

## O'Connor Register Report

The O'Connor, Sligo, was a principal family of Ireland at the end of the 17th century. In fact, they were a principal family of Ireland from the English Invasion until the end of the reign of King Henry the VIII in Connaught (Keenaught). American variations on the name include: Connor, Connors, O'Connell, O'Conner, O'Connors & O'Connors.

This Irish branch clearly came from Ireland to America as a result of the Potato Famine in the mid-1800s. Both Michael and his brother Felix, either by a lack of education or because of virulent anti-Irish prejudice, remained in "blue collar jobs" for their entire working careers. One thing that is clear is how hard the family tried to hide its Irish roots in the less than favorable climate towards the Irish that existed in the Boston area from 1840 on. Very soon, the family started referring to itself as "Connors" or "Connor" instead of the true family surname of "O'Connor". It wasn't until Lena's death in the 1950s that the true surname started appearing on vital records once again. Even in the 20th century, the family was not fully accepted because of its Irish roots instead of "proper old New England" ones. Luckily, the prejudice of having Irish ancestors has finally disappeared. It's about time.

### First Generation

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**1. Michael<sup>1</sup> O'CONNOR.** Michael married Kate [surname not known]. Michael and Kate's names are known only from their mention on his son's second Marriage Record<sup>[1]</sup>.

They had the following children:

- |          |            |                        |
|----------|------------|------------------------|
| <b>2</b> | <b>i.</b>  | <b>Michael (1841-)</b> |
| <b>3</b> | <b>ii.</b> | <b>Felix (1832-)</b>   |

Generation: G3 Grandparents

Person Numbers: 46/47

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## Second Generation

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### Family of Michael O'CONNOR (1) & Kate [surname not known]

**2. Michael<sup>2</sup> O'CONNOR** (*Michael*<sup>1</sup>) was born on 21 May 1841 in co. Sligo, Ireland<sup>[1,2,3]</sup>. This is verified by his daughter Lena's Birth Record & Michael's own Citizenship Papers Also, Michael was age 36 at the time of his second marriage in 1878. His lifelong occupation was as a Currier<sup>[1,2,3]</sup>.

Michael sailed from Liverpool, England to Boston, Suffolk co., MA on the S. S. "Sea King" - arriving on 27 October 1858. He is listed as "Michael O' Connell" and is 16 years of age.<sup>3</sup>

Michael's intention to be an American citizen was declared on 15 October 1866 and he was naturalized on 24 April 1867 at the age of 26. His brother Felix of Winchester and Peter Meehan of Woburn vouched for him<sup>[3,6]</sup>.

Michael and Margaret lived in Winchester through 1865 - Michael was age 22 and Margaret age 19. He was in Woburn when he applied for citizenship. These papers also indicated that he had lived in Stoneham<sup>[3]</sup>. They lived in Woburn, Middlesex co., MA at the time of Margaret's death in 1873<sup>[7]</sup>.

The 1865 Winchester Census lists:

158/169	OConner,	Michael	[age] 22	[gender] m	[race] w	[birthplace] Ire	[marital status] m	Currier	P
		Margaret	[age] 19	[gender] f	[race] w	[birthplace] Ire	[marital status] m		<sup>[4]</sup>

Michael first married **Margaret McCARTHY**, daughter of Thomas McCARTHY & Margaret [surname not known]. She was born on 7 August 1847 in Ireland<sup>[2,7]</sup>. Her birthplace is verified by Lena's birth record. Margaret died of Cholera Morbus in Woburn, Middlesex co., MA on 9 September 1873; she was 26y. 1m. 2d<sup>[7]</sup>. Her obituary was published in the 20 September 1873 edition of the *Woburn Journal*.

Her name is listed as "Maggie" on Lena and Mark R.'s Marriage Record<sup>5</sup>. Margaret's surname is given as "Connors" on her death record; yet her husband Michael's surname is given as O'Connor" on the very same record<sup>[7]</sup>.

They had the following children:

- |          |           |   |
|----------|-----------|---|
| <b>4</b> | <b>i.</b> | <b>Alina / Aleen "Lena" (1865-1959)</b> |
| <b>5</b> | ii.       | Mary (1867-)                            |
| <b>6</b> | iii.      | Emma (1869-)                            |
| <b>7</b> | iv.       | Maggie (1871-)                          |

Generation: G2 Grandparents

Person Number:s 26/27

On 3 March 1878 when Michael was 36, he second married **Margaret McDONALD**, daughter of Alexander McDONALD & Flora [surname not known] of Burlington, Middlesex co., MA, in Woburn, Middlesex co., MA<sup>[1]</sup> by The Reverend James A. Gleason. She was born in 1843 in Nova Scotia, Canada<sup>[1]</sup>.

**3. Felix O'CONNOR** (*Michael*<sup>1</sup>) was born on 29 September 1832 in co. Sligo, Ireland<sup>[8]</sup>. Felix was a Laborer and later a Currier and was a witness for Michael on his citizenship papers. He was still living in Winchester, Middlesex co., MA in 1870 and through the turn of the century.

1865 Winchester, Middlesex co., MA Census entry:

36/36/ OConner

Felix	[age] 37	[gender] m	[race] w	[birthplace] Ire	[marital status] m	Currior[ <i>sic</i> ]	PN
Ellen	[age] 29	[gender] f	[race] w	[birthplace] Ire	[marital status] m		

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Ella M. [age] 4 [gender] f [race] w [birthplace] MA [marital status] s  
John M. [age] 3 [gender] m [race] w [birthplace] MA [marital status] s  
Felix, Jr. [age] 10m [gender] m [race] w [birthplace] MA [marital status] s<sup>[4]</sup>

Felix arrived in Boston 12 December 1852<sup>[8]</sup> and declared his intention to become a citizen on 31 August 1854<sup>[8]</sup> and was admitted as a citizen on 24 October 1864. Ironically, Peleg Sprague (see the Sprague family information) was one of the judges who heard his case<sup>[9,10]</sup>.

Felix married **Ellen [surname not known]**.

They had the following children:

<b>8</b>	i.	Ella M. (1861-)
<b>9</b>	ii.	John M. (1862-)
<b>10</b>	iii.	Felix, Jr. (1862-)

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### Third Generation

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#### *Family of Michael O'CONNOR (2) & Margaret McCARTHY*

**4. Alina / Aleen "Lena" O'CONNOR** (*Michael*<sup>2-1</sup>) was born on 2 August 1865 in Winchester, Middlesex co., MA<sup>[2,5,11]</sup> as "Alina O'Connor". Lena died in Lynn, Essex co., MA on 6 January 1959; she was 93y 5m 4d<sup>[12,13]</sup>. She is buried in Pine Grove Cemetery, Lynn, Essex co., MA<sup>[12]</sup>. The cause of her death was given as: Lobar Pneumonia (7 days), due to Arteriosclerosis (10 years), due to Senility (5 years)<sup>[12]</sup>.

Lena's birth name was Alina (in the Winchester VRs) or Aleena (in the Woburn VRs). At the time of her marriage, she gave her name as "Connor[s]". Lena lied about her age on her marriage certificate in 1884. She claimed an age of 21, but has a Birth Record of 1865. Her husband Mark Maddison also lied about his age, but to try to make himself appear to be younger than he was. On her son, Arthur's marriage certificate, her name was still given as Lena K. Connors<sup>[11]</sup>. But, by the time of her death, her maiden name was once again given as the true "O'Connor".

Lena was of Woburn at the time of their marriage<sup>[5]</sup>. It appears that Lena & Mark met while Mark and her father Michael were working together as Curriers. Mark was also a immigrant, from Nova Scotia, Canada, although his family seems to be of English origin.

On 19 April 1884 when Alina / Aleen "Lena" was 18, she married **Mark R. MADDISON**<sup>[11]</sup>, son of Mark MADDISON & Martha [surname not known], in Woburn, Middlesex co., MA<sup>[5,14]</sup> by The Reverend Leander Thompson.

They had the following children (*surnamed MADDISON*):

- i. Walter F. (1887-)
- ii. **Arthur Blake (1889-1955)**
- iii. Leonard

Generation: G1 Grandparents

Person Numbers: 12/13

**5. Mary O'CONNOR** (*Michael*<sup>2-1</sup>) was born on 12 August 1867 in Woburn, Middlesex co., MA.

**6. Emma O'CONNOR** (*Michael*<sup>2-1</sup>) was born on 17 August 1869 in Woburn, Middlesex co., MA.

**7. Maggie O'CONNOR** (*Michael*<sup>2-1</sup>) was born on 11 August 1871 in Woburn, Middlesex co., MA.

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### Sources

1. "Michael O'Connor & Margaret McDonald's Marriage Record," 3 March 1878, Woburn, Middlesex co., MA, 1878, v. 299, p. 196, #11.
2. "Alina O'Connor Birth Record," 2 August 1865, Winchester, Middlesex co., MA, 1865, v. 178, p. 235, #34.
3. "Michael O'Connor Citizenship Record," 24 April 1867, U.S. Circuit Court, Boston, Suffolk co., MA, v. 21, p. 222.
4. "1865 Census," Winchester, Middlesex co., MA.
5. "Mark Maddison & Lena O'Connor Marriage Record," 19 April 1884, Woburn, Middlesex co., MA, 1884, v. 353, p. 267.
6. "Federal Archives, Waltham, Middlesex co., MA." 21-222.
7. "Margaret Connors (O'Connor) Death Record," 9 September 1873, Woburn, Middlesex co., MA, 1873, 257, 283, 114, [MargConnDR].
8. "Felix O'Connor Citizenship Record-Intention," 31 August 1854, U.S. Circuit Court, Boston, Suffolk co., MA, 1864.
9. "Felix O'Connor Admission as Citizen Papers," 24 October 1864, U.S. Circuit Court, Boston, Suffolk co., MA, 1864.
10. "Federal Archives, Waltham, Middlesex co., MA." 16-270.
11. "Arthur Blake Maddison & Marian Louise Newhall Marriage Record," 1 June 1922, Lynn, Essex co., MA, 1922, 455, A436015 - Registered Number 347, Intention Number 360, Commonwealth of MA Vital Records.
12. "Lena O'Connor Maddison Death Certificate," 6 January 1959, Lynn, Essex co., MA, 1959, p. 34, Registered Number 19.
13. "Commonwealth of MA Vital Records," [MAVR], Death Records 1959, v. 65, p. 34.
14. Ibid. Marriage Records, 1884, 353, 267.
15. "Mark R. Maddison Death Certificate," 22 November 1917, Lynn, Essex co., MA, 1917, p. 269, Registered number 1293.
16. "Mark R. Maddison Citizenship Papers," 30 October 1880, U.S. District Court, Boston, Suffolk co., MA.
17. "Mark R. Maddison Application for Citizenship," 19 February 1887, Fourth District Court of East Middlesex - Woburn, 1885-1906, 32, 32A, 32B.
18. "Federal Archives, Waltham, Middlesex co., MA." 1885-1906-32.
19. "Mark R. Maddison Citizenship Papers," 19 February 1887, Fourth District Court of East Middlesex County-Woburn, 1885-1906, 32+.
20. "Mark R. Maddison Citizenship Intention," 30 October 1880, U.S. District Court.