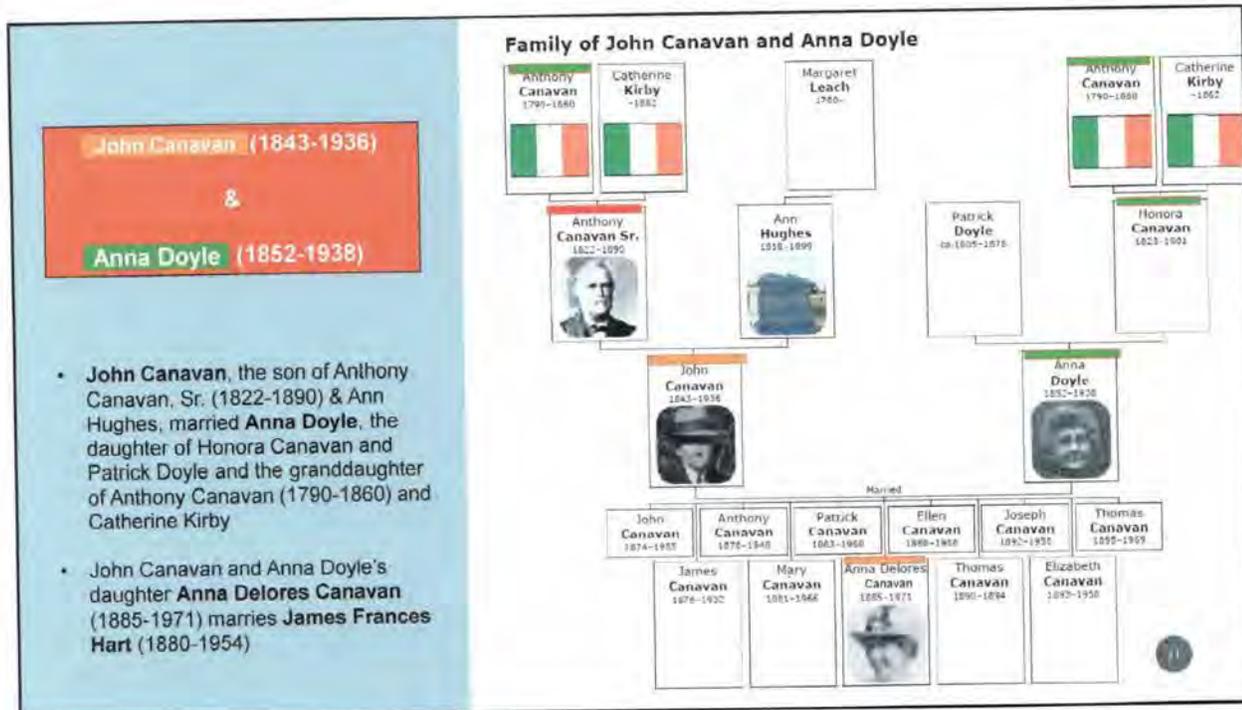
Underneath Anthony Canavan, Sr. and Ann Hughes at the top is their daughter **Ellen Canavan**, their **12th child**. **Ellen Canavan and her husband John Bowe had two boys and a girl**. In the center of this family tree you see **Mabelk Canavan Lecour's daughter Julia Lecour**. **Julia Lecour married the oldest boy, my uncle Augustine Bowe in 1927**. Note **Julia** has both a **green and blue tag**, signifying her connection to both her husband's background as Anthony Canavan, Sr.'s grandson and her own connection to Anthony, Sr. as his great granddaughter through her mother **Mable Canavan Lecour**. Clear as mud. Am I right or am I right?

You can see the **other Bowe families** of Gus and Julia Lecour Bowe **through their son John and Katherine Pargellis** on the left, and the Thompson family connection through their daughter **Julie Anne's marriage to Willard Thompson** in the center.

My Bowe family is on the right, as my father Bill was Gus Bowe's brother.

Anson Bowe and the De Rosa family on the lower **right** came along when my brother **Richard Bowe** married **Ann Fauble** and had twins Anson and Alexandria. **Alex Bowe** married **James De Rosa** whose children **Christopher** and **Charlotte** are here tonight.

[Go to Slide 11]



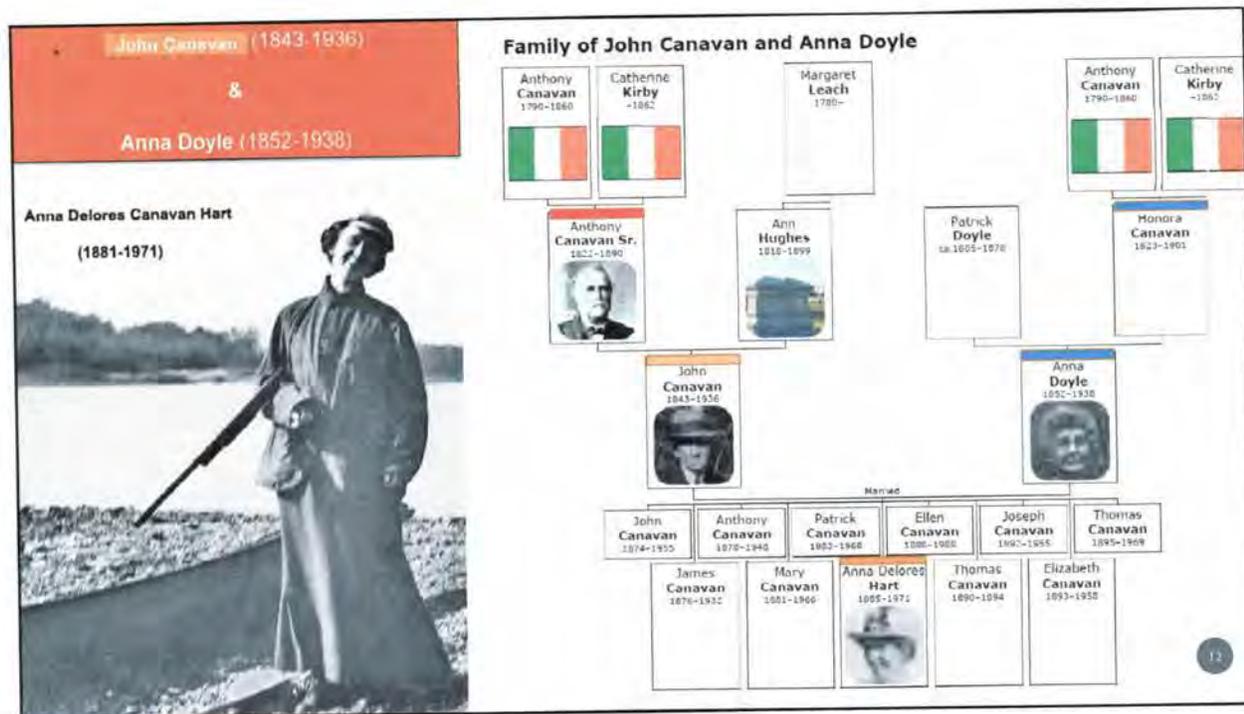
To understand the **double Canavan connection of the Hart and Duhn families**, we turn to **Honora Canavan**, the daughter of Anthony Canavan and Catherine Kirby. As you can see on the upper right of this family tree, **Honora married Patrick Doyle**.

Honora was some woman. Joe Hart reports that Jimmy Canavan's father and stepfather both said that **Honora Canavan smoked a pipe**. They said they knew she did this on the north side of her house, because she lit her pipe with stick matches and stuck them in the ground there. Well, give the woman a break, I say. Who doesn't have faults, I ask you. Which one of us is without sin.

Our genealogy plot thickens when **one of Honora Canavan Doyle's two daughters, Anna Doyle, married Anthony Canavan, Sr.'s second son, John Canavan**.

As you can see in this family tree, John Canavan's marriage to the daughter of his cousin Honora Canavan Doyle brought about not just 11 children, but **the third and fourth of our five double Canavan connections**.

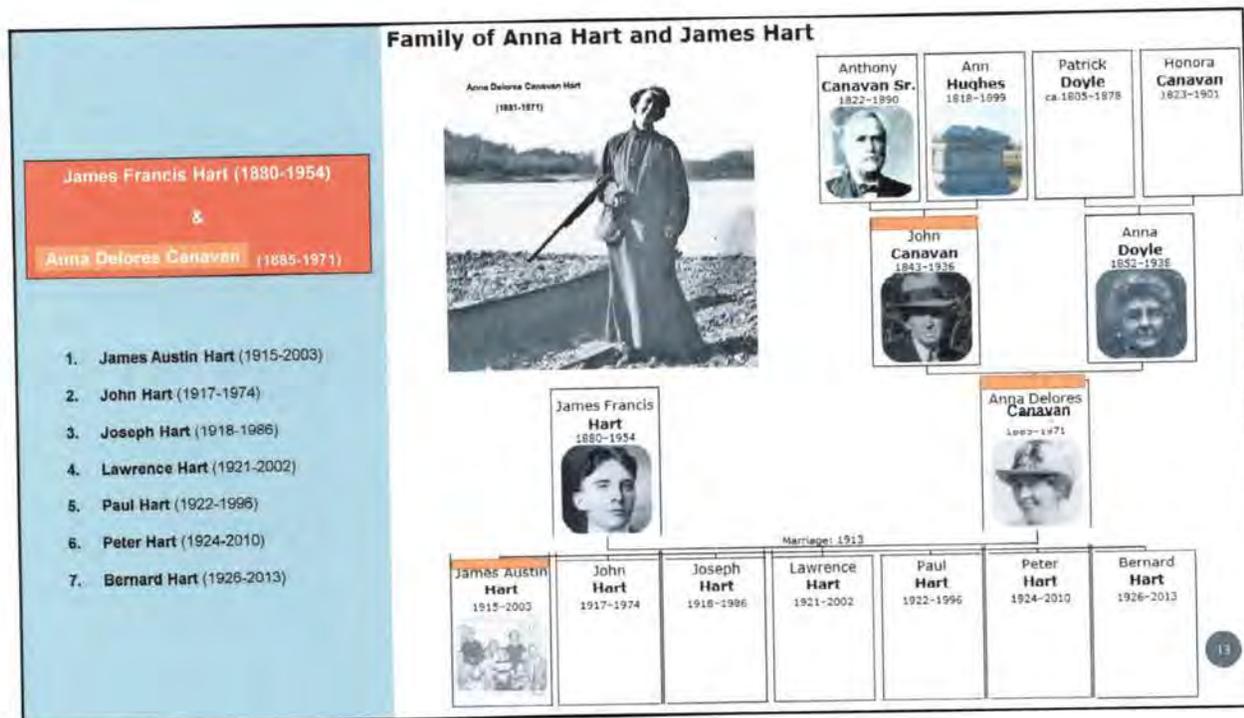
[Go to Slide 12]



[11 Children]

Though **John Canavan and Anna Doyle Canavan** had 11 children, I'm going to **focus on** just one, their daughter **Anna Delores Canavan**, pictured on the left and at the bottom of the family tree and tree.

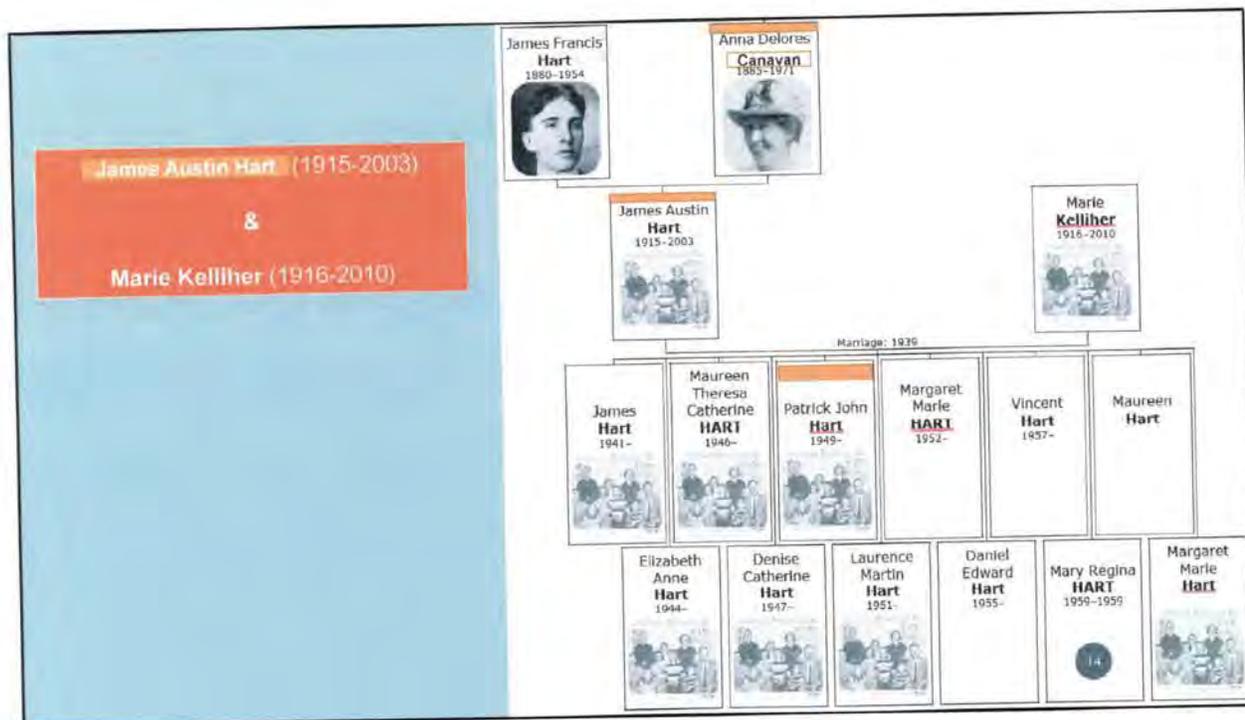
[Go to Slide 13]



Anna Delores Canavan married **James Francis Hart** in **1913** and they had **seven children**

I want to pause for a moment here to tell you that I personally greatly admire James Francis Hart for the obvious courage he displayed in his marriage. If I ever saw my wife Cathy with a **loaded shotgun** like this, I'd lock myself in the bathroom until she calmed down.

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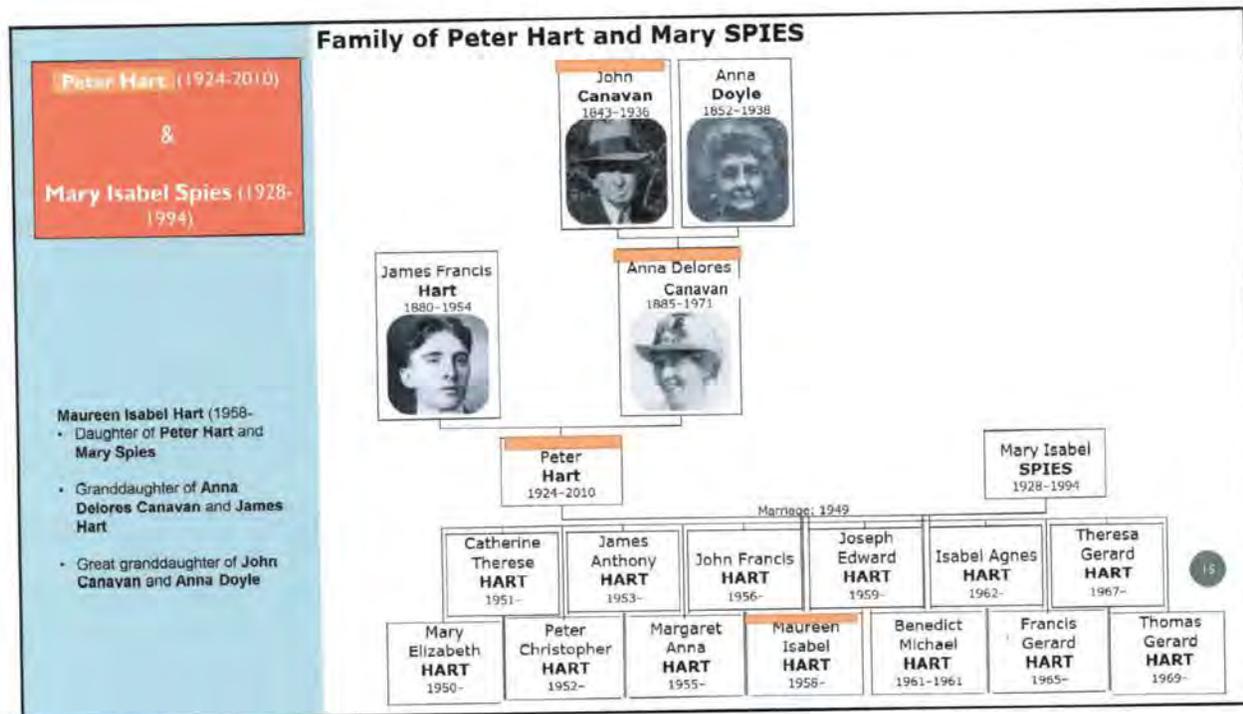


[12 Children]

The first born to James and Anna Delores Hart was **James Austin Hart**. He and **Marie Kelliher** had **12 children**.

I briefly corresponded with Jim Hart when he was Dean of the business school at De Paul University here in Chicago. He had been good friends over the years with my father and uncle, Bill and Gus Bowe. This Jim Hart wrote a wonderful family **memoir** you'll find on wbowe.com. In it he writes about his parents and all his siblings, as well as his own and his uncle John Canavan's relationship with the Bowe families.

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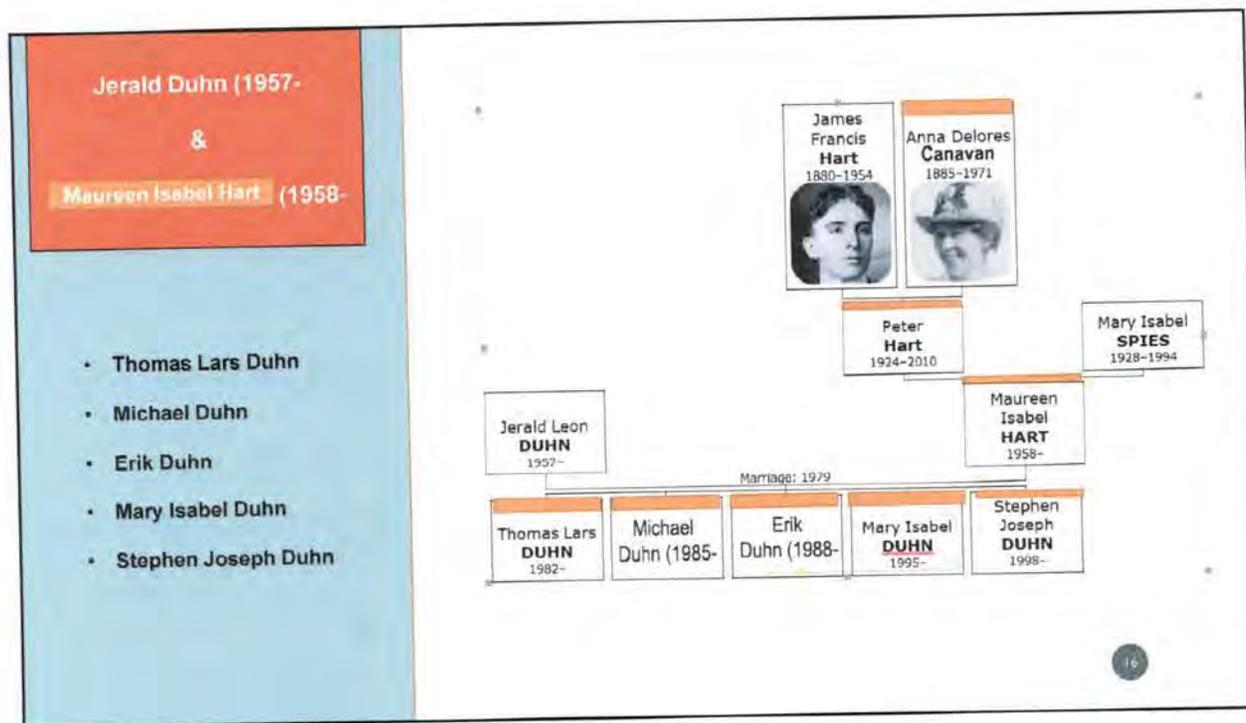


[13 Children]

Peter Hart was the **sixth of seven** Hart children born to Anna Delores Canavan and James Francis Hart.

His daughter **Maureen**, highlighted here, married **Jerald Duhn**.

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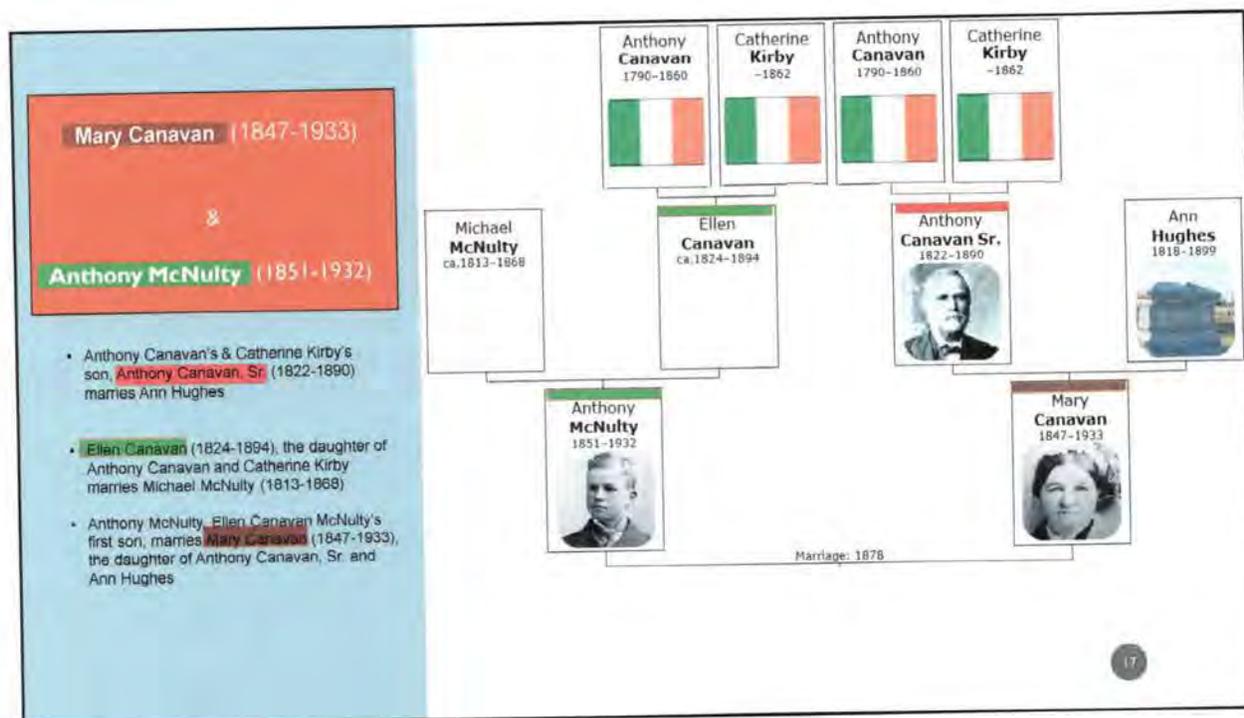


[5 Children]

Some of their Duhn offspring are here tonight. Michael and Erik, where are you sitting?

So, that gives us four of the five double Canavan connections: The Lecour, Bowe, Hart and Duhn families.

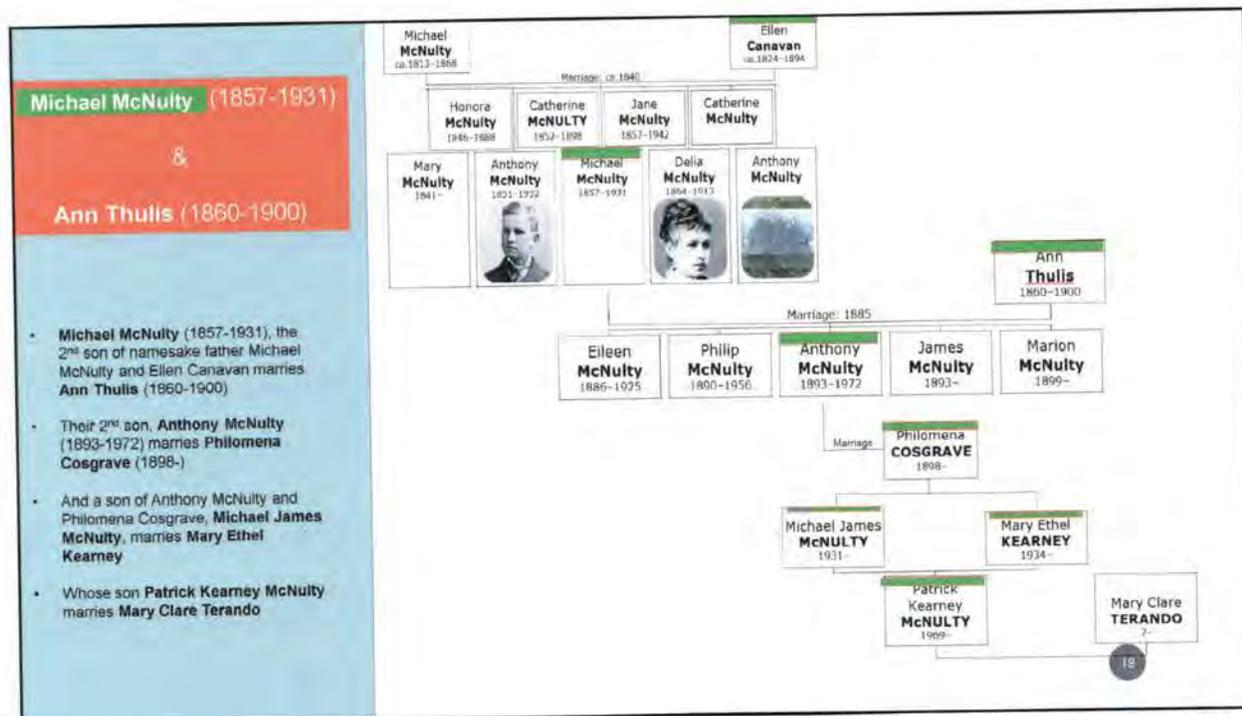
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Now, let's take a look at the **last of the five double Canavan connections**, that of the **McNulty family**.

We can see here with the **brown tag Mary Canavan**, the fourth child of Anthony Canavan, Sr. and Ann Hughes. Mary produced our fifth double Canavan when in 1878 she **married** her first cousin once removed, **Anthony McNulty**, a **grandson of Anthony Canavan and Catherine Kirby**.

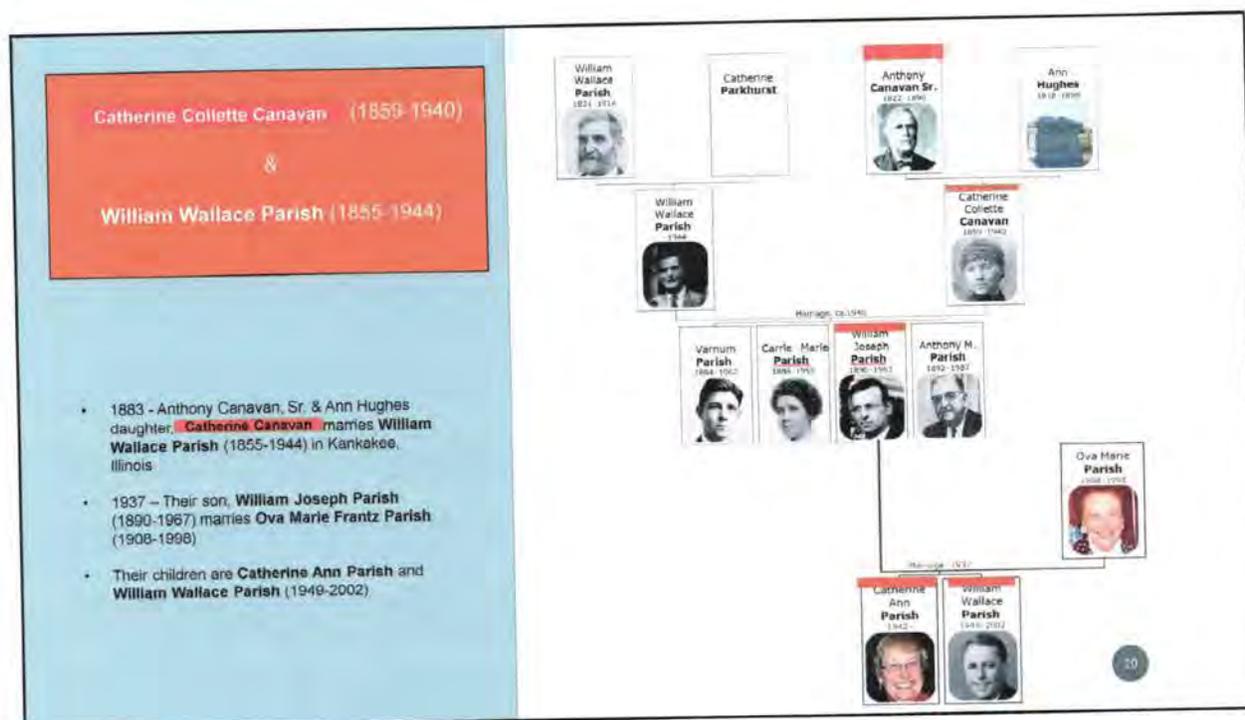
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As you can see here by following the green labels, **Michael McNulty**, the younger brother of **Anthony McNulty**, is the **great grandfather of Patrick McNulty**, who is with us tonight.

Patrick, where are you?

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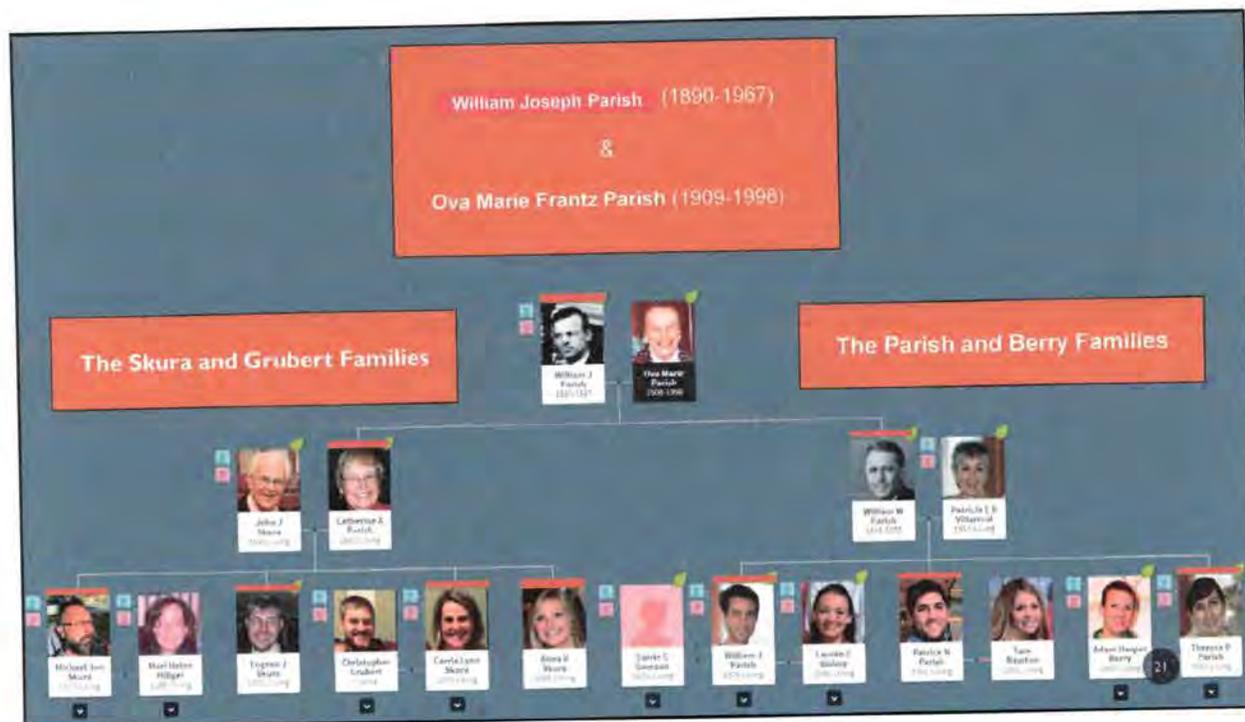
[Catherine Collette Canavan Parish – 10th Child]

The **Parish family tree** shows that Anthony Canavan and Ann Hughes's 10th child, **Catherine Collette Canavan** married **William Wallace Parish II**. They raised their family in Momence, Illinois.

Their **third of four children** was **William Joseph Parish** who **married Ova Frantz**. I remember visiting Ova in Momence as a youngster and recall well her visits to my mother in Chicago after both women were widowed

You see **their children** at the bottom of this family chart, **Catherine Parish Skura** and **William Wallace Parish III**.

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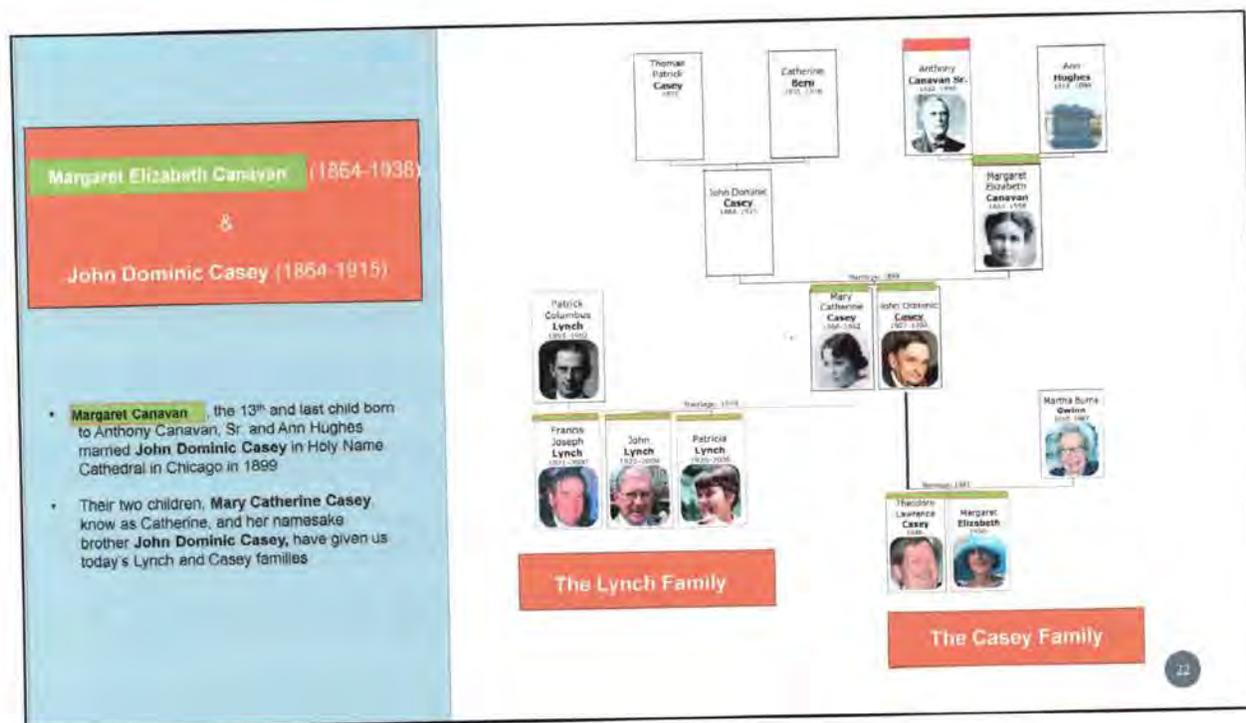
Catherine Parish Skura and **William Wallace Parish III** are well represented here tonight by members of the **Skura, Grubert** and **Parish** families.

Pictured on the **left** of this family tree are the **Skura and Grubert** families. The **Parish and Berry** family members are seen on the **right**.

Perhaps the person who travelled the farthest to join us tonight is **Will Parish**, the **son of William Wallace Parish III and Patricia Parish Pitts**. Will graduated from the Naval Academy and went on to become a fighter pilot. Deployed on a carrier in the Persian Gulf during the Iraq War, Will flew F-14 Tomcats in combat missions over Iraq in support of our troops. Will has just now moved to Mexico City where he will be finishing his distinguished Navy career as a diplomat in the U.S. Embassy there.

Will, thank you for your service. Will would you please stand and be recognized along with the Skura and Grubert family members here tonight?

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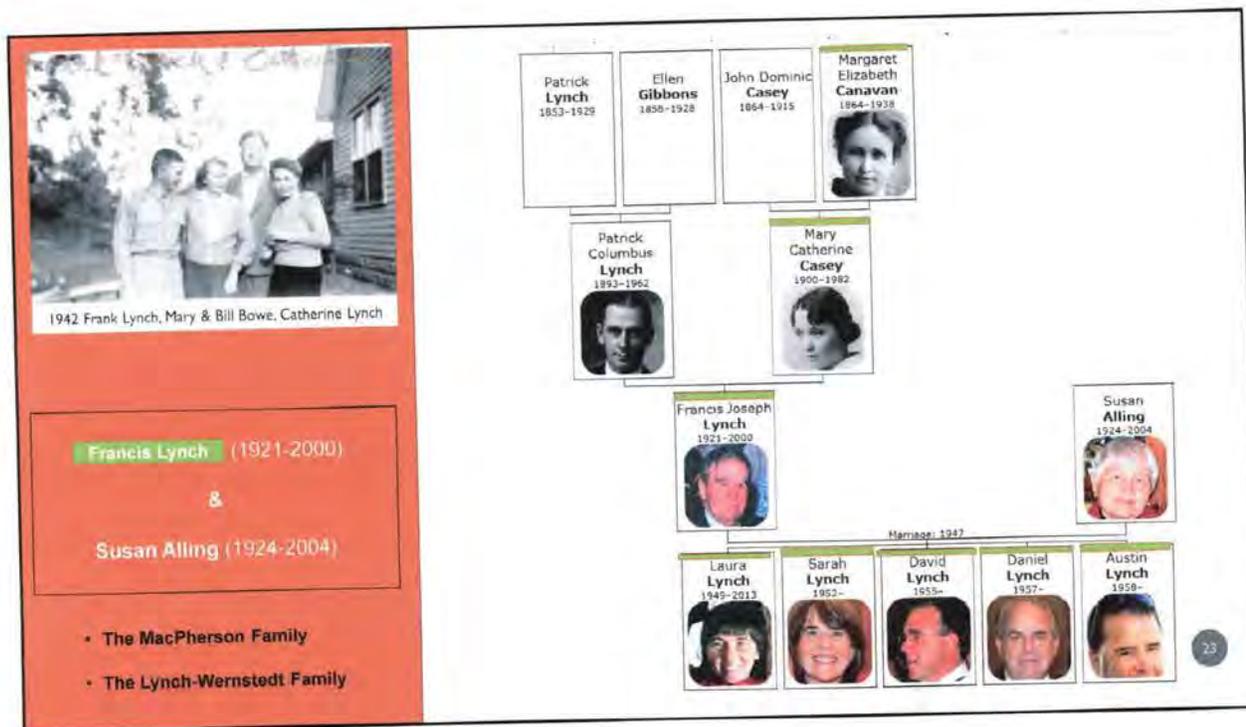
If you follow these **light green tags**, you can see that the **last of the 13 children** of Anthony Canavan, Sr. and Ann Hughes is Margret Elizabeth Canavan. She married **lawyer John Casey** in Holy Name Cathedral here in Chicago in 1899 and became the **mother first of Catherine** and then of **my uncle John Casey**, who was named after his father.

As you can see, Mary Catherine (known as Catherine) had three boys and a girl after she **married Patrick Columbus Lynch**.

In our current **cancel culture**, Pat Lynch would no doubt be forced to drop his middle name if he wanted to marry anyone.

You see the pictures of Pat and Catherine Lynch's children, **Frank, John and Patricia Lynch**, on the lower left of the family tree here.

Catherine Casey Lynch's **brother John Casey** went on to marry my mother's sister, **Martha Gwinn**. You see their two children here on the lower right, **Ted and Margaret Casey**.



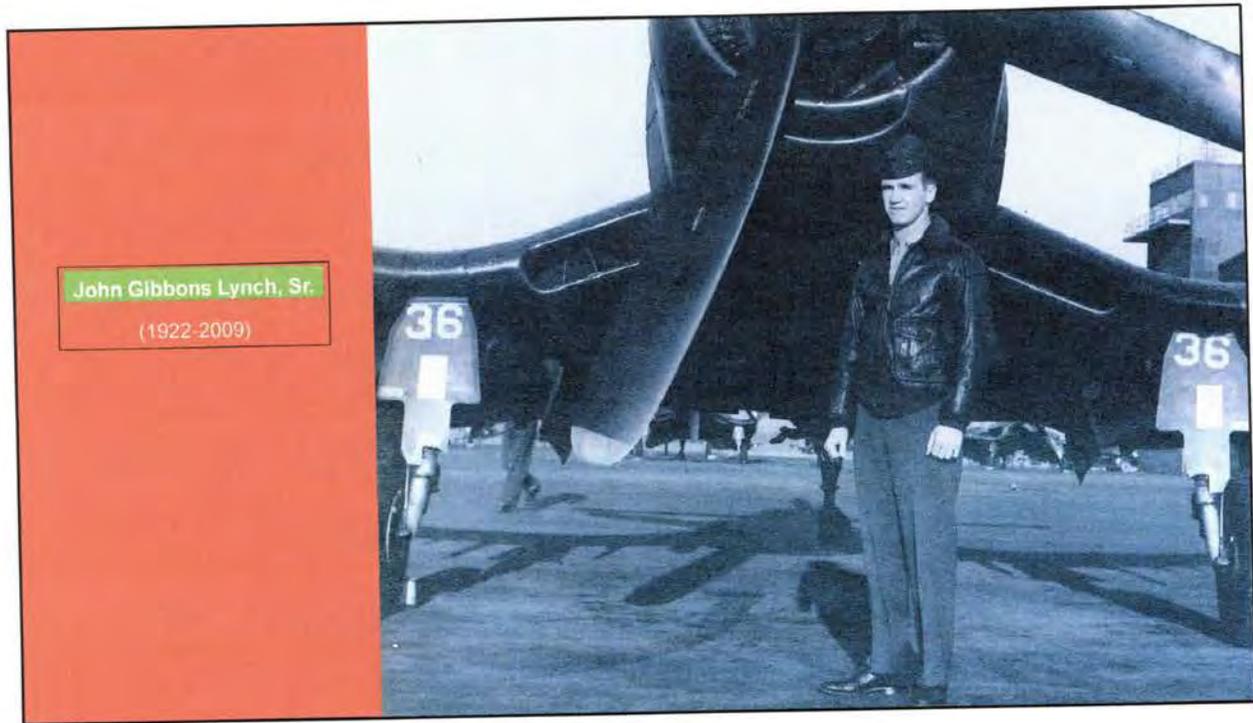
[5 Children]

The **first child born to Patrick and Catherine Casey Lynch** was **Francis Lynch**. On the left is a picture of him taken during World War II standing with my parents and his mother. Frank later served in the Pacific Theater.

Frank Lynch **married Susan Alling** after the War in 1947.

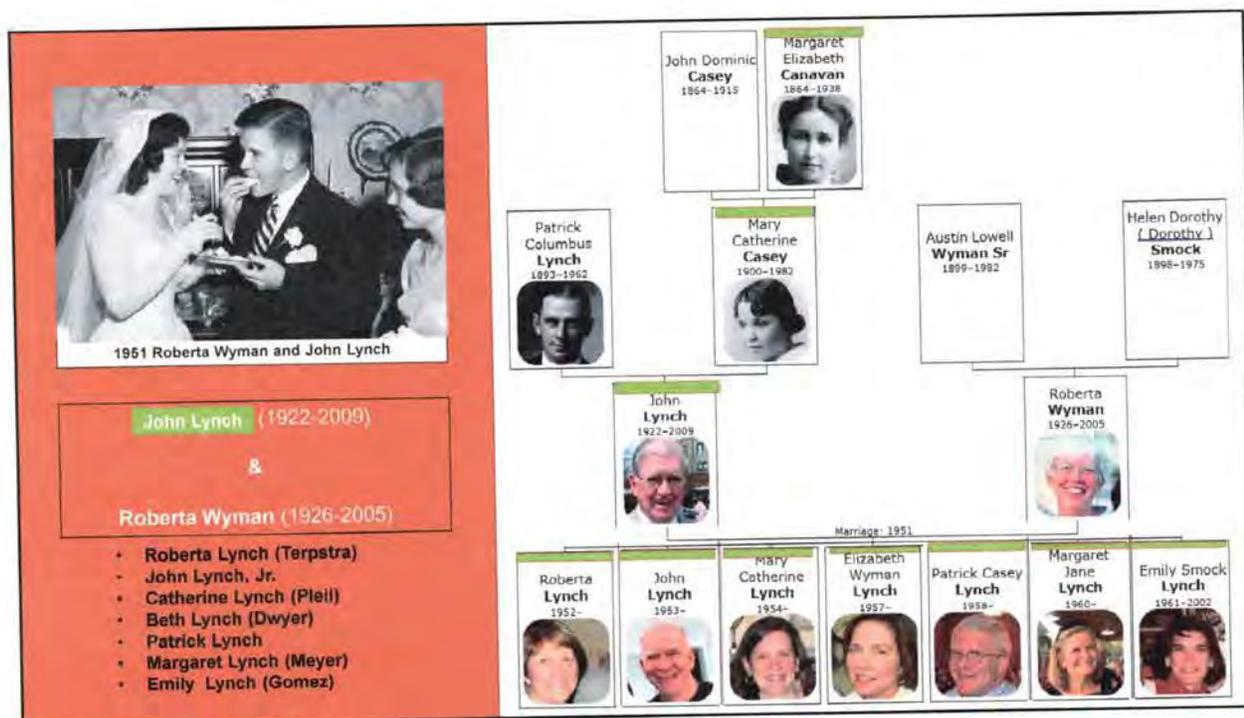
With their fiver children’s families we see **MacPhersons** and **Wernstedts** also join **the** extended Canavan Family.

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Frank's younger brother **Jack Lynch** also saw service in the military.

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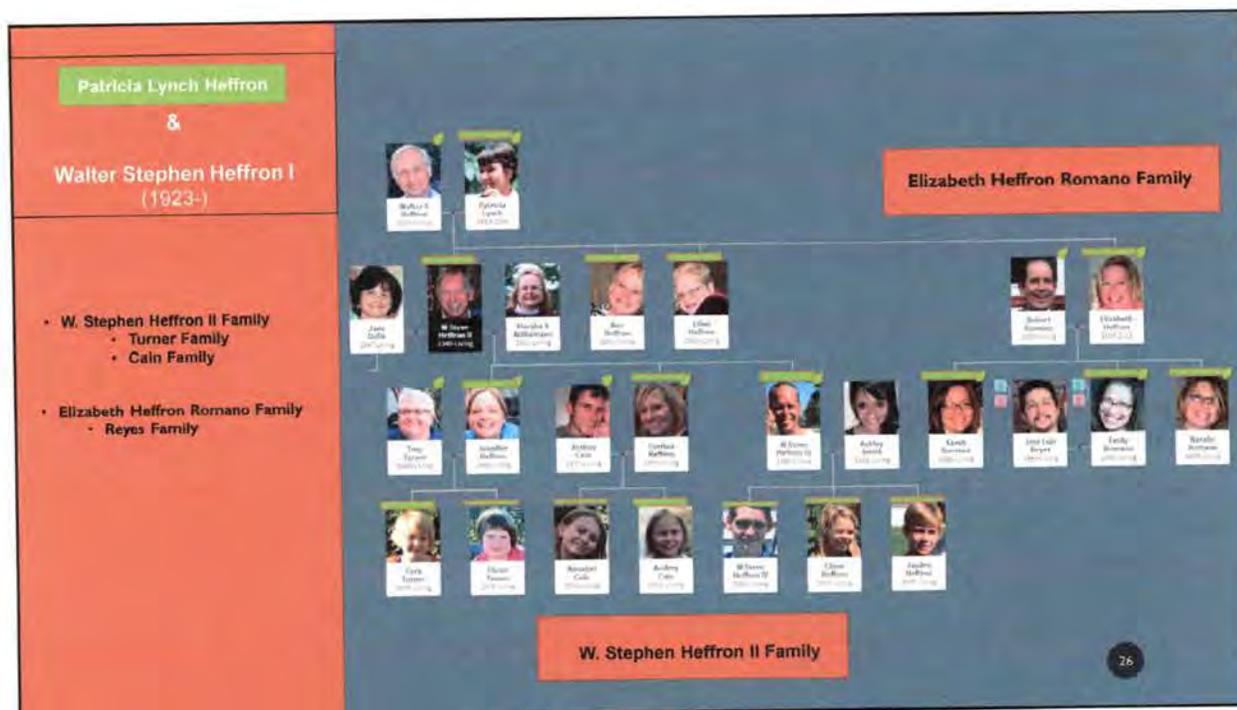


[7 Children]

After the War, **Jack Lynch** married **Roberta Wyman** in 1951.

And their seven children **Robbie**, **John Jr.**, **Cathy**, **Beth**, **Casey**, **Meg** and **Emily** in due course added to the **Lynch** families and brought along the **Terpstra**, **Dwyer**, **Heck**, **Meyer** and **Gomez** family names.

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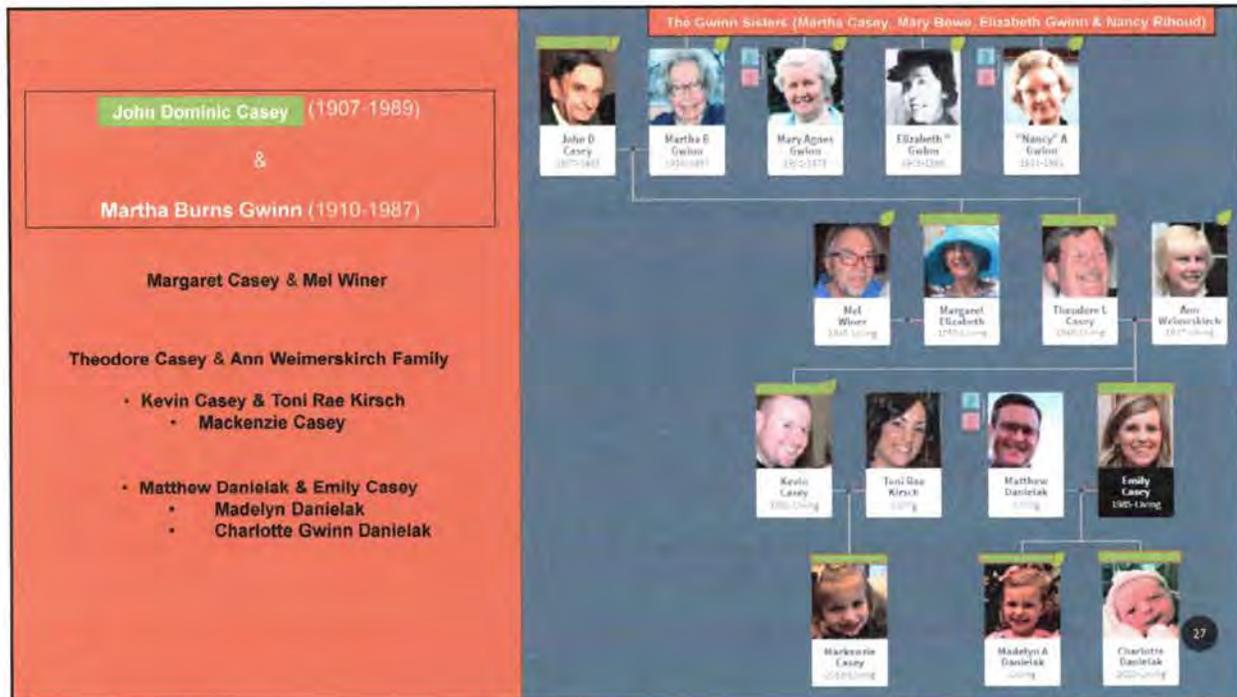
[4 Children – Steve, Ann, Ellen and Emily Heffron]

Which brings us to **Catherine Casey Lynch’s** third child, **Patricia Lynch Heffron**.

Her children with **Walter Heffron**, **Steve**, **Ann**, **Ellen** and **Emily Heffron**, brought along the **Romano**, **Reyes**, **Turner** and **Cain** family names.

The family now boasts of **four generations** with **Walter Heffron** as **part of their God-given name**.

We salute the Heffron **patriarch**, **Walter Heffron I**. At **age 98**, and with a virus still afoot, he couldn't be with us in person, but we know he is with us in spirit. We salute you in absentia, **Walter**.



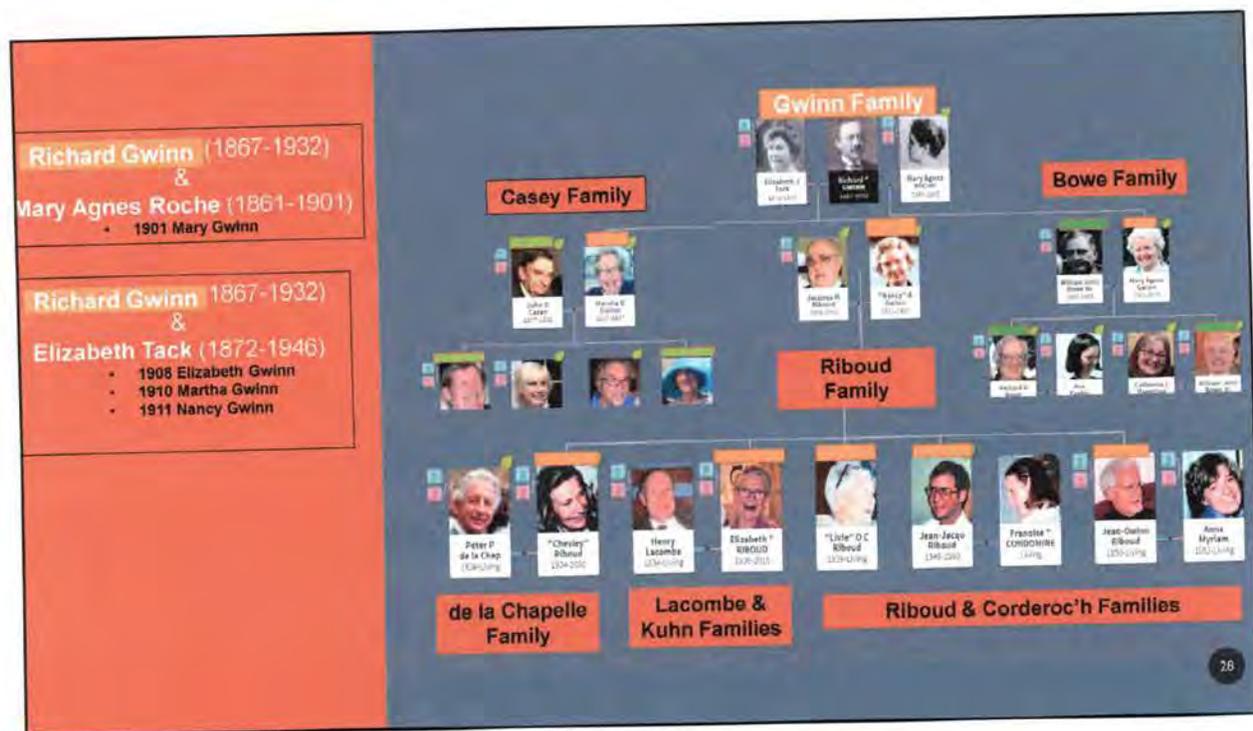
[4 Gwinn Sisters – Martha, Mary Betty and Nancy]

We're in the home stretch now folks, as we follow **the Gwinn sisters, Martha, Mary Betty and Nancy**, into the **Casey, Bowe and Riboud** families. You see my mother Mary and the four Gwinn sisters at the top right there.

On the bottom of the family tree, you see the **Casey and Danielak families** of John and Martha Gwinn Casey's children Ted and Emily Casey.

Note my own peculiar double connection with the **Caseys**. I've got **John Casey**, my uncle on the **Canavan** side marrying **Martha Gwinn Casey**, my aunt on the **Gwinn** side,

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[The Canavan's French Connection]

When two of the **four daughters** of my grandfather **Richard Gwinn** married Canavan descendants **John Casey** and my father **William Bowe, Sr.**, it created a path for a **French branch** of the extended Canavan family. This came to pass in 1933, when **Nancy Gwinn**, the youngest Gwinn daughter, married a French national, **Jacques Riboud**.

The **de la Chapelle**, **Lacombe** and **Riboud families** followed when Nancy and Jacques's children had their own children.

Then, when some of **Nancy and Jacques's grandchildren** had children, the **Kuhn** and **Corderoc'h** family names joined the extended Canavan family.

Well, there you have it. That's the **Cliff Notes** version of how this Canavan group is all related. If you want the **Encyclopaedia Britannica length version**, you got to go the www.wbowe.com website.

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[Stop Screen Share for Closing Remarks]

[Introduction of Tony Bowe]

Before we get to our introductions, **Tony Bowe** --- excuse me, Anthony Canavan Bowe --- the man who brought us the architectural tour today, would like to say a few words.

By the way, as regards Chicago's architectural landmarks, many of you may not know that in 1957, Chicago's **Mayor Richard J. Daley** appointed Tony's grandfather, **Augustine Bowe**, to head up the newly created **Commission on Architectural Landmarks**. Gus Bowe was a critical pioneer in helping to preserve Chicago's architectural legacy. If you can believe it, this was a sideline to Gus's work as **Chief Justice** of Chicago's court system and serving as **Chair of the City's commission to improve race relations**. Tony, please.

[Tony Bowe Remarks]

[BED Tip]

Now, so everyone can **put a name to a face**, we're going to go table to table and introduce ourselves. When its your turn, **please stand up, say your name and where you live**. Before John Hanley joins me to help with our introductions, I want to give you a tip. Some of you may have eaten too much dessert. If **Buffet Eating Disorder** prevents you from promptly standing up when it's your turn to rise and say your name, just **wave your arms like this and shake your head**. This will be a dignified way to let everyone know why you remain glued to your chair.

[John Hanly Introduction]

John Hanley, would you join me and help with **collecting our address cards**, facilitating the **introductions, family stories** and **raffle** part of our program please?

[John Hanley and Bill Bowe: Introductions, Family Stories and Raffle]

Our host **Beth Dunn** is now going to close the formal program tonight with **details about our Botanic Garden and Open House** events tomorrow. When she finishes **the bar will reopen** and you can enjoy yourselves until we get the boot.

[Beth Dunn Remarks]

[Share Screen and Go to Slide 30]



[8 PM Bill Bowe – Program Adjournment and Bar Reopens]

[Bobby Schiff Overtime?]