

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 <i>Shelford</i>		Ecclesiastical District of <i>Shelford</i>		City or Borough of <i>Shelford</i>		Town of <i>Shelford</i>		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 Sick or Disabled	Whether Deaf or Dumb
153	11 Moor Top East	Mrs. Hendes	Head	W	47	Apprentice, Salt Works, &c.	York, Shffo		
		Mrs. Callaghan	Wife	W	24	Salt Works, &c.	Shffo		
		Mrs. Rogers	Wife	W	44	Wife	Shffo		
		Harriet J.	Daughter	W	20		Shffo		
		Mrs. Honey	Wife	W	24	Salt Works	Shffo		
		Mary J.	Wife	W	30		Shffo		
154	12 Moor Top East	Mrs. Callaghan	Head	W	44	Wife, Salt Works, &c.	Shffo		
		Mrs. J.	Wife	W	25		Shffo		
		Mrs. J.	Son	W	8	Scholar	Shffo		
		Callaghan J.	Wife	W	6		Shffo		
		Bridget J.	Wife	W	4		Shffo		
155	13 Moor Top East	Mrs. J.	Head	W	44	Wife, Salt Works, &c.	Shffo		
		Mrs. J.	Wife	W	21	Wife, Salt Works, &c.	Shffo		
		Patrick J.	Son	W	14	Apprentice 14-2	Shffo		
		James J.	Son	W	14		Shffo		
		Agnes J.	Daughter	W	14		Shffo		
		Thomas J.	Son	W	14		Shffo		
		Mrs. J.	Wife	W	14		Shffo		
		Mrs. J.	Wife	W	14		Shffo		
		Mrs. J.	Wife	W	14		Shffo		
		Mrs. J.	Wife	W	14		Shffo		
156	14 Moor Top East	Mrs. J.	Head	W	44	Wife, Salt Works, &c.	Shffo		
		Mrs. J.	Wife	W	21	Wife, Salt Works, &c.	Shffo		
		Patrick J.	Son	W	14	Apprentice 14-2	Shffo		
		James J.	Son	W	14		Shffo		
		Agnes J.	Daughter	W	14		Shffo		
157	15 Moor Top East	Thomas J.	Son	W	14		Shffo		
		Mrs. J.	Wife	W	14		Shffo		
		Mrs. J.	Wife	W	14		Shffo		
		Mrs. J.	Wife	W	14		Shffo		
		Mrs. J.	Wife	W	14		Shffo		
Total of Persons				18	7				

ANDREW O'CONNOR – IN SHEFFIELD

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.