

THE WESTERN RESERVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS

REGISTER: Michael O'Neil Family Papers

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Michael O'Neil (1850-1927) was born in Clonakilty, County Cork, Ireland. As a child, he immigrated with his parents to America, settling in New York City for twenty-one years. O'Neil then moved to Lancaster, Ohio, where he entered into a partnership in the mercantile business for three years. Following this, he came to Akron, Ohio, and opened a mercantile store with the late I. J. Dyas on East Market Street. This partnership lasted for twelve years. After the death of I. J. Dyas, the business was incorporated as "The M. O'Neil Company." In 1915 O'Neil and his son, William, set up the General Tire and Rubber Company of Akron, Michael becoming president. In the mid-1920s O'Neil stepped down as president and took up the position of chairman of the board of directors.

O'Neil was a member of the Knights of Columbus, Fourth Degree and The City and Portage Country Clubs; a director of the First Trust & Savings Bank; a member of the board of directors of The City Hospital; a director in The Catholic Service League; and a member of the committee for the erection of St. Thomas Hospital. He became a leading citizen of Akron, giving time to civic and charitable endeavors.

O'Neil was married to Patience Maher of Cleveland, Ohio, in 1884, and they had six children: William, A. F., Thomas F., Cyril, Mary, and Mrs. Hugh Garvey. Today, family members still reside in the original residence in Clonakilty, County Cork. Michael O'Neil's grandson, Phil O'Neil, is a native of Cleveland and is married to Mary Karen O'Neil. Mary is an avid supporter of things Irish, and has been a member of the Irish American Archives Society Board of Trustees. Mary's great-grandfather, Joseph Mahoney, was born in 1850 near Bandon, County Cork, Ireland, and died in Cleveland in 1927. Joseph immigrated to the United States ca. 1870 arriving at Fall River, Massachusetts, where he met his wife, Ann Moran (1850-1927), who was also born in Ireland. Joseph and Ann met in Fall River, and from there traveled to Cleveland. He was the only member of his family of nine siblings to leave Ireland. Ann worked in one of the many linen mills in Cleveland that employed Irish women.

The Michael O'Neil Family Papers, 1850-1999, consist of a baptismal certificate, correspondence, the O'Neil family history, a subscription for the Irish Freedom Fund, and a memorial booklet in memoriam of Michael O'Neil.

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

This collection is of value to individuals interested in Irish history and Irish American history. It is also of value to those seeking information about the Irish community and business community in northeast Ohio and Akron. Information regarding the genealogical histories of the O'Neil family of Fourcuil, Clonakilty, County Cork, Ireland, and of the Mahoney family of Bandon, County Cork, Ireland, will be useful to those interested in family history. Those interested in the life and contributions of Michael O'Neil to the General Tire and Rubber Company of Akron, Ohio, will find interesting and informative data. Individuals interested in the entrepreneurship of first generation Irish Americans will find this collection valuable. Researchers seeking information pertaining to business in Akron will find this collection useful.

Provenance: Mary Karen O'Neil, 1999.

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

Size: 0.20 linear feet / 0.06 linear meters

Restrictions: None.

Container

- |   |               |                                                                                   |
|---|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Folder        | 1: Certificate of baptism, photocopy, Michael O'Neil, December 24, 1850.          |
|   | <u>Folder</u> | 2: Correspondence, 1999.                                                          |
|   | <u>Folder</u> | 3: History of O'Neil family, by Mary Karen O'Neil, photocopy, 1999.               |
|   | <u>Folder</u> | 4: Memorial booklet, in memoriam of Michael O'Neil, photocopy, December 19, 1927. |
|   | Folder        | 5: Subscription, Irish Freedom Fund, undated.                                     |