

THE WESTERN RESERVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS

REGISTER: Gary O'Meara Family Papers  
MS. NO.: 4884

Processor: Regina Costello  
Editor: Michael McCormick  
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Gary O'Meara (b.1952 ) was born in Berea, Ohio, of Irish descent. He is one of eleven siblings. He married Mary Ann Emery (b. 1955) in 1975 at St. Augustine's Church in Cleveland, and together they have three children. O'Meara has traced his genealogy back to 1762, tracing nine generations, starting with his paternal great great grandparents, Matthew Pigman (1763-1803) and Ann Gilmore (b. 1762). Gary's maternal great grandmother, Catherine Laughlin O'Meara (1852-1945) was born in Galway, Ireland, and immigrated to the United States, as a young girl with her family. Catherine's father died en route, leaving her mother with six children. They traveled to Harvard, Illinois, to Catherine's uncle, John Laughlin, who had a home there. This family worked primarily as farmers, and lived in Minnesota and other states in the United States as well as in Canada. Catherine's husband, James O'Meara (1848-1919) was born in Canada. His parents were born in Ireland and immigrated during the Penal Law era, escaping religious persecution.

Gary's father, Walter James O'Meara (b. 1921) was raised in Minnesota and came to Cleveland in 1947 with a job transfer with Sears Department Store. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus, and a regular participant in the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade. His mother, Marie Meidenbauer (1923-1975) was of German descent. O'Meara also participated in various capacities in the St. Patrick's Day parade. His career focused on health care and program planning for non profit agencies. In later years, he worked as a tax auditor.

The Gary O'Meara Family Papers, 1787-1990, consist of birthday data of the Hankins family 1874-1935, the O'Meara family history, a family record, birth, genealogy, a journal article regarding the Hankins in Franklin township, Ohio, a memorial card, a photograph, a poem, a song, and one handwritten short story.

The collection is arranged alphabetically by document type, and then chronologically.

This collection is of value to those seeking information about the early Irish community in the United States and their adaptation to a new life, country and culture. These documents are a valuable genealogical resource for those researching the O'Meara and Hankin families who originally hailed from Counties Cork and Galway, Ireland. Those interested in Irish storytelling and folklore will find useful information.

Provenance: Gary O'Meara, 2002.

Number of Containers: 1    Oversize Folders: 0    Oversize Volumes: 0

Size: 0.20 linear feet / 0.06 linear meters

Restrictions: None.

Container

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|---|---------------|---|
| 1 | <u>Folder</u> | 1: Birthday data, Hankins family, handwritten, photocopy, 1874-1935.                                    |
|   | <u>Folder</u> | 2: Family history, O'Meara family, 1945-1969, Sr. Shaun O'Meara, photocopy, undated.                    |
|   | <u>Folder</u> | 3: Family record with handwritten notes, photocopy, 1787-1967.  |
|   | <u>Folder</u> | 4: Family tree, Hankins and O'Meara families, photocopy, 1763-1980.                                     |
|   | <u>Folder</u> | 5: Genealogy, Kathryne Hankins and Harry O'Meara Family History, Sister Shaun O'Meara, photocopy, 1990. |
|   | <u>Folder</u> | 6: History, O'Mearas, Walter O'Meara, photocopy, 2002.  |
|   | <u>Folder</u> | 7: Journal article, History of Coshocton County, Ohio, photocopy, 1740-1881.                            |
|   | <u>Folder</u> | 8: Memorial card, Kathryne R. O'Meara, photocopy, 1977.   |
|   | <u>Folder</u> | 9: Photograph, O'Meara family, Christmas, photocopy, 1997.  |
|   | <u>Folder</u> | 10: Poem, <i>Wooden Wedding</i> , handwritten, undated.   |
|   | <u>Folder</u> | 11: Song, <i>The Black Sheep</i> , handwritten, undated.  |
|   | <u>Folder</u> | 12: Story, <i>Story of my Ancestors</i> , handwritten, Steve O'Meara, photocopy, 1947.                  |