



FOREWORD

Like so many Irish Catholic families, the O'Connells of Kerry have been considerably interested in their ancestry and in their relationships within the Sept. Various members of the family have worked hard to disentangle the confusion which the restrictions of the Penal Times left in their wake.

This tract is an attempt to clarify recent descents and to record them permanently. It is hoped that, in the future, further tracts will issue recording the descendants of the brothers and sisters of the Liberator, the descendants of his aunts and, in fact, all the information which can be tabulated about O'Connell history.

The present notes deal only with the descendants of the Liberator's marriage with his cousin, Mary O'Connell, 511 of these are shown herein. But they are bald and lifeless notes. It is hoped to encourage branches to collect personal details of the individuals mentioned, photos, snapshots, etc., which can later be combined into a live history of the family for the benefit of O'Connells of the future.

Doubtless there are omissions and, indeed, there may be errors. Where these occur apologies are offered, and it is hoped that indulgence will be made. The investigation has been undertaken in great haste, under difficult circumstances.

The writer wishes to extend his deepest thanks to the many members of the family who have helped him and, more especially, to Miss Mary McCartie and Miss Mary Fitzgerald.

BASIL MORGAN O'CONNELL,
of the Lakeview Branch.

30th September, 1946.

DANIEL O'CONNELL (1775-1847)

The following summary of the life of Daniel O'Connell appears in the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, volume xix, pp. 990-2, eleventh edition, 1911, and is reprinted here with the gracious permission of the holders of the copyright.

"Irish statesman, known as 'the Liberator,' was born on 6th August, 1775, near Cahirciveen, a small town in Kerry. He was sprung from a race the heads of which had been Celtic chiefs, had lost their lands in the wars of Ireland and had felt the full weight of the harsh Penal Code which long held the Irish Catholics down. His ancestors in the eighteenth century had sent recruits to the famous Irish Brigade in the service of France [see the account of O'Connell's uncle, 1745-1833, to whose property he fell heir, in Mrs. O'Connell's *The Last Colonel of the Irish Brigade*, 1892, and O'Callaghan's *Irish Brigade in the Service of France*, 1870] and those who remained at home lived as tenants on the possessions on which they had once been lords, or gradually made money by smuggling, a very general calling in that wild region. Thus he inherited from his earliest years, with certain traditions of birth and high station, a very strong dislike of British rule in Ireland and of the dominant owners of the soil, a firm attachment to his proscribed faith, and habitual skill in evading the law; and these influences may be traced in his subsequent career. Whilst a boy he was adopted by his uncle, Maurice O'Connell of Darrynane, and sent to school at Queenstown, one of the first which the State, in those days, allowed to be opened for Catholic teaching, and a few years afterwards he became a student, as was customary with Irish youths of his class, in the English Colleges of St. Omer and Douai in France. These years in France had decided effects in forming his judgment on political questions of high moment. He was an eyewitness on more than one occasion to the folly and excesses of the French Revolution: and these scenes not only increased his love for his Church, but strongly impressed him with a dread of anarchy, of popular movements ending in bloodshed, and of communistic and socialistic views, which characterised him in after life.

"To these experiences, too, we may partly ascribe the reverence for law, for the rights of property, and for the monarchical form of government which he appears to have sincerely felt, and demagogue as he became in a certain sense, they gave his mind a deep conservative tinge. In 1798 he was called to the Bar in Ireland, and rose before very long to the very highest eminence amongst contemporary lawyers and advocates. This position was in the main due to a dexterity in conducting cases, and especially in examining witnesses, in which he had no rival at the Irish Bar. He was, however, a thorough lawyer besides, inferior in scientific learning to two or three of his most conspicuous rivals, but well read in every department of the law, and especially a master of all that relates to criminal and constitutional jurisprudence. As an advocate, too he stood in the very highest rank; in mere oratory he was surpassed by Plunket, and in rhetorical gifts by Burke, the only speakers to be named with him in his best days at the Irish Bar; but his style, if not of the most perfect kind, and often disfigured by decided faults, was marked by a peculiar subtlety and manly power, and produced great and striking effects. On the whole, in the art of winning over juries he had scarcely an equal in the Courts.

"To understand, however, O'Connell's greatness we must look to the field of Irish politics. From early manhood he had turned his mind to the condition of Ireland and the mass of her people. The worst severities of the Penal Code had in a certain measure