



**WHAT WOULD YOU FIGHT FOR?
OR
WHAT WOULD YOU WORK FOR?**

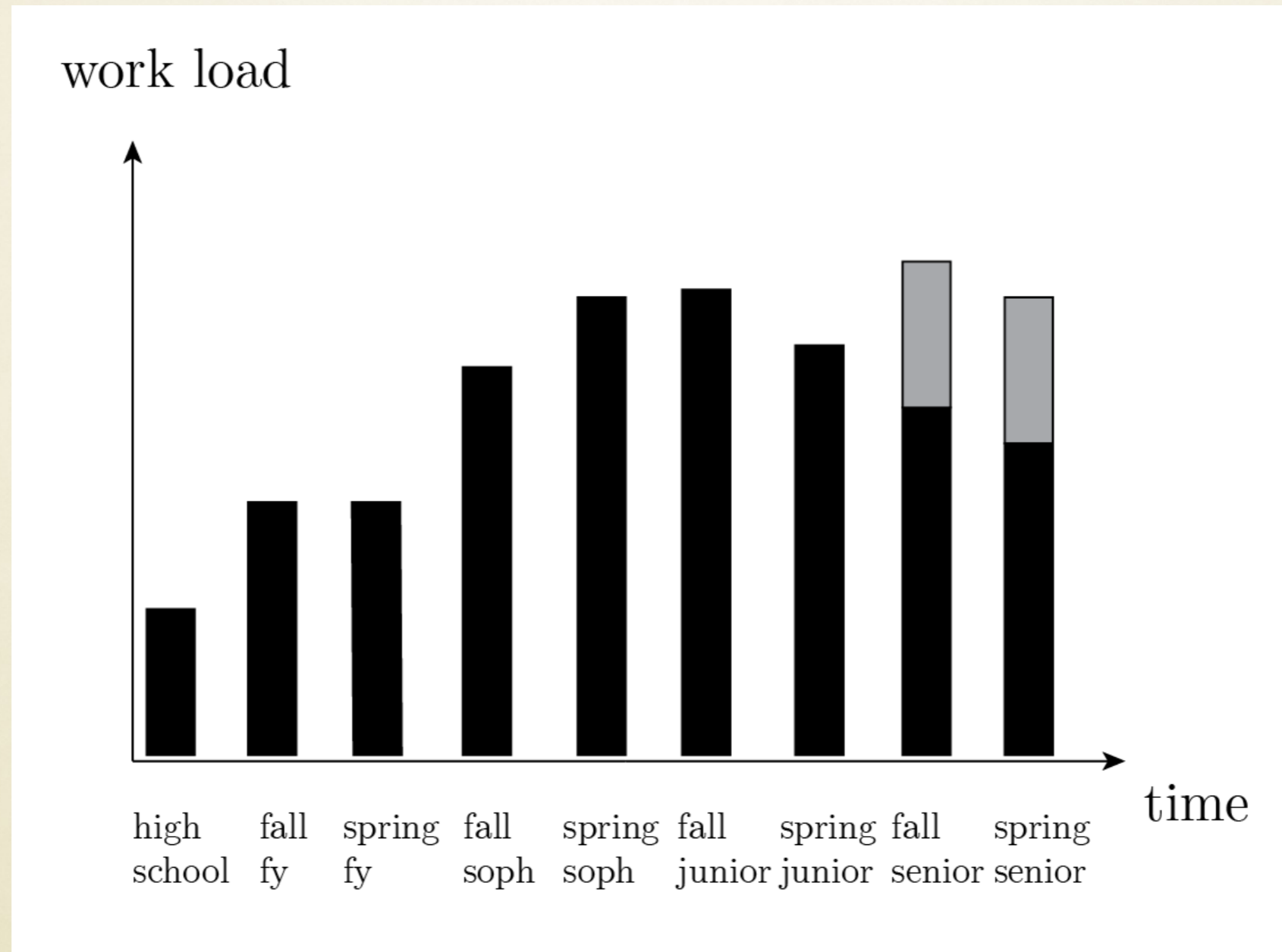
FIGHTING IRISH AND WORKING IRISH

THOUGHTS DELIVERED TO AME 2023 1

**J. M. POWERS
19 MARCH 2024**



THERE IS A LOT OF WORK!



2 hours outside work per 1 in class hour

16 credits x 3 work hours/wk/credit = **48 hr/wk on academics**

OUR ACADEMIC SHIP HAS SET SAIL ONTO THE HIGH SEAS; IT IS NOT TURNING BACK; IT IS NOT AN EASY JOURNEY!

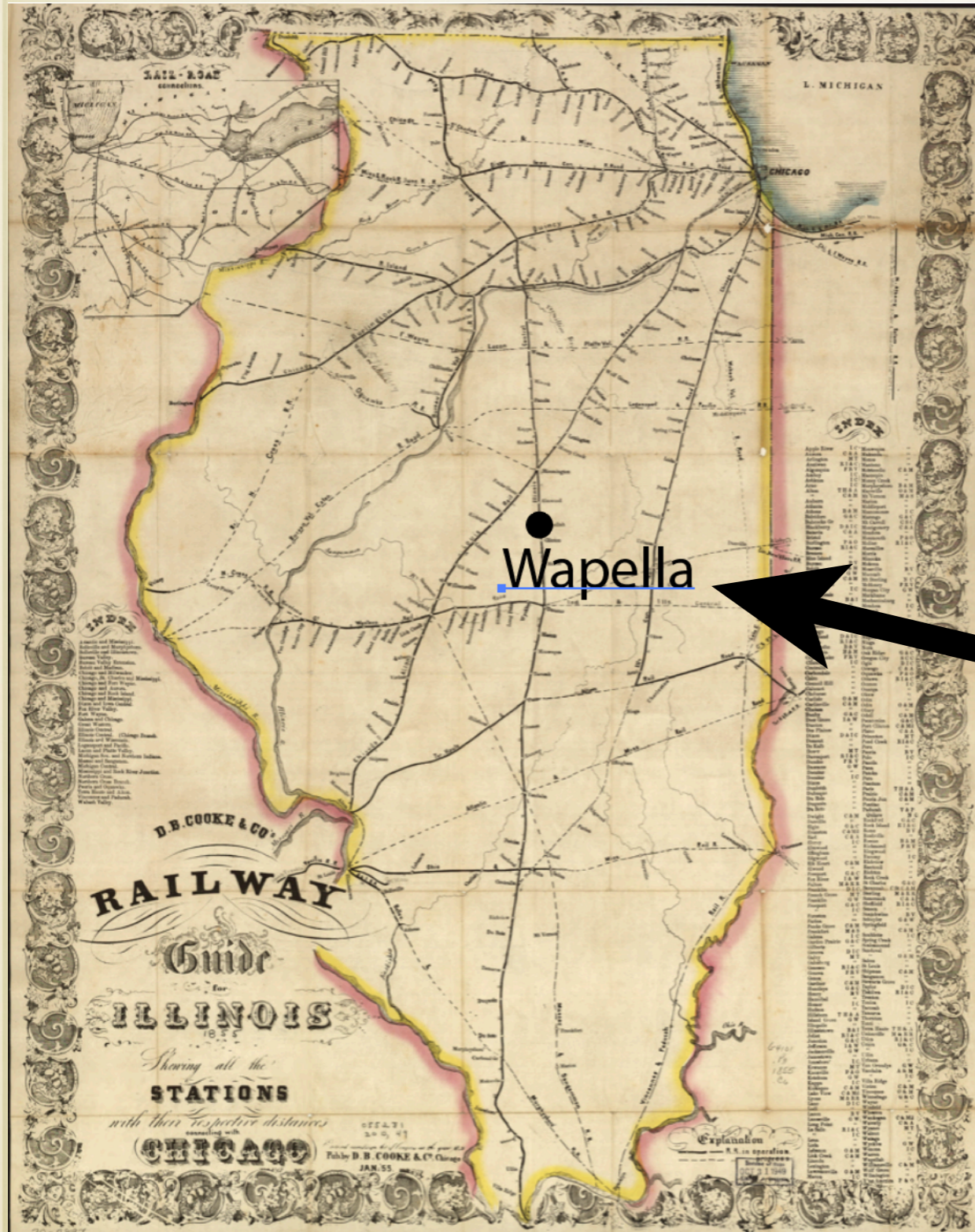


S.S. Minnesota of the Guion Line:
an Irish immigrant-laden ship,
departed from Cobh, Co. Cork



Cobh Harbor, Co. Cork, 2018

MY FAMILY'S JOURNEYS OF THE 1850s



THESIS:

**HARD WORK AND SOME FIGHTING
SPIRIT HAS ENGENDERED SUCCESS
IN INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES, AND
THE GREATER WORLD.**

FROM THE ND WEBSITE

In the early days of Notre Dame....

The growth of the University of Notre Dame and the immigrant experience would be inextricably linked.

A number of forces were at work in this relationship. The American Dream was coming into being, and with it the hope and expectation that, through hard work and education, children would enjoy greater opportunities than their parents.



A MEME FOR NOTRE DAME STUDENTS:

Sprung from working class immigrants who worked hard
and achieved success in America.

Ask your parents and grandparents what that means.

It is worth remembering.

It is worth emulating.

I'll give you here some insights from my own family's story.

UNDERSTAND WHERE YOU CAME FROM TO UNDERSTAND WHERE YOU'RE GOING: SOME PERSONAL HISTORY



Powers Bros. Farms, Wapella, Illinois, October 2017 (7:18)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=youtu.be&v=mIlPBpgBWtM&app=desktop>

GREAT-GREAT GRANDFATHER: JOHN POWERS (1824-1865)

Born, County Waterford, Ireland

Emigrated to build the Illinois Central
Railroad

Early citizen of Wapella, Illinois

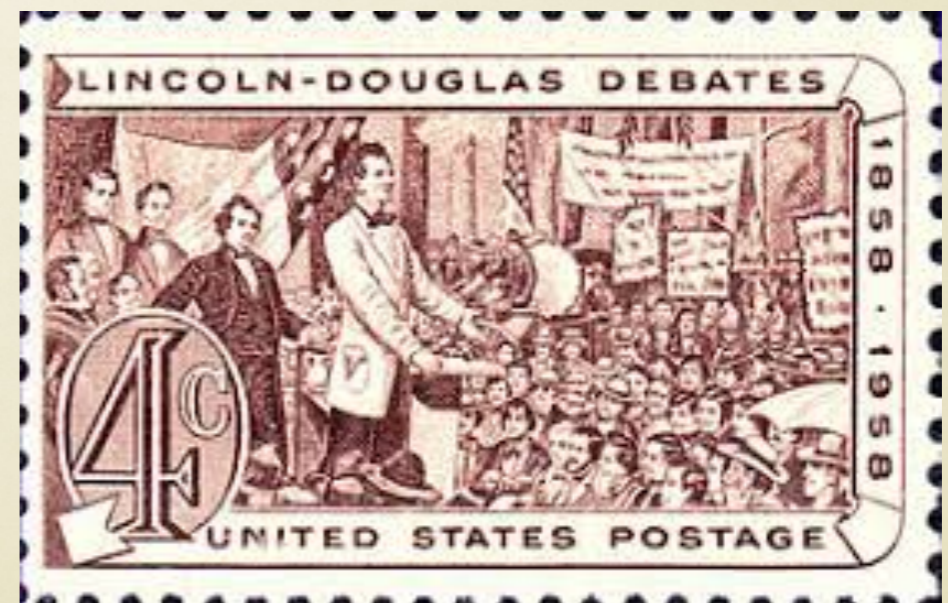
Likely heard Lincoln in 1858, during
Lincoln's stop in Wapella

Naturalized citizen 8 Oct 1860 by Judge
David Davis, appointed by Lincoln as
Justice of the US Supreme Court

Eligible to vote for president on 6 Nov 1860

any body else. The history of the Powers family shows what can be done by perseverance and industry. Twenty years ago the father of the family was an engine wiper in the round-house at Wapella and earned but small wages. He saved every dollar of his earnings, bought a home, and educated his children. When Powers died the mother took up the work of supporting her children, and little by little the family added to their small stock of wealth till now they own a couple of good farms and are in comfortable circumstances.

Clinton Public, 28 Jan 1887



GREAT-GREAT GRANDFATHER: PATRICK TOOHILL (1840-1926)

Born, Fermoy County Cork, Ireland

Immigrated to New York City then Illinois

Befriended A. Lincoln and became “sod-buster”

Moved to Wapella, Illinois, 1862

Registered for the draft 1863

His father received a pass from A. Lincoln to search for his missing sons

He gave his grandchildren \$100 in gold on their graduation from college.

No member of the farming community of DeWitt County is more worthy of representation in this Biographical Album than this gentleman. He is one of the most extensive farmers and stock-growers of Wilson Township, where he has large landed interests and a commodious home.....His father, Edmond Toohill, was also a native of that island, where he engaged as a farmer until he immigrated to America in 1838. After coming to this country he lived in the State of New York until 1857, when he took up his residence in this county. He had three sons in the army during the war, and he went to Washington to gain permission from Abraham Lincoln to see them. The President kindly gave him a pass that allowed him to go where he pleased, and he traveled much in the South and considerably through the West.

1891 DeWitt County
Biographical Album

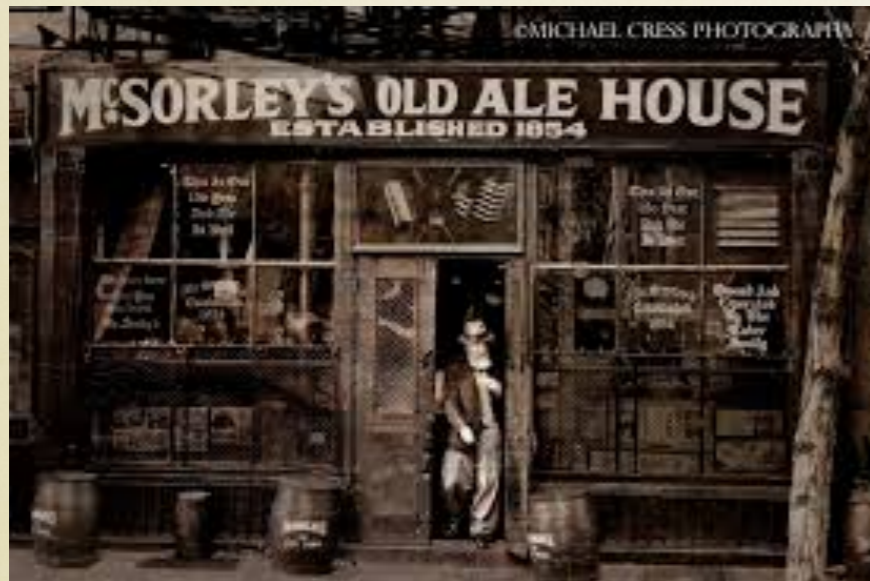


WORKING/FIGHTING UNCLE JAMES TOO HILL, 1847-1927



T-400

Family Name		Given Name or Names	
TOOHILL		JAMES	
Title and Location of Court			
SUPERIOR COURT, NEW YORK COUNTY.			
Date of Naturalization	Volume or Bundle No.	Page No.	Copy of Record No.
JAN. 3, 1854	52	-	90
Address of Naturalized Person			
/			
Occupation	Birth Date or Age	Former Nationality	
/	/	SEE OTHER SIDE	
Port of Arrival in the United States		Date of Arrival	
/		-	
Names, Addresses and Occupations of Witnesses To Naturalization			
1	JOHN TOO HILL, 33 GREENWICH, ST. N.Y.		
2	/		



Born in Fermoy, Co. Cork, Ireland during the famine
US Citizen: 1854 in Manhattan's Lower East Side

FIGHTING UNCLE JAMES



AGE		ENLISTED				MUSTERED IN				
YEARS	DAY	WHEN		WHERE	DAYS	WHEN		GRADE	COMPY.	REG'T.
		MONTH	YEAR			DAY	MONTH			
		2 ^o	May	62	Camp ⁱⁿ Fairfield Va	2 ^o	May	62	Drummer	88 th N.Y.
HOW		WHEN			IN WHAT GRADE		EXPLANATION			
		DAY	MONTH	YEAR			Deserted 20 July 62 Drummer from Camp near Saluda Va			

Volunteered in 1862 for the 88th New York
 “Fighting Irish” regiment as a drummer boy
 Peninsular Campaign, Antietam, Fredericksburg
 His chaplain was Notre Dame’s President Fr. Corby
 Reported as a deserter after Fredericksburg

WORKING COUSIN JAMES TOOHILL, 2020

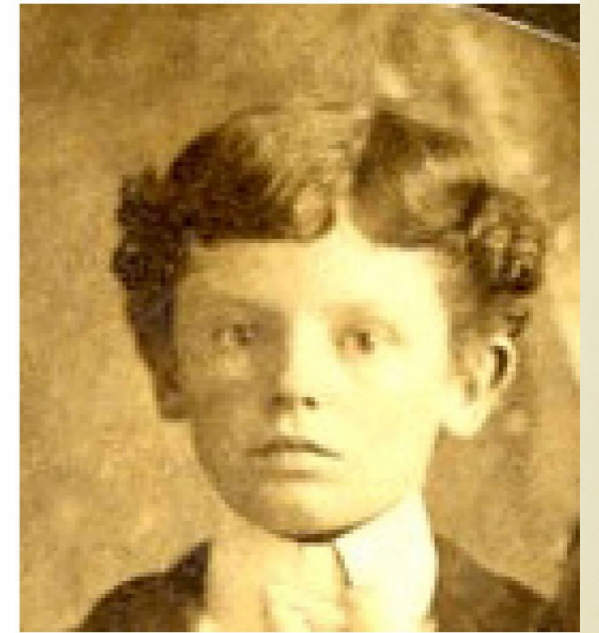
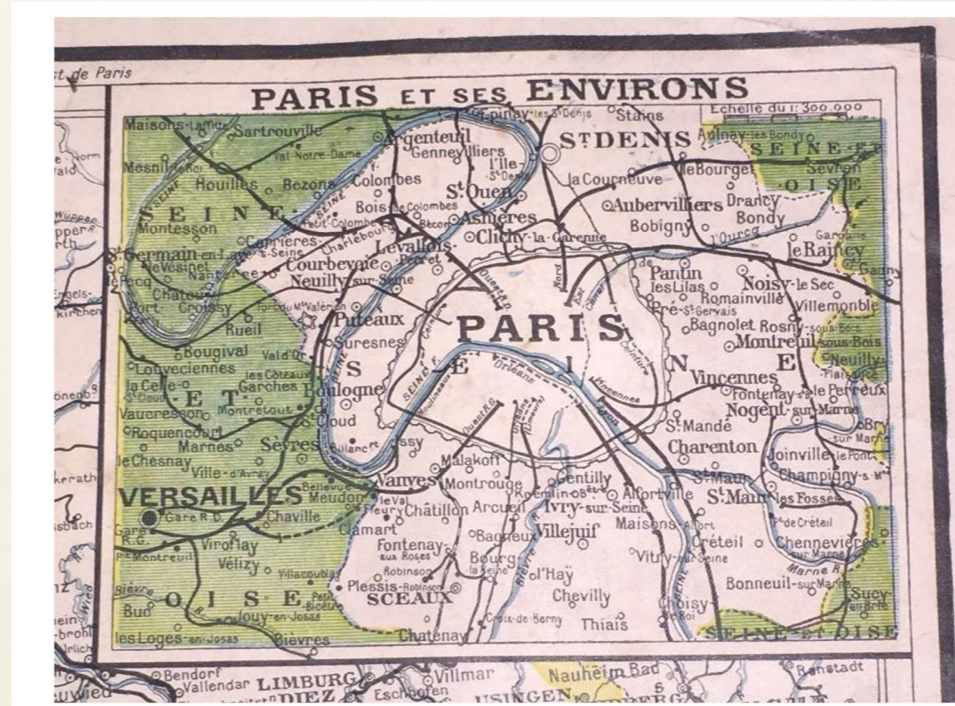


A screenshot of the Too Hill Seed & Beef Service website. The top left features the logo "TOOHILL Seed & Beef Service" in red and black. To the right is a search bar with the word "Search" in a light grey font. Below the logo is a navigation menu with "ORDER" (preceded by a hamburger icon), "RETAIL", "ABOUT US", and "BLOG". The main content area has a background image of raw beef. Overlaid on this is a white text box with the text: "Quality You Can Taste", "Naturally Raised, Source Verified, Hormone & Antibiotic Free", and a blue button that says "LEARN MORE". At the bottom right of the beef image, there are four small circles, with the second one from the left being filled with blue.

<https://toohillbeef.com>

WORKING/FIGHTING UNCLE

FRANCIS M. POWERS, 1896-1927



Born on Powers Bros. Farm
Fought in WWI, US Army, 26th Division
Wounded with poison gas in France, Meuse-Argonne
School-teacher and farmer after the war
Died working in the cornfield in 1927
Well loved

MY DONOVAN FAMILY REUNION,
AMERICAN LEGION HALL
HEYWORTH, ILLINOIS
1 AUGUST 2015



“Fighting Donovans,” veterans of military service

EARLIER FIGHTING IRISH:

THE IRISH TIMES

Sun, Aug 23, 2015

NEWS SPORT BUSINESS OPINION LIFE & STYLE CULTURE

Heritage | Books | Film | Music | Stage | Art & Design | TV, Radio, Web | Treibh

'O'Dynamite' Rossa: Was Fenian leader the first terrorist?

Radicalised by the Famine, his funeral became a propaganda coup for the movement

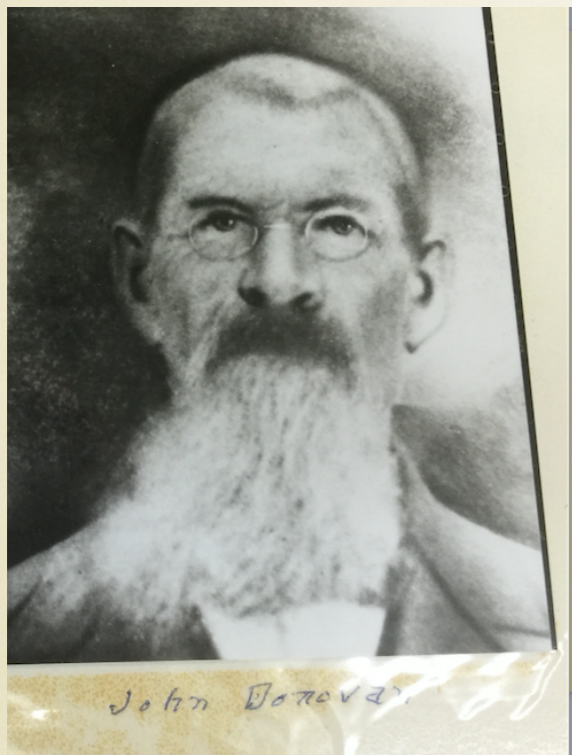


Gorilla warfare: O'Donovan Rossa drops dynamite bombs on England, in a cartoon from Puck, a US satirical magazine. Illustration: Library of Congress

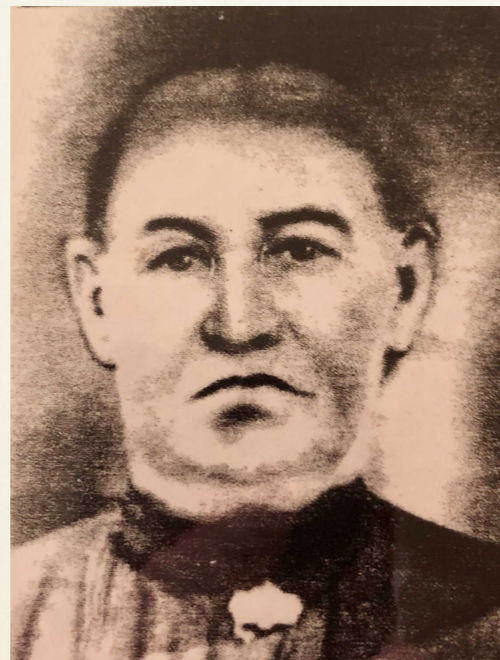


Jeremiah
O'Donovan-Rossa
1831-1915
convicted-high treason;
exiled-Staten Island;
inspired-1916 Rebellion

EARLIER WORKING IRISH:



John Donovan,
1844-1913,
son of Jeremiah Donovan,
Clonakilty, Co. Cork



Mary (Fenton) Donovan,
1849-1916
grew up near
Robert Boyle's castle,
Clashmore, Co. Waterford



John Donovan on the
farm he owned, South
Downs, Illinois

Network-builders more than a network-users

JOHN AND MARY DONOVAN'S CHILDREN:



Fr. Robert, OSB Richard
Jeremiah Mary John

MARY (DONOVAN) POWERS' CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN



Corn-shelling, Wapella, Illinois, ca. 1975

WORKING, FIGHTING, AND SINGING IRISH



Joseph Leo Powers
1926-1995,
“Remember what you
came here for.”

AS MY DAD WOULD SAY, LET'S STOP FIGHTING AND GET TO WORK!



“With malice towards none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation’s wounds.”

A. Lincoln, 4 March 1865



**COROLLARY: WORKING AND FIGHTING
SPIRIT APPLIED THROUGH ENGINEERING
LEADS TO A BETTER WORLD.**

- Safe and reliable air travel
- Safe and reliable water supply
- National defense
- Interstate highway system
- The internet
- Satellite communications
- Safe and reliable consumer products
- etc.

RELEVANCE?

- You will have workloads not faced by other majors.
- You may learn the virtues of “delayed gratification.”
- Fall sophomore year was hard; spring sophomore is harder.
- Fall junior year is just as hard.
- **You will be learning a skill set and work ethic that has had great success in the past and is valued by employers.**
- You will have more choices in senior year.
- Make choices that would make your hard-working parents and ancestors proud and that will do the world some good.

GO IRISH!