

THE WESTERN RESERVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS

REGISTER: Daniel T. Shehan Family Papers

MS NO.: 4817

Processor: Lonnie McCauley

Editor: Deborah Shell, Michael McCormick

Date: December 28, 1999

Daniel T. Shehan (1808-1867) was born in the parish of Ballylongford, County Kerry, Ireland, and married Margerett Melagott (1819-1864) there on February 15, 1838. Together they emigrated from Scattery Harbor, Ireland, on April 29, 1841, arriving in Quebec, Canada, on May 18, 1841. They spent six years in Canada where Daniel worked as a blacksmith. Three children were born to them in Canada, and their firstborn child, born in Ireland, joined them here. They moved to Cleveland, Ohio, arriving Nov. 12, 1847, where four more children were born to them.

The Daniel T. Shehan Family Papers, 1841-1939, consist of correspondence, medical instructions, a recipe book, poems, a contract, a partial will, photocopies of genealogical information, photocopies of newspaper articles, an autograph book, a commencement book, and a souvenir menu.

The collection is arranged in two series. Series I: Daniel T. Shehan is arranged alphabetically by document type and then chronologically. The series consists of the letters Daniel Shehan wrote home to his family in Ireland during his voyage from Ireland to Canada in 1841, as well as later letters from Toronto, Montreal, and Stoney Creek, Canada, and Collamer and Ohio City, Ohio. A letter from his brother John from Ballylongford, Ireland, is also included. A handwritten booklet of his recipes for various medicines, a handwritten prayer book, poems, a contract made with another blacksmith, instructions for his medical treatment, and a partial will are also part of this collection. Of special interest to the researcher is a typescript, arranged chronologically, of all of the aforementioned manuscripts, transcribed by Dr. Kerby Miller, Department of History, University of Missouri, which includes photocopies of genealogical information from the Shehan family Bible. Miller annotated undated and fragmented documents in his transcription with an alphabetical designation, which is indicated in the folder register.

Series II: Gallagher Family is arranged alphabetically by document type and then chronologically. The series consists of photocopies of newspaper articles related to the family of Margaret Shehan Gallagher (1844-1927), daughter of Daniel Shehan and Margerett Melagott, and her spouse, Dennis Gallagher (1830-1905). An autograph book, commencement book, and souvenir menu, as well as an updated genealogical chart, are included in this series.

This collection is of value to researchers interested in the history of settlement in Canada, Ohio, and the Western Reserve. It is also of utility for research into the causes and practices of Irish immigration to the United States and Canada; the Irish potato famine, 1845-52; work practices; medicinal practices; and life in the mid-to-late 1800s. Of special interest is a listing of items Daniel Shehan recommended to his sister to bring on ship when emigrating and reference to the failure of the crops in Ireland in 1846, commonly known as the potato famine. Biographical information regarding Irish undertaker Tom Gallagher (1827-?), the second Catholic undertaker in Cleveland, and Ohio state representative and state senator, Tom L. Gallagher (1888-1939) is included in the photocopied newspaper clippings. The collection also contains detailed genealogical information on the Shehan and Gallagher lines.

Researchers should also consult related family information in MS. 4822 Lawrence Connelly Papers,

All photographs have been removed to the photograph and print collection.

Clothing items have been removed to the Western Reserve Historical Society Museum.

Provenance: Margaret Gallagher, 1993, 1999.

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

Size: 0.40 linear feet / 0.12 linear meters

Restrictions: None.

**Series I: Daniel T. Shehan**

Container

- |   |               |  |
|---|---------------|--|
| 1 | <u>Folder</u> | 1: Contract, November 5, 1846.   |
|   | <u>Folder</u> | 2: Letters, Montreal, June 1, 1941.  |
|   | <u>Folder</u> | 3: _____, Toronto, October 4, 1841.  |
|   | <u>Folder</u> | 4: _____, voyage journal, 1841; November 16, 1841, and March 26, 1842.   |
|   | <u>Folder</u> | 5: _____, voyage letter in brother John's handwriting. [1841] (Miller Document D.).  |
|   | <u>Folder</u> | 6: _____, Toronto, August 10, 1843.  |
|   | <u>Folder</u> | 7: _____, Toronto, March 7, 1845, and May 7, 1846.   |
|   | <u>Folder</u> | 8: _____, Brother John B. Shehan, September 9, 1845.   |
|   | <u>Folder</u> | 9: _____, John B. Shehan, July 13, 1846.   |
|   | <u>Folder</u> | 10: _____, Stoney Creek, April 15, 1847.   |
|   | <u>Folder</u> | 11: _____, letter fragment, in regard to brother's death, undated. Order for "Irish Volunteer" newspaper. (Miller Manuscript A). |
|   | <u>Folder</u> | 12: Instructions Regarding Medical Treatment, undated. (Miller Document C).  |
|   | <u>Folder</u> | 13: Poem, "Florid Grand Legions," March, 1842, and promissory note due March 1, 1842.  |
|   | <u>Folder</u> | 14: Poems, January 15, 1847.   |
|   | <u>Folder</u> | 15: _____, October 25, 1851.   |
|   | <u>Folder</u> | 16: Prayer book, undated.  |

- Container 1  
Continued
- Folder 17: Recipe and cure book, undated.
- Folder 18: Typescript, correspondence and manuscripts of Daniel Shehan, his brother John, and photocopies of genealogical information from Shehan family Bible, 1992, by Dr. Kerby Miller.
- Folder 19. Will, [1866 or 1867?]. (Miller Manuscript B).

**Series II: Gallagher Family**

- Folder 20. Autograph book of Annie Gallagher, 1888.
- Folder 21. Commencement book, Cassie Reddy, 1907.
- Folder 22. Genealogy chart, 1790-1992.
- Folder 23. Newspaper clippings, photocopies, Gallagher family members, 1935 and 1939.
- Folder 24. Souvenir menu, Forest City House, November 24, 1898.