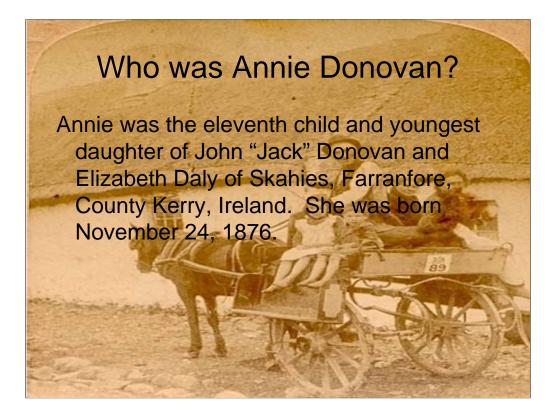
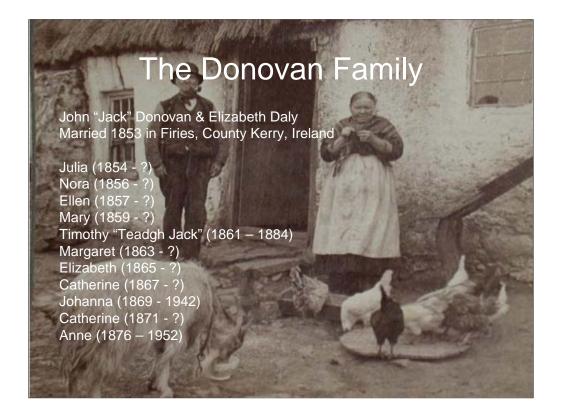


Hello everyone, my name is Jane Deedy and I have spent the last couple of years researching the various branches of my family tree. It has amazed me how much information is available from various sources. When deciding whom I should pick to talk about today, I settled on Annie's story since I was able to find clues about her life from passenger records, census records, historical records, city directories, and land and deed records. Another important source of my information about Annie and her family was found in the Family Record Report created by Shaun Bresnahan. Shaun spent over a decade researching his family tree, traveling numerous times to Ireland. Lucky for me, it turns out we are distant cousins, his work has been a treasure trove of information. Just as Shaun has been an invaluable resource to me in learning more about the Donovan's and Daly's, Clare Tozeski has been equally so in providing me with additional Deady information. Both Shaun and Clare are here today and I want to take this opportunity to Thank them both publicly for all of their research efforts and years of hard work. While much information is available, it is the searching and finding of that information which is the time consuming part. When records could not be found, Shaun took his research a step further by seeking out Irish relatives and over the years gained from them much of the information that would otherwise have been lost to us. I thank you both, Shaun and Clare, as do all of the many Deedy and Donovan descendants in the room today.



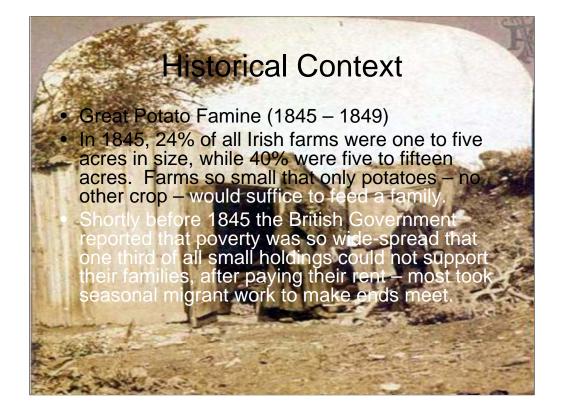
She was the youngest daughter and eleventh child of Jack Donovan and Elizabeth Daly. The images you will see in this next series of slides were all taken in the early 1900's in County Kerry Ireland. The scenes depicted are meant to give you an idea of what Annie would have seen and experienced growing up in the area.



Born in 1876, Annie was 22 years younger than her eldest sibling Julia. While I am not sure when Annie's parents, Jack Donovan and Elizabeth Daly were born, I do know that they married in 1853 in Firies, Ireland.

Map Satellite More. Firies & Skahies Annie's Mother, Elizabeth Daly, was born in Knockaderry, just up the road from where her husband, John "Jack" Donovan was born in Skahies. They married in Firies and the oldest children were born in Goulane (Gowlane?) and the youngest in Skahies (including Johanna, Catherine, and Annie).

Annie's Mother, Elizabeth Daly, was born in Knockaderry, just up the road from where her husband, Jack Donovan was born in Skahies. They married in Firies and the oldest children were born in Goulane (Gowlane?) and the youngest in Skahies (including Johanna, Catherine, and Annie). While I can't say for sure, it is likely that Jack Donovan was a crofter. His renting and working on a small farm would have been typical for the kind of occupations available in this area. While the family did move around a bit, you will notice how short the distances are between locations. It would have been typical for people at that time to only travel as far as they could walk. It is very possible that Jack and Elizabeth, despite living only about 8 miles from the coast, could have lived their entire lives without once seeing the sea.



To better understand Annie's family, it is helpful to know what historical events likely impacted her. While the Great Potato Famine was over by the time Annie was born, it was a four year event her parents survived and lived through as teenagers.

## Historical Context (cont.)

• Evictions were only recorded starting in 1849. 250,000 evictions were recorded between 1849 – 1852. Not counted are "voluntary surrenders". A common practice was for wealthy local landowners to offer a small amount of money and the promise that starving families would be taken in by the workhouse.

 Quarter-acre clause (enacted 1847): no tenant holding more than a quarter-acre of land would be eligible for public assistance either in or outside the workhouse.
 This law was seen as a cost-effective "estate clearing" device by the British Tory government. However, the Tories eventually repealed the law, admitting it was "indirectly a death-dealing instrument."

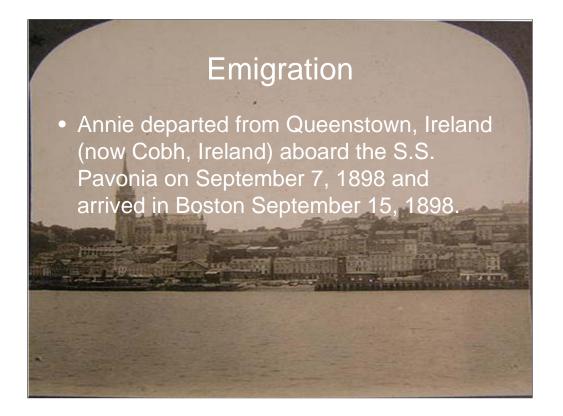
## Historical Context (cont.)

 1851 British Census Commission conclusion, after reporting that the Irish population had fallen to 6,552,385 from 8 million in 1845: "In conclusion, we feel that although the population has been diminished in so remarkable a manner by famine, disease and emigration, and has been since decreasing, the results are, on a whole, satisfactory."



I mentioned before that Annie was the youngest of eleven children. The Donovan family may have been poor, but they were rich is women. A few things to note about this list of names. The eldest Donovan girls, Julia & Nora (some 20 years older than Annie) married a pair of brothers, Thomas and John Fitzgerald. The story I heard from Shaun Bresnahan is the men where both about 20 years older than their young brides. This was a result of the famine years. So many women had died, that there was a lack of brides for the men. They had to wait for the next generation of girls to grow-up before marrying themselves.

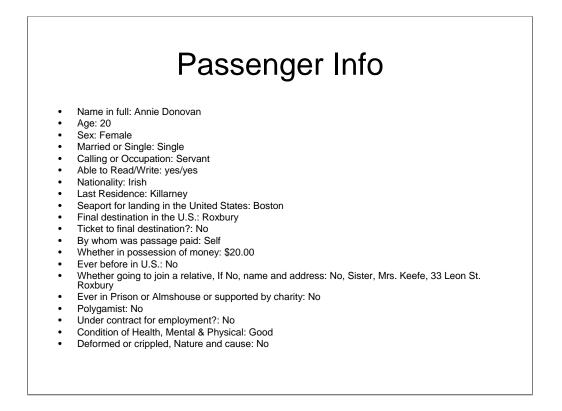
Other names on the list to note is Annie's older sisters Elizabeth O'Keefe, Johanna Deedy (my great-great grandmother) and Catherine Shea. These names will crop up again a little later in the presentation.



At about the age of 22, Annie left Ireland and immigrated to the United States. The image seen here was taken on board a ship looking back at Queenstown, Ireland about 1900. This likely would have been Annie's last view of Ireland.

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I have uncovered Annie's passenger record. We see here that Annie sailed on September 7th, 1898 for Boston.



When Annie left Ireland, she stated she was 20 years old, had worked as a servant, had \$20 in her pocket, and was heading to Roxbury to join a sister – Mrs. Keefe of 33 Leon St.

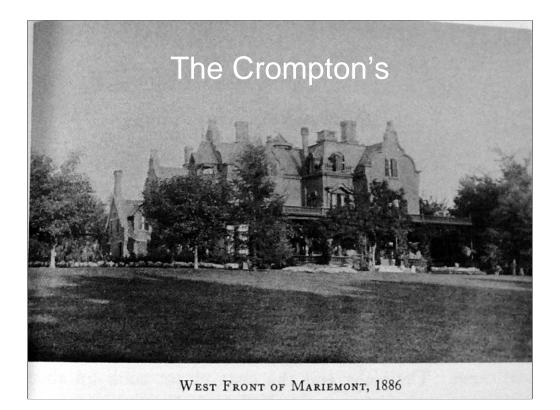
This is likely Annie's older sister, Elizabeth O'Keefe. So when Annie left Ireland she had a destination and older siblings to ease her transition into American life.

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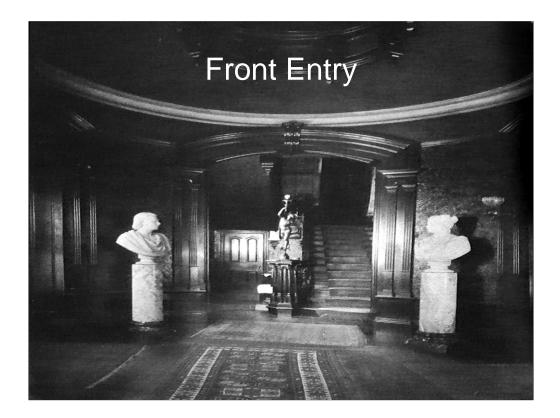
While I know that Annie was in Roxbury by September 1898, the next time I find her is in the 1910 Census report.

## 1910 Census Household Members: Crompton, Charles - Head of Household - 44yrs old Fitzgerald, Katherine - Servant - 24yrs old Donovan, Annie - Servant - 29yrs old Fitzgerald, Thomas - Servant - 24yrs old Fitzgerald, James - Servant - 21yrs old When Immigrated: Fitzgerald, Katherine - 1907 Donovan, Annie - Servant - 1899 Fitzgerald, Thomas - Servant - 1907 Fitzgerald, James - Servant - 1909 Occupations: Crompton, Charles - Farmer - Farm Fitzgerald, Katherine - Servant - Private Family Donovan, Annie - Servant - Servant - Private Family Fitzgerald, Thomas - Servant - Farm Hand - Farm Fitzgerald, James - Servant - Farm Hand - Farm

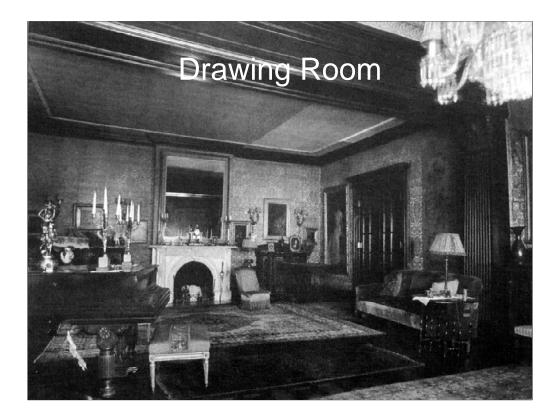
Annie is now living in Worcester and working as a servant in the Crompton household. Listed alongside Annie are three Fitzgerald's. As you will recall, Annie's older sisters both married Fitzgerald men. Through passenger records I feel confident in saying these three Fitzgerald's are Annie's niece and nephews.

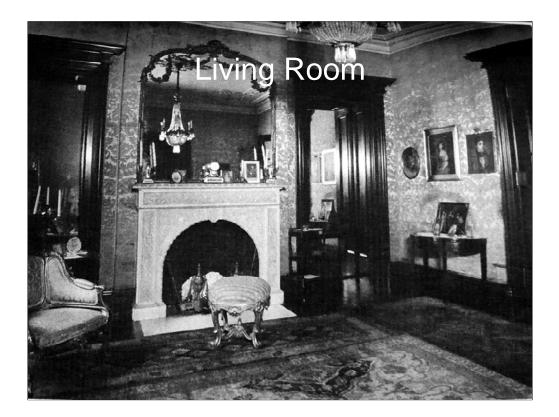


Annie was fortunate in her employer. The Crompton's were a very wealthy Worcester family. They owned the Crompton & Knowles Loom works. The next series of slides shows the Crompton's home called "Mariemont". The images were all obtained from the book titled "Mariemont" by Charles Crompton (published 1952). As I page through the images I want you to remember back to the earlier images of County Kerry and then think of what Annie must have felt when she first arrived in Worcester to work and live at the Crompton estate.



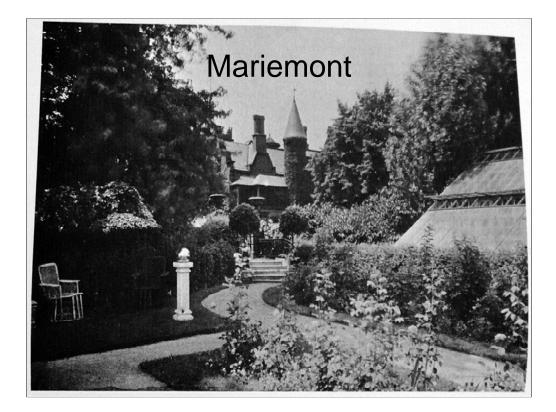


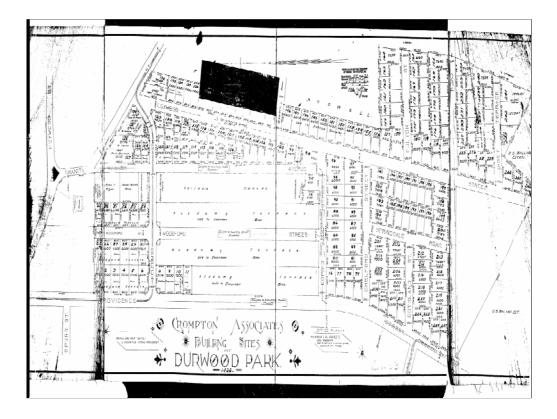




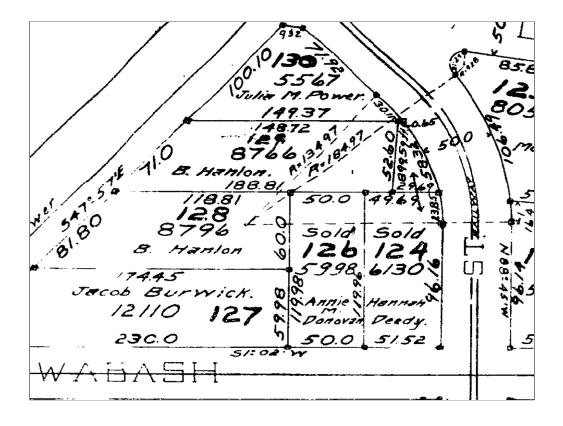








As Worcester continued to grow, the Crompton's sectioned off their farm and started selling lots of land. In 1913 I found a deed showing Annie M. Donovan purchasing the lot at 10 Wabash Avenue for "\$1 and other considerations" from George Crompton.



But you will notice that next to Annie's lot is 12 Wabash Ave which was purchased by her sister (my great-great grandmother) Hannah Deedy in 1912. A couple of things are interesting about Hannah's deed. First, she was a married women, yet the deed clearly gives her first mention on the title "One Dollar and other valuable considerations paid by Hannah Deedy of Worcester County of Worcester and Commonwealth of Massachusetts wife of Edward B. Deedy". This wording was very strange for the times, but if Hannah's relationship to Annie was the means through with this purchase was conducted from the Crompton's, that could explain Hannah's prominence on the deed. Also, Hannah's deed was executed one year earlier than Annie's – yet the lots are side-by-side. Perhaps the Crompton's had reserved these lots for the sisters?

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By 1947 the Crompton estate Mariemont had been sold and then torn down to make way for St. Vincent's hospital. In the 1948 Worcester directory, Annie Donovan is now seen living at her home at 10 Wabash ave along with her longtime charge, Charles Crompton.

I am not yet clear on why Charles Crompton (nephew of George Crompton) was living with his former housekeeper after the sale of his estate. But his residing with Annie shows just how dedicated she was to the Crompton family. Annie passed away in 1952 at the age of 76.



This concludes my presentation on Annie Donovan. Thank you.