

# ANDREW O'CONNOR – IN SHEFFIELD

Andrew O'Connor was born about 1830 or maybe a little earlier in Co Laois (formerly Queens Co) Ireland, one of eight children of Michael Connor and Ellen (Hayden). The uncertainty about his birth date is due to being unable to find baptism records for the first three children of Michael and Ellen's family. Advice is that records back before 1830 are difficult to source.

The baptism records for the other five dating from 1827 to 1839 have been discovered and confirm that the family were living in and around Mountrath during the period when Andrew was born.

## In Sheffield

Andrew married Margaret Fynes, daughter of Michael Fynes on 05 Oct 1854 in Sheffield England. She was born in 1833 in Co Galway Ireland.

In the 1851 England Census, Margaret Fynes was living at 47 Hawley Croft, Sheffield Yorkshire with her father, Michael (born 1808 in Ireland, Labourer) and two brothers, Patrick (born 1834 in Ireland) and James (born 1845 in Ireland). However, there are no records of any of the O'Connors, including Andrew, in this particular census. We can assume that he might have arrived in the UK after 1851 but before his marriage to Margaret in 1854. A copy of the original census record follows with the Fynes on the bottom third of the page.:

Parish or Township of	Ecclesiastical District of	City or Borough of	Town of	Village of			
Name of Street, Place, or Road, and Name of No. of House	Name and Surname of each Person who abode in the house, on the Night of the 30th March, 1851	Relation to Head of Family	Condition	Age of	Rank, Profession, or Occupation	Where Born	Whether of English or Irish Descent
13 Hawley Croft	Mrs. Fynes	Head	Old	70	Wife	Sheffield	Irish
	Thos. Fynes	Son	Old	22	Labourer	Sheffield	Irish
	Mr. Fynes	Son	Old	28	Labourer	Sheffield	Irish
	Harriet, D <sup>r</sup> Mrs.	Daughter	Old	29	Labourer	Sheffield	Irish
	Mr. Fynes	Son	Old	29	Labourer	Sheffield	Irish
	Mary	Son	Old	30	Labourer	Sheffield	Irish
151 149 Hawley Croft	Thos. Galligan	Head	Old	30	Dealer in Paper	Sheffield	Irish
	Thos. Jr.	Son	Old	25			Irish
	Mick	Son	Old	16	Scholar	Sheffield	Irish
	Cathaline	Son	Old	16			Irish
	Bridge	Son	Old	16			Irish
151 147 Hawley Croft	Thos. Fynes	Head	Old	30	Labourer	Sheffield	Irish
	Margt.	Son	Old	21	Milliner	Sheffield	Irish
	Patrick	Son	Old	16	Apprentice 14-2	Sheffield	Irish
	James	Son	Old	16			Irish
	Francis Galligan	Son	Old	16	Labourer	Sheffield	Irish
	Thomas Murphy	Son	Old	16	Painter	Sheffield	Irish
	Mr. Ward	Son	Old	16	Thos. Walker	Sheffield	Irish
	Padraig Galligan	Son	Old	16	Servant	Sheffield	Irish
	George Griffith	Son	Old	22	Cutter	Sheffield	Irish

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The building in this photograph is of Margaret's address at 47 Hawley Croft in Sheffield.



While living in Sheffield, between their marriage in October 1854 and leaving for Australia in September 1857, Andrew O'Connor and Margaret Fynes had the following children:

- John O'Connor. Can't find any local records other than mention on his mother's death certificate that he was the first of the seven children. Record found of his christening 9 Sept 1855 in Sheffield. Given that he wasn't on the ship with his parents, it is assumed that he had died before they emigrated.
- Michael Joseph O'Connor was born in 1857 in Yorkshire and arrived on the Medway with his parents and the rest of the extended family. He never married and lived his whole life in Emerald Hill/South Melbourne, initially with his parents and siblings and then with his sister Ellen until his death in 1939.

### The Journey

Andrew arrived on the Medway on 19 December 1857 from Plymouth (Fiche 138 Page 004) with his wife Margaret, aged 21, plus son Michael, aged 1 year. Also on boat were his mother Ellen O'Connor (nee Hayden), aged 54, and Andrew's sister Ellen, aged 18. Other records show that three of Andrew's brothers were also on that same boat - Patrick, Michael and Fintan.