

Collection #
P 0546

**O'BRIEN-TRAINER FAMILY COLLECTION
CA. 1895-1962, N.D.**

[Collection Information](#)

[Biographical Sketch](#)

[Scope and Content Note](#)

[Series Contents](#)

Processed by

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: One half photographs box; 1 folder color photographs; 1 OVA photograph folder

COLLECTION DATES: Ca. 1895–1962, n.d.

PROVENANCE: Gift from Bonnie Poppe of San Diego, California, January 2000

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2000.0271

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Jane Fitzgerald (b. 6 Feb 1843 in New York; d. 1924 in Allen County, Indiana) was raised on a farm near Leo, Allen County, Indiana. Her Irish immigrant parents were John (1810–1857) and Mary Leonard Fitzgerald (1811–1897). Jane had five siblings: William (1839–1920), Ellen (1840–1917), Mary (1845–1919), John (1848–1940), and Hugh (b. 1850; d. possibly 1906).

At age 15 Jane Fitzgerald went to live with and work as a nursemaid for the Hugh Reed family in their home on Broadway at Main Street in Fort Wayne. Also living with the Reed family was Thomas O'Brien (b. 17 Dec 1834 in Galway, Ireland; d. 3 March 1879 in Allen County, Indiana), who worked for the family as a coachman. Jane and Thomas married on 6 October 1861.

While living in Fort Wayne, Thomas and Jane O'Brien had three children: Martin W. (1863–1914), Mary Ellen "Mel" (22 July 1865–1947), and John Henry (1868–1942). Then the family moved to a farm near Leo, in the Milan township of Allen County. There they had four more children: Catherine/Katherine ("Katie" or "Kit") Agnes (March 1872–1940), Thomas Jr. (b. Dec 1873), Jane "Jennie" (b. 19 March 1876; d. 24 Dec 1974 in Orange County, California), and James Edward (1878–1930).

Thomas Sr. died suddenly of pneumonia in March 1879, leaving Jane with seven children. Mary Ellen had finished her elementary education at the district school about a mile from home. Jane then sent Mary Ellen to Sacred Heart Academy, a convent boarding school six miles from home. She studied there two years, able to go home only at vacation time. Mary Ellen then became a teacher at a school two miles from home.

In 1889, the widowed Jane O'Brien moved with her seven children back to Fort Wayne. There Martin got a job with the Nickel Plate Railroad, and was employed by that company until his death. John became a plumber and Thomas Jr. worked as a clerk at the Hotel Rich. "Jennie" and James attended cathedral schools.

Mary Ellen was hired by the Frank Dry Goods Company. In 1891 she married James J. Hayes, a railroad engineer, in Fort Wayne. At the time of the 1900 census, they lived at 136 Fulton in Fort Wayne, with their three sons: Cornelius Byron (b. Nov 1891), Thomas Adrian (b. Dec 1894), and James Dawson (b. March 1896).

Thomas Adrian Hayes (b. 29 Dec 1894; d. 10 April 1974) married Maurine Carberry Kennedy and one of their children was Thomas Adrian Hayes, Jr. (b. 13 April 1933; d. 22 June 2014 in Arlington, Virginia), a physician who was a 1954 graduate of the University of Notre Dame.

Living next door to the Hayes family in 1900 was Mary Ellen's mother, Jane Fitzgerald O'Brien, with Catherine, Thomas Jr., and Jane ("Jennie") at 134 Fulton. Jane O'Brien's sister, Ellen Tancey, with her husband and three sons lived at 140 Fulton at that time. Another sister of Jane O'Brien, Mary O'Connor (11 Aug 1845–10 April 1919), is listed at 138 Fulton with her husband and four children.

It appears that the houses on Fulton Street were renumbered sometime between 1900 and 1914. For example, in 1900 the Hayes family lived at 136 Fulton, but later their address was 1121 Fulton. Jane O'Brien had lived at 134, but later at 1114 Fulton. The O'Connors had lived at 138 Fulton in 1910, but a 1914 city directory lists them at 1120 Fulton.

In 1910, Jane Fitzgerald O'Brien and her brother, William Fitzgerald, appear to be living at and running a hotel called Harmon House at 1528 Calhoun in Fort Wayne. Jane's daughter Catherine was living there also. At the same time, Jane's daughter Mary Ellen and her husband James Hayes are the proprietors of the Hayes Hotel at 1417 Calhoun Street. In the 1916 city directory, Jane O'Brien and her son James are listed at the Hotel Calhoun with James as proprietor. In the 1920 census Jane O'Brien is listed in the household of her daughter, Mary Ellen Hayes, at 1121 Fulton.

Catherine O'Brien married Bernard J. Howley (b. 1867 in Ireland; d. 21 November 1935 in Fort Wayne) on 16 November 1910 in Allen County.

Jane "Jennie" O'Brien married Roy O'Connor Trainer (b. 11 April 1873; d. 1948) on 19 August 1902 in Allen County, Indiana. Roy worked at various times selling, repairing, and tuning pianos. Their children included Josephine Janette (1904–1980), Mary Elizabeth "Betty" (1906–1996), John Laurence (1909–1964), Joseph Byron (1912–1994), and Bernard (1917–1937). In 1910 the family was living in Syracuse, New York. By the time of the 1920 census, the family had returned to Fort Wayne, Indiana, where they lived at 316 Dawson and Jane's brother James O'Brien was listed in their household. At the time of the 1930 census the family lived at 1114 Fulton Street in Fort Wayne and Jane's brother John O'Brien was listed in the household. By 1940 Jane and Roy were living at 726 W. Washington in Fort Wayne. By 1956 the widowed Jane O'Brien Trainer appears to be living with her daughter Janette Trainer in Santa Ana, California. Jane O'Brien Trainer's daughter, Betty Trainer, appears to have been the mother of the donor of this collection.

At the time of the 1880 census, Roy Trainer and his younger sister Grace (b. ca. 1875) and their father, John William Trainer (1839–1898) lived with Roy's uncle, Charles J. Taylor, and aunt, Agnes Jane O'Connor Taylor. Agnes was the sister of Roy's mother, Mary Elizabeth O'Connor Trainer (b. 9 May 1842 in Hicksville, Defiance County, Ohio; d. 1876 in Fort Wayne, Indiana).

Charles J. Taylor was born 12 December 1842 to Edmond Pitts Taylor and Phoebe Stanfield Taylor in South Bend, Indiana. He served as a Private in the Civil War in the 21st Independent Battery Indiana Light Artillery under Captain A. Piatt Andrew, enrolled on 15 August 1862 and discharged on 26 June 1865. He was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, Auten Post No. 8 in South Bend, Ind.. He married Agnes J. O'Connor (b. Feb 1849; d. 8 Nov 1918) on 18 June 1874 in Fort Wayne. Charles J. Taylor died in May 1922 in South Bend.

Sources:

Items in the collection.

Indiana Marriage Collection, 1800–1941 (<http://www.ancestrylibrary.com>). Accessed 30 January 2015.

Indiana Select Marriages, 1780–1992 (<http://www.ancestrylibrary.com>). Accessed 30 January 2015.

Notre Dame Magazine, Deaths 2014–2015 (<http://magazine.nd.edu/news/54901-deaths-6/>). Accessed 30 January 2015.

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U.S. City Directories, 1821–1989 (<http://www.ancestrylibrary.com>). Accessed 30 January 2015.

U.S. Find A Grave Index, 1600s–Current (<http://www.ancestrylibrary.com>). Accessed 30 January 2015.

U.S. World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917–1918 (<http://www.ancestrylibrary.com>). Accessed 30 January 2015.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection is composed of photographs and papers pertaining to the Fort Wayne families of Thomas and Jane Fitzgerald O'Brien and that of their daughter, Jane "Jennie" O'Brien Trainer. In addition, there are some papers related to the Taylor family of South Bend, who are relatives of Roy Trainer, husband of Jane "Jennie" O'Brien Trainer. The collection is arranged into six series, as follows.

Series 1: O'Brien Family Photographs -- This series consists of eight photographs dating from ca. 1895 to 1926 that show the six Fitzgerald siblings, various members of the O'Brien family and some relatives, and the O'Brien homes near Leo, Ind., and at 1114 Fulton Street in Fort Wayne. Some photos were taken at homes on Woodland Avenue and Dawson Street in Fort Wayne.

Series 2: Trainer Family Photographs -- The five photographs that comprise this series date from ca. 1913 to 1955. They show Roy and Jane "Jennie" O'Brien Trainer, their children, and others. Photos are taken at homes on Woodland Avenue in Fort Wayne and in Rome City, Ind. Also shown is the home at 726 West Washington in Fort Wayne (two snapshots are in color; a black-and-white photocopy of these is included with the collection but the original color photos would need to be requested in advance by researchers who wish to see them).

Series 3: Sacred Heart Academy Photographs -- This series includes two bird's-eye view snapshots of the Sacred Heart Academy in Allen County, Ind., 1922–23.

Series 4: Family History Manuscripts -- This series is composed of photocopies of three typewritten manuscripts written by Jane "Jennie" O'Brien Trainer. Each is three pages in length; one was written in 1958, one in 1962, and one is undated. She writes about the family of her mother, Jane Fitzgerald O'Brien; her own childhood memories; and about her sister, Mary Ellen O'Brien Hayes, her husband James J. Hayes, and the Hayes Hotel.

Series 5: Taylor Family Records and Documents -- This series includes photocopies of a Civil War discharge paper (1865) and a Grand Army of the Republic "Resolution of Respect" (1922) for Charles J. Taylor. In addition there are photocopies of three handwritten pages of birth, marriage, and death records of the Taylor family, including the surnames Taylor, O'Connor, and Stanfield, covering the years 1830s–1918.

Series 6: Financial and Mortgage Papers and Receipts -- This series includes construction and plumbing receipts for Jane Fitzgerald O'Brien (1909–1918), a Post Office delivery receipt for John H. O'Brien in Idaho (1913), mortgage paper for Catherine O'Brien (1910), warranty deed for Bernard J. and Katherine O'Brien Howley (1926), and 95 cancelled checks written by Jane "Jennie" O'Brien Trainer (one in 1922; the rest in 1929–1930).

SERIES CONTENTS

Series 1: O'Brien Family Photographs

CONTENTS

"Jane Fitzgerald O'Brien's ('Ma' O'Brien's) home at 1114 Fulton St., Ft. Wayne, Ind., about 1895. Left to right: 'Ma,' daughter Jane O'Brien Trainer, nephew Wm. Tancey, son James E. O'Brien; Jane (Jennie) & James E. (Jim) were sister & bro. of Martin."

Exterior of Jane Fitzgerald O'Brien's home at 1114 Fulton Street in Fort Wayne, ca. 1896. "Jim O'B on porch, Nellie Reilly (Erie, Pa.), A. [Aunt?] Kit & [Ma?], Jen & Byron, Mary Reilly (on bicycle) & [Tom?]."

Fitzgerald siblings: John, Jane O'Brien, Hugh, Mary O'Connor, William, Ellen Tancey, 1898.

"Mom Trainer [Jane "Jennie" O'Brien Trainer], 'Ma' O'Brien [Jane Fitzgerald O'Brien], Aunt Kit [Catherine Agnes O'Brien Howley]...backyard 203 W. Woodland, Ft. Wayne," n.d.

"'Ma' O'Brien [Jane Fitzgerald O'Brien] & Uncle Jim [James O'Brien] about 1918. Dawson St. in Ft. Wayne, Ind."

"Uncle John Fitzgerald (Ma O'Brien's brother) about 1918, Ft. Wayne, Ind."

"O'Brien house 1876 where Mom [Jane 'Jennie' O'Brien Trainer] was born & as it looked when they moved from there in 1890. In or near Leo, Ind."

"Ma O'Brien's home on 1114 Fulton St., Ft. Wayne, 1926. Originally purchased in 1890."

CONTAINER

Photographs Box 1, Folder 1

Photographs Box 1, Folder 1

OVA Photographs, Folder 1

Photographs Box 1, Folder 1

Photographs Box 1, Folder 1

Photographs Box 1, Folder 1

Photographs Box 1, Folder 1

Photographs Box 1, Folder 1

Series 2: Trainer Family Photographs

CONTENTS

"Mary Elizabeth Trainer, Josephine Janette Trainer, John Lawrence Trainer, Joseph Byron Trainer at 203 W. Woodland Ave, Fort Wayne, Ind. about 1913."

CONTAINER

Photographs Box 1, Folder 2

"Janette's rented house in Rome City, Ind. Picture taken in 1929. In hammock: Janette, Betty, Mom T. [Jane 'Jennie' O'Brien Trainer]. Next 3: Kate McGill, Mickey Heinemann, Katy Miller. On step: Dad [Roy] Trainer; in chair: Aunt Kit. On lawn: Ralph & Jessie Chadwick." Photographs Box 1, Folder 2

House at "726 West Washington, Ft. Wayne, Indiana, about 1955. Demolished late 1960s." Photographs Box 1, Folder 2

Snow-covered backyard and back of house: "Back of 726 W. Washington, Ft. Wayne, demolished late '60s." [b/w photocopy in Photographs Box 1, Folder 2] Color Photographs, Folder 1

Front of house: "726 W. Washington, Ft. Wayne, demolished 1967-68." [b/w photocopy in Photographs Box 1, Folder 2] Color Photographs, Folder 1

Series 3: Sacred Heart Academy Photographs

CONTENTS

Sacred Heart Academy [Allen County, Ind.] in winter, 1922. Shows the heart-shaped hedge covered in snow.

"The Heart hedge at Sacred Heart Academy, 1923." Shows bird's-eye view of nuns gathered inside the hedge around a statue.

CONTAINER

Photographs Box 1, Folder 3

Photographs Box 1, Folder 3

Series 4: Family History Manuscripts

CONTENTS

"Family History of Jane Fitzgerald O'Brien" -- three typed pages written by her daughter, Jane "Jennie" O'Brien Trainer, on 8 April 1962.

"Mom Trainer's Childhood Memories" -- three typed pages written by Jane "Jennie" O'Brien Trainer, n.d.

CONTAINER

Photographs Box 1, Folder 4

Photographs Box 1, Folder 4

Letter written by Jane "Jennie" O'Brien Trainer at "New Years, 1958, 120 1/2 E. Chestnut St., Santa Ana, California" to "my Great-grand Nephew and Niece, Thomas III and Maurine Hayes." She writes to the great-grandchildren of her late sister, Mary Ellen O'Brien Hayes. Three typed pages tell about Mary Ellen, her husband James, and the Hayes Hotel.

Photographs Box 1, Folder 4

Series 5: Taylor Family Records and Documents

CONTENTS

Photocopies of three handwritten pages of birth, marriage, and death records. Surnames include Taylor, O'Connor, and Stanfield, 1830s–1918.

Photocopy of discharge certificate of Private Charles Taylor from the 21st Regiment Battery of Indiana, dated 26 June 1865.

Photocopy of certificate: Resolutions of Respect in Memory of Comrade Charles J. Taylor from the Grand Army of the Republic, Auten Post No. 8 in South Bend, Ind., on the occasion of his death in May 1922.

CONTAINER

Photographs Box 1, Folder 5

Photographs Box 1, Folder 5

Photographs Box 1, Folder 5

Series 6: Financial and Mortgage Papers and Receipts

CONTENTS

Receipt of Jane O'Brien for \$85.70 for assessment for construction of Ackerman Ditch for 120 acres of land in Section 6, Milan Tp [township], 4 Sept 1909.

Itemized receipt for Mrs. O'Brien from John F. Hoffman, contractor and builder, for remodeling house for \$895, 29 Dec 1910.

Itemized receipt for Mrs. O'Brien from John F. Hoffman, contractor and builder, for \$162.00, 14 Aug 1912.

Itemized receipt for Mrs. O'Brien from John H. Teders, plumber, for \$163.49, 11 Oct 1918.

Registry Inquiry from Post Office for delivery to John H. O'Brien in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, 1913.

CONTAINER

Photographs Box 1, Folder 6

Photographs Box 1, Folder 6

Photographs Box 1, Folder 6

Photographs Box 1, Folder 6

Photographs Box 1, Folder 6

Mortgage paper for Catherine A. O'Brien from the Peoples Trust and Savings Company, 1910.

Photographs Box 1, Folder 6

Warranty Deed to Katherine A. [O'Brien] Howley and her husband Bernard J. Howley for land in Fort Wayne, 13 March 1926.

Photographs Box 1, Folder 6

Checks signed by Jane O'Brien Trainer from her account with the People's Trust and Savings Co. in Fort Wayne. One check made out to herself in 1922; 41 checks written in 1929; 53 checks written in 1930.

Photographs Box 1, Folder 7

