Foreword

Anthony Canavan (1922-1890) and Ann Hughes (1818-1899) were my great grandparents. While I furthered the research into their descendants in a modest way, this book is primarily the work of two earlier students of the subject: my mother, Mary Gwinn Bowe (1901-1979), and Joseph Christopher Hart (1946-). My mother became a member of the extended Canavan family by marrying into it. Joe Hart on the other hand is, like me, a direct descendant. In different times and with different skills, my mother and Joe Hart brought dissimilar, but complementary contributions to understanding and recording this family's rich heritage over many generations.

In the late 1960s, my then-widowed mother put her life skills to work when she started to catalog the lineage and histories of her parents (the Gwinn, Tack, and Roche families). Her work, *The Families*, published in 1970, went on to include extensive material on the Canavan family. This was made possible by her marriage to my father, William John Bowe, Sr. (1893-1965), and her long and close relationship with his brother, Augustine Joseph Bowe (1892-1966). Bill and Gus were grandsons of Anthony Canavan and Ann Hughes, and Gus's wife, Julia Lecour Bowe, was herself a distant Canavan cousin. Given the close living and business life of the two Bowe brothers, my mother had a lot of Canavan family history always at hand. An additional thread of Canavan learning became available to my mother when her sister, Martha Gwinn Casey (1910-1987), married another Canavan grandson, John Dominic Casey (1907-1989).

Many decades after my mother's passing, along came Joe Hart ready to again plow the rich field of Canavan family history. In contrast to my mother, Joe had the internet to help in the task. He also had the benefit of several decades of the digitization of public birth and death records, social security and census data, and ship sailing and immigration records. More importantly, Joe had an insatiable curiosity about the origins of both his Hart and Canavan ancestors. With an understanding of the new role of DNA in genealogy research, Joe aggressively pursued his investigations with on-the-scene research during some of his retirement years in Ireland.

Early in this century, after running across my mother's Canavan history in *The Families,* Joe reached out to me with new questions about the family. My relationship with Joe ultimately permitted me to conjoin his work and that of my mother in this digital compilation of the extended Canavan family.

After I came to fully understand the contribution Joe had made to the Canavan family history, I told him he had succeeded my mother as the greatest Canavan scholar of all time. That being said, I'm sure down the road another Canavan descendant (or someone married to one like my mother) will inherit Joe's crown with their own new insights into this grand history.

William J. Bowe, Jr.

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