

The History of The Langdon & Thomas Families

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PREFACE

I wish to thank all who have participated in the compilation of our family history. Your cooperation and interest in the project is appreciated not only by those in our time frame but will be by those yet to come upon the scene. Any reader of the history who has corrections is encouraged to send the information to the compiler so that the master copy may be amended. For any errors in the history I take full responsibility. The Family Group Sheets have been completed as far as possible with the information at hand however family members should make additions as necessary so as to keep the history up to date. A copy of the history has been sent to the Sarpy County Historical Society in Bellevue, Nebraska and to the Nebraska State Historical Society in Lincoln, Nebraska so that it will become a part of their archives.

This JOURNEY IN TIME has been a labor of love that has consumed many hours and required much patience. It is sincerely anticipated that all who leaf through these pages will find much of interest and much to learn and by following the experiences of our ancestors can feel a sense of pride in their Langdon-Thomas heritage.

Thomas M. Nolan
11672 McDonald Street,
Culver City, Ca. 90230.
December, 1989.

DEDICATION

This genealogical work is dedicated to our pioneer ancestors; the families Langdon and Thomas who braved the unknown to carve out new lives in a strange new land. Their only means were determination, perseverance, strong backs and an unwavering faith in their religion and their God. They never recognized the impossible.

It is my fervent wish that some future relative imbued with a love of family and a sense of history will search through these pages and enjoy many pleasurable hours ascertaining as to where he or she fits into the scheme of things. Their success and joy in finding their place in the chain of family historical knowledge will be this compiler's reward.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Compilation of the history would have been impossible without information furnished by correspondence, telephone and in some cases in -person by the following:

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Boulder, Colorado

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Memories of M.J. Welch
Gretna, Nebraska

JoAnne Langdon
Omaha, Nebraska

Old Settlers Journal
Bellevue, Nebraska

John G. Langdon
Santa Ana, California

Federal Census - Nebraska
1860-1870-1880-1900-1910

IRELAND



Ruined Abbeys, Friaries and Churches are dotted all over County Mayo

Descendants of the Langdon and Thomas families may wonder as to what factors led to the decision that their ancestors leave Ireland--the land of their birth. The immigrants left behind parents, brothers, sisters and sometimes children. It was said that when an Irish family decided to leave Ireland a wake was held by the relatives and neighbors for it was almost as if the persons had died---they would never be seen again! Perhaps the following synopsis of Irish history will point out the many causes for the exodus.

In Ireland by the year 1653 Cromwellian forces had subjugated all of the country. Certain acts of the British parliament decreed the transportation of landowners to the inhospitable terrain of Connaught which included the counties of Mayo, Galway, Sligo, Leitrim and Roscommon. Their lands were sequestered for adventurers and demobilized parliamentary soldiers. Over eleven million acres were confiscated and any Irish landowners found east of the River Shannon after May 1, 1654 faced the death penalty or slavery in the West Indies. By 1865 only twenty-two percent of the land of Ireland was owned by Catholic Irishmen. What

had been established over most of the island was in fact a landed ruling class mainly of English and Scottish origin, professing some form of Protestantism and dominating a native Roman Catholic and still Gaelic speaking peasantry. This was the Protestant Ascendancy, which lasted into the last quarter of the nineteenth century.

Following the defeat of Catholic James II at the Battle of the Boyne the Catholic population was both crushed and hated by its masters. Then commenced a series of anti-Catholic statutes: The Penal Laws. Under these laws Irish Catholics could not sit in parliament or vote in elections; they were excluded from the bar, the bench, the university, the navy, to own a horse worth more than five pounds, possess arms or receive a formal education.

On August 22, 1798 French General Humbert landed 1,000 troops at Killala, County Mayo to aid in the uprising by the Society of United Irishmen. The French were joined by 1,000 Irish from the Killala-Ballina area and drove the English from Castlebar on August 28th. The expedition ended September 8th at Ballinamuck, County Longford where it encountered the English under Lord Cornwallis. (The same Cornwallis who surrendered to General George Washington at Yorktown, Virginia in 1781). The uprising and the French participation were instigated by Thelbald Wolfe Tone who was captured on October 15th and executed. Following the rebellion hundreds of Irishmen were transported to the penal colony in Australia as convicts. Left behind them was a gutted country devastated by fire, bayonet and the portable wheeled gallows.

The middle of the 19th Century brought an unparalleled human disaster to Ireland---the potato famine. The staple food of 8.5 million Irish people was struck by a blight that destroyed the crops of 1845, 1846 and 1848. The hardest hit area was the west and southwest which included the counties of Mayo, Clare, Galway, Kerry, and Limerick. Fever followed famine and between 1841 and 1851 the population fell by nearly twenty percent. Total deaths were estimated at 1,383,350. It was estimated that another 1,445,58~ emigrated, mostly to America. In County Mayo in 1841 there were 475 people for every acre of land and 64 percent of the farms were smaller than five acres. The famine lasted from 1845 to 1849.

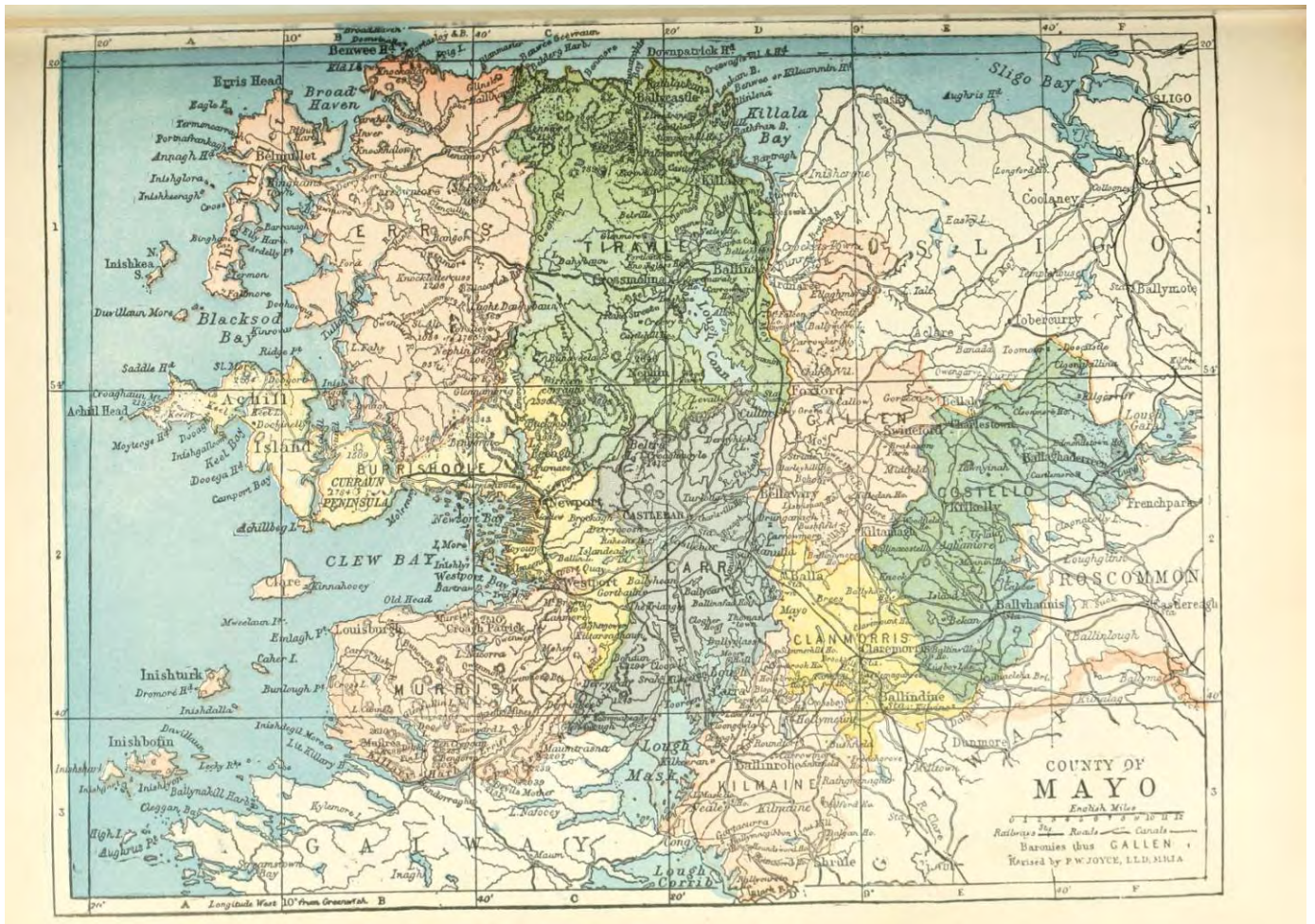
The Irish Catholics of Ireland having undergone Cromwell³'s punishments, religious persecution,

rebellion, poverty, war, penal laws, famine and disease it is no wonder that emigration ensued. The wonder is that any people remained in Ireland.

KILLALA, a. sea-port, market and post-town, and parish, and the seat of a diocese, in the barony of TYRAWLEY, county of MAYO, and province of CONNAUGHT, 22 miles (N.) from Castlebar, and 131.5 (N.W.) from Dublin, on the road from Ballina to Ballycastle; containing 3875 inhabitants, of which number, 1125 are in the town. During the disturbances of 1798, General Humbert, with two frigates of 44 and one of 38 guns, having on board 70 officers, and 1030 men, sailed from Rochelle On the 4th of August, to make a descent on the county of Donegal; but being frustrated in that attempt by contrary winds, landed his force in Kilcummin bay on the 22nd of the same month. The garrison, at that time consisting of only 50 men, fled, after a vain attempt to oppose the entrance of the French vanguard; and several of them were taken prisoners. The French forces were joined by many of the peasantry, and after they had taken Ballina greater numbers flocked to their standard, to receive the arms and uniforms which had been sent from France for their equipment. The town is situated on the bay of the same name, and on the west bank of the river Moy, it contains about 200 houses, of which those in the principal street are well built. The manufacture of coarse linens is carried on to a very small extent, but the principal trade is the exportation of grain, of which the annual average from 1810 to 1820 was 5000 tons, chiefly oats and barley; and the value of the imports, consisting of planks, iron, tar, slates, flax-seed, herrings, and sugar, about £5000. The trade was on the increase from 1820 till 1825, but, from the improvements of the port of Ballina, what formerly came into this port for the supply of that town is conveyed thither direct by the river Moy, and from 1830 to 1835 the average exports from Killala have not exceeded 3500 tons, nor the value of the imports £4000 per annum. A considerable fishery is carried on, in which more than 300 persons are occasionally engaged, and for which this is a very good station; and large quantities of sea-manure are landed at the quay, the pier is very old, but has been recently repaired. The entrance to the bay is between Kilcummin Head and Kennisharrock Point. On the western side of the bay, off the point of Ross, are the Carrighadric rock, between which and the mainland is a shoal dry at low water: and on the eastern side, about two miles from Kennisharrock Point, is a creek called Pullogheeney, where small vessels load kelp and other commodities during the summer. The harbour affords good and safe anchorage for vessels drawing eight or nine feet of water, and vessels drawing 12 feet may get to the anchorage about high water. A constabulary police force is stationed in the town; and it is the head of a coast guard district, comprising the stations of Dunkeeban, Port Terlin, Belderig, Ballycastle, Lacken, Kilcummin, and Ross. The market is on Saturday, and fairs are held on May 6th, Aug. 17th, and Nov. 8th. Petty sessions are held in a private house every Friday, and a manorial court is held occasionally. The episcopal SEE of KILLALA appears to have been founded between the years 434 and 441, by St. Patrick, who, during that period, was propagating the faith of Christianity in the province of Connaught; and built a church at this place, called Kill-Aladb, over which he placed one of his disciples, St. Muredach's, as bishop. Of Muredach's successors, who by early writers are called bishops of Tiramsalgaid (from the surrounding territory, now the barony of Tirawley), and also bishops of O-Fiakra-Mui (from a district of that name extending along the river Moy), very little is recorded till after the arrival of the English in Ireland, though among the few names that occur within that period is that of Kellach, the son of Doghan, or, according to some writers, of Owen Beol, King of Coonaught. At the instance of Donat O'Beoda, who was bishop in 1188, Pope Innocent III. confirmed all the ancient possessions of the see; and in 1255 a bishop of Killala, whose name is not given, accompanied the archbishop of Tuam into England, to petition the king for the redress of certain grievances to which the clergy were then exposed. Robert of Waterford, who succeeded in 1350, was fined 100 marks for neglecting to attend a parliament assembled at Castledermot, in 1377, to which he had been summoned. Owen O'Connor, Dean of Achonry, was advanced to the see by Queen Elizabeth in 1591, and was allowed to hold his deanery with the bishoprick, and his successor, Miler Magrath, was permitted to hold also the see of Achonry in commendam. Archibald Hamilton, who succeeded in 1623, ordained from Jas. I. a commendatory grant of the see of Achonry, and his successor, Archibald Adair, was, in 1630 consecrated bishop of Killala and Achonry, which two sees appear from that time to have been united. Thomas Otway, who succeeded to the united sees in 1670, rebuilt the cathedral from the foundation. The sees of Achonry and Killala continued to be held together till the death of the last bishop, Dr. James Verschoyle, in 1833, when, under the provisions of the Church Temporalities' Act of the 3d and 4th of Wm. IV., they became annexed to the archiepiscopal see of Tuam, and the temporalities were vested in the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. The diocese is one of the six that constitute the ecclesiastical province of Tuam, and comprehends part of the county of Sligo and a very considerable portion of that of Mayo, it is 45 miles in length and 21 in breadth, comprising an estimated superficies of 314,300 acres, of which 43,100 are in Sligo and 271,200 in Mayo. The lands belonging to the see comprise 33,668[^] statute acres, of which 10,176 are profitable land; and the gross annual revenue, on an average of three years ending Dec. 31st. 1831, amounted to £2600. 11. 10.5, which, together with the revenue of the see of Achonry, since the death of the last bishop, is, by the provisions of the Church Temporalities' Act, vested in the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. The chapter consists of a dean, precentor, archdeacon, and the five prebendaries of Killanly, Errew, Ardagh, Lackan, and Rosserkbeg: there are neither minor canons nor vicars choral belonging to the cathedral, nor is there any economy fund. The number of parishes in the diocese is 27, comprised in 13 benefices, of which seven are unions of two or more parishes, and six are single parishes, and with the exception of the deanery, which is in the gift of the Crown, all are in the patronage of the Archbishop. The number of churches is 13, and there are two other places where divine service is performed, and of glebehouses, 11. The cathedral, which is also the parish church, is an ancient structure with a spire, it was repaired in 1817, for which purpose the late Board of First Fruits granted a loan of £1061. 10. 9., and the Ecclesiastical Commissioners have recently granted £600 for its further repair. In the R. C. divisions this diocese is & separate bishoprick, and one of the six which are suffragan to Tuam; it comprises 23 parochial benefices or unions, containing 30 chapels, which are served by 33 clergymen, 23 of whom are parish priests, and 10 coadjutors or corateas. The parochial benefice of the bishop is Killala; the cathedral is at Ardarae, near Ballina, and contiguous to it is the bishop's residence. The parish includes the island of Bartra, or Bartrach, and is generally in a good state of cultivation: the soil is very fertile, and the lands are nearly divided in equal portions between pasture and tillage, except the waste land and a large tract of bog. The surrounding country is rather bleak, especially towards the north, but the scenery is enlivened by several gentlemen's seats, of which the principal are the Castle, formerly the episcopal palace, and now the residence of W. I. Bourke, Esq., the Lodge, of T. Kirkwood, Esq., Rosa, of J. Higgins, Esq., Castlerea, of J. Knox, Esq., Farm Hill, of Major J. Gardiner; and Summer Hill, of T. Palmer, Esq. The living is a rectory and vicarage, constituting the corps of the

deanery of Killala, and in the patronage of the Crown; The tithes amount to £154. 13. 9.: the lands belonging to the deanery adjoin the town and comprise 108 acres; and the dean, in right of his dignity, has the rectorial tithes of the parishes of Ballysakeery, Rafran, Dunfeeny, Kilbreedy, Lacken, Kilcummin, and Templemury; the entire revenue of the deanery, including the ---- is £772. In the R. C. divisions the parish is the head of a union or district, comprising also the parish of Templemury; the chapel is a neat slated edifice. There is a place of worship for Wesleyan Methodists. The parochial school, in which are about 90 children, is supported by the trustees of Erasmus Smith's fund, who allow the master £30 per annum, with a house and one acre of land rent free, and there are two private schools, in which are about 150 children. There is a dispensary for the poor of the neighbourhood. On an eminence in the town is an ancient round tower, about 83 feet high, of which the walls are of great strength and nearly perfect. About a mile to the south-east of the town, at the mouth of the river Moy, are the remains of a friary of Franciscans of the Strict Observance, founded in 1460 by Mac William Bourke, or, according to some writers, by Thomas Oge Bourke. Several provincial chapters of the order were held there, and the establishment continued to flourish till the dissolution, after which it was granted to Edmund Barrett. The remains consist of the church and some extensive portions of the conventual buildings: the church is a cruciform structure 135 feet in length, and from the centre rises a lofty tower, supported on four noble arches leading from the nave into the choir and transepts. At Castlereagh, on the banks of the river Rathfran, about two miles from the sea, are the vestiges of a castle apparently of great strength, which has been levelled with the ground: about a mile to the west is Carrickanass castle, about 35 feet square, and 45 feet high, built by the family of Bourke, and surrounded with a low strong bawn, and there are also several forts.

RATHLACKAN, a village in the parish of LACKAN, barony of TYRAWLEY, county of MAYO, and province of CONNAUGHT, 5.25 miles (N.) from Killala: the population is returned with the parish. It is situated upon the north-western coast, and has a penny post to Killala.



19th Century Map of county Mayo, Ireland

See also [Killala on Wikipedia](#)

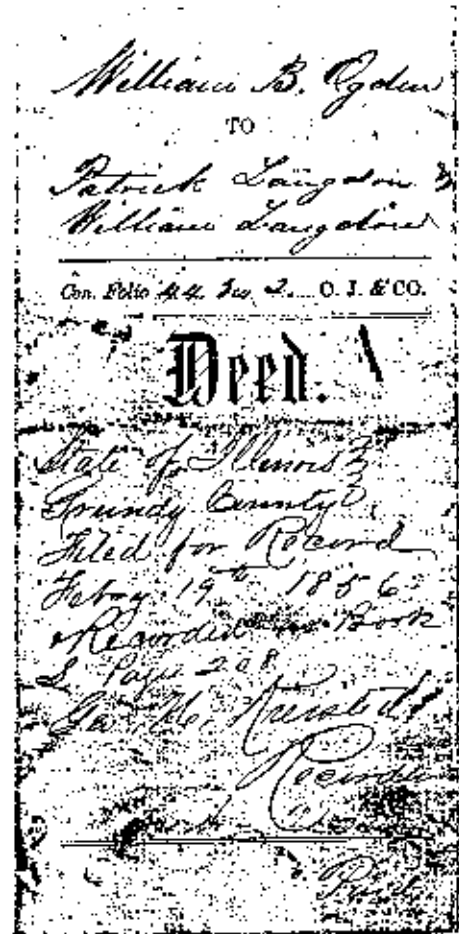
ILLINOIS

After leaving Ireland it is not know whether the Langdons landed in Boston, Philadelphia, New York or Canada. Many of the Irish families headed for Illinois as work was plentiful on the Illinois & Michigan Canal. Word of this must have somehow filtered back to Ireland so that many of the Irish immigrants had a specific destination in America.

Patrick and Catherine Thomas Langdon first settled in Springfield, Sangamon County where Anthony was born in 1847. Mary was born in 1850, but it is not known in what county. John was born near Chicago in 1851 in what must have been Will or Cook County. Bridget was born in Joliet, Will County in 1853. William Langdon married Margaret Thomas at Joliet, Will County in 1850. A son, Patrick J. was born in Morris, Grundy County. The only other record is of Michael Langan who is listed in his military record as being a resident of Danville, Vermillion County in 1861 which is located some 100 miles south of Will and Grundy Counties.

*80 Acres purchased by
Patrick & William Langdon February 19, 1856
—Grundy County, Illinois.*

One wonders how the families came to be in this or that part of Illinois. The Illinois & Michigan Canal went from Ottawa, La Salle County east through Grundy and Will Counties to Chicago. This would seem to account for Patrick and William settling in Will and Grundy Counties but why Michael settled in Danville is a mystery. Work on the canal was completed by 1848 and many of the Irish workers had bought land and went to farming. Patrick and William Langdon bought land in 1856 but later the next year sold out and headed west in a covered wagon train to the Nebraska Territory. It is not known why the Langdons decided to pull up stakes in Illinois and go west. It is not known if Nebraska was their destination or when they reached the Platte Valley in Sarpy County they stayed because they liked what they saw--water, timber, game and a chance to obtain virgin land. In Ireland land had been at a premium and most of them were tenants but here in Nebraska they had the opportunity to accumulate land that was their own. What they stood on would belong to them and they would not have to answer to any landlord.



This Indenture

St. Charles & Co., Stationers, N. Y.

made the Eighth day
of January in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty five Between
William B. Ogden (Bachelor) of the City of Chicago in the County of Cook and State
of Illinois by Wahlow D. Ogden his attorney in fact of the first part, and
Patrick Langdon and William Langdon of Grundy County, State of Iowa of the second part,
Witnesseth, That the said party of the first part, for and in consideration of the sum of One hundred and Eighty
Dollars, lawful money
of the United States of America, to have in hand paid by the said parties of the second part, at or before the making and
delivery of these presents, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, have aliened, remised, released, conveyed and confirmed, and by
these presents do hereby alien, remise, release, convey and confirm, unto the said parties of the second part, and to their heirs and assigns
forever, all that certain lot and parcel of land situate in the County of Grundy, State of
Illinois known and distinguished as the East half of the South West quarter of
Section Twelve (12) Township Thirty four (34) North of Range Eight (8) East of the
Third principal Meridian, containing eighty acres more or less

Marriage of William Langan (Langdon) &
Margaret Thomas - August 1, 1850 at St.
Patrick's Catholic Church, Joliet, Will
County, Illinois.

December 1849	4 Patrick Walsh Margret McKay	Mary Ryan Anastasia Ryan	DR
January 1850	5 Janet Paruo Sophia Brestia 31 James Kwly Mary Connors	Peter Bresso Alvina Baltasar x	JE DR
May 1850	11 Thomas Castoll Mary Ann Furlleton 17 Patrick Malone Hellen Foertry 19 Michael OBryan Margaret Organ	Mathew Shea Ann Woods Mary Henry etc. John Flemming Mary Ann King	GAN GAN DR
June 1850	2 Owen McManus Janina O'Connor 4 Patrick Riordan Mary Murphy 25 James Hays Margaret Fenney	Edward O'Connor Catherine O'Connor Mathew Callaghan Elizabeth Lupson James Kim Mary Hays	GAN GAN GAN
July 1850	15 Edward McLain Elizabeth Lupton	Thomas Burn Mary Riordan	GAN
August 1850	5 Michael Crogan Benjain Carey John Friend Susan Friend 1 William Langan Margaret Thomas	Patrick Banoon Sara Ann Kilroy Henry Rachel Louis Lemarc John Thomas Kanna Cuddy	GAN GAN GAN
September 1850	19 Josephus P. Jones Christina E. Beton 22 Dudley McLaughlin Elizabeth Gorven 22 Henry Rachel Teresa Wimerhel	C. Beasley Mary Beson Michael McEvoy Alice Fitzpatrick John Georges Joseph Geunmacher Mary Fall Louise Lmarcher	GAN GAN GAN
October 1850	28 Joseph Verthemen/Thet Louise Lmarcher	John Georges Franz Berger Maria Komearcher Kathrina Buckes	Rev Gippereich
November 1850	1 Owen Riley Caroline Bradley 16 John Georges Mary Emmaker	John Cuddy Bridget Burke Henry Rachel Mathew Ludichink	GAN GAN

FOREST CITY

The western part of Sarpy County, Nebraska was mainly settled by Irish families from various counties in Ireland. One of the earliest towns was located near the confluence of the Elkhorn and Platte Rivers. This part of the country was covered with native timber and abounded in wild game and fish which caused it to be settled earlier than the prairies further west and north. In 1854, Wesley Knight took out a pre-emption and surveyed streets for the town of Forest City which was located in Section 3, Town- ship 13, Range 10, East. It was incorporated as a town on April 18, 1858 and by 1860 it had a population of 137 souls.

In 1859 a log church was built---the first Catholic church in Sarpy County. The heads of the Catholic families living around Forest City were: John Connor, Thomas Connor, James Daily, John Fogarty, William Fogarty, Patrick Langdon, Michael Melia, Bernard Monahan, Anthony Thomas, John Thomas, Andrew Weeth and Thomas Welch. In 1863, the founder of Forest City, Wesley Knight donated an acre of land in the townsite for a more permanent church. Actual construction of the church was done by John Thomas, Bernard Monahan, Anthony Thomas and William Morrison. The church was dedicated to the patron saint of Ireland --- St. Patrick.

Forest City was on the main traveled road between Omaha and Ashland. Before a bridge was built across the Platte River, a ferry boat was used and the stage coach ran from Omaha to Lincoln. The homesteaders going to take up claims after the Civil War (1865) made lots of travel. It was said that over a hundred prairie schooners (covered wagons) were waiting their turn at the ferry in one day.

In 1868 John Thomas donated five acres for the use of a cemetery which now is known as the Thomas Calvary Cemetery. It contains the resting place of many of the early pioneers as Patrick and Catherine Thomas Langdon, William and Margaret Thomas Langdon and the Thomas family. The Forest City cemetery now known as Holy Sepulcher also is the resting place for many of the early settlers.

At one time Forest City had a post office, two stores, saloons, a blacksmith shop, shoemaker shop, two boarding houses and a log church. School was held in Mrs. Knight's granary or Shield's kitchen and in the William Langdon up- stairs. The first term of school was taught in the John Thomas log house located on the east bank of the Elkhorn River, northwest of Gretna and near the old Thomas cemetery. William Cleburne who lived at that time in an old dugout northeast of the Thomas cemetery was the first teacher. Some of the early students were: A.J. Langdon, Martin Langdon, Sarah Gillespie and P.J. Langdon.

Afterwards, Clerburne moved to Forest City and helped survey the Union Pacific Railroad from Council Bluffs, Iowa to Ogdon, Utah. His brother Joseph was an engineer for the railroad and brother Patrick who lived in Arkansas became a Confederate general during the Civil War. The Cleburnes came from County Cork, Ireland.

Around 1885, the Burlington Railroad, built a short line between Omaha and Ashland bypassing the town of Forest City. In 1886, the town of Gretna began and people gradually moved from Forest City to Gretna. The only vestige of Forest City (1989) is a pump located in the backyard of a farm house and the Holy Sepulcher Cemetery.

GRETNA

The town of Gretna came into being when the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad built a new cut-off from Omaha to Ashland. The Lincoln Land Company filed a deed for land on August 9, 1886. The name Gretna must have originated with some Scotch immigrants who name it for Gretna Green in Dumfriesshire, Scotland. The articles of incorporation were drawn up and the acting Trustee~ to hold office until an election could be held, were appointed by the county commissioners. They were Peter N. Deerson, James Wilson, William Lewon, Patrick J. Langdon and John Grabow. The town was incorporated in 1889 and the following businesses had started up: two grain elevators, a general store operated by the Langdon brothers, Patrick J. and John H., in a large building they had erected on the corner of McKenna and Angus, that also housed a millinery and dressmaking shop and two banks. The Bank of Gretna was organized on August 6, 1910 with P.J. Langdon as president. Langdon Avenue in Gretna was named for Patrick J. and John H. Langdon who platted and developed that part of town.

The first means of travel in the early days were by horse and buggy or wagons. On weekdays Main Street would be lined with horses tied to the hitching racks that lined both sides of the street. They were made with steel pipes between posts, so as to allow tying of horses to them. Buggies and wagons were of many descriptions and sizes. Horses were used to haul all the merchandise from the depot to the numerous business houses and this was a real days job for several teams and wagons. At the livery stable rates were as follows: a rig with a driver to Springfield, Ashland bridge and South Bend was \$1.50 for a single and \$2.00 for a double. To South Omaha \$3.00 and a team for a day was \$2.50. To board a horse was 45~ per day.

The rail service was excellent. At one time Gretna had three daily trains going into Omaha and three coming back out. This compiler's mother, Hazel Davis Nolan, daughter of Bridget Langdon Davis, told that when living in the house on Angus Street, adjacent to the Catholic church, her chore was to meet the evening train from Omaha at the depot and bring the newspaper to her uncle, Thomas W. Langdon.

The house adjacent to the Catholic church on Angus Street was built by Thomas W. Langdon prior to the turn of the century. His mother, Catherine Thomas Langdon, lived in this house as well as his sister Bridget Langdon Davis. P.J. Langdon, son of William Langdon, admired the above house so much that he had built a duplicate of it adjacent to the original one

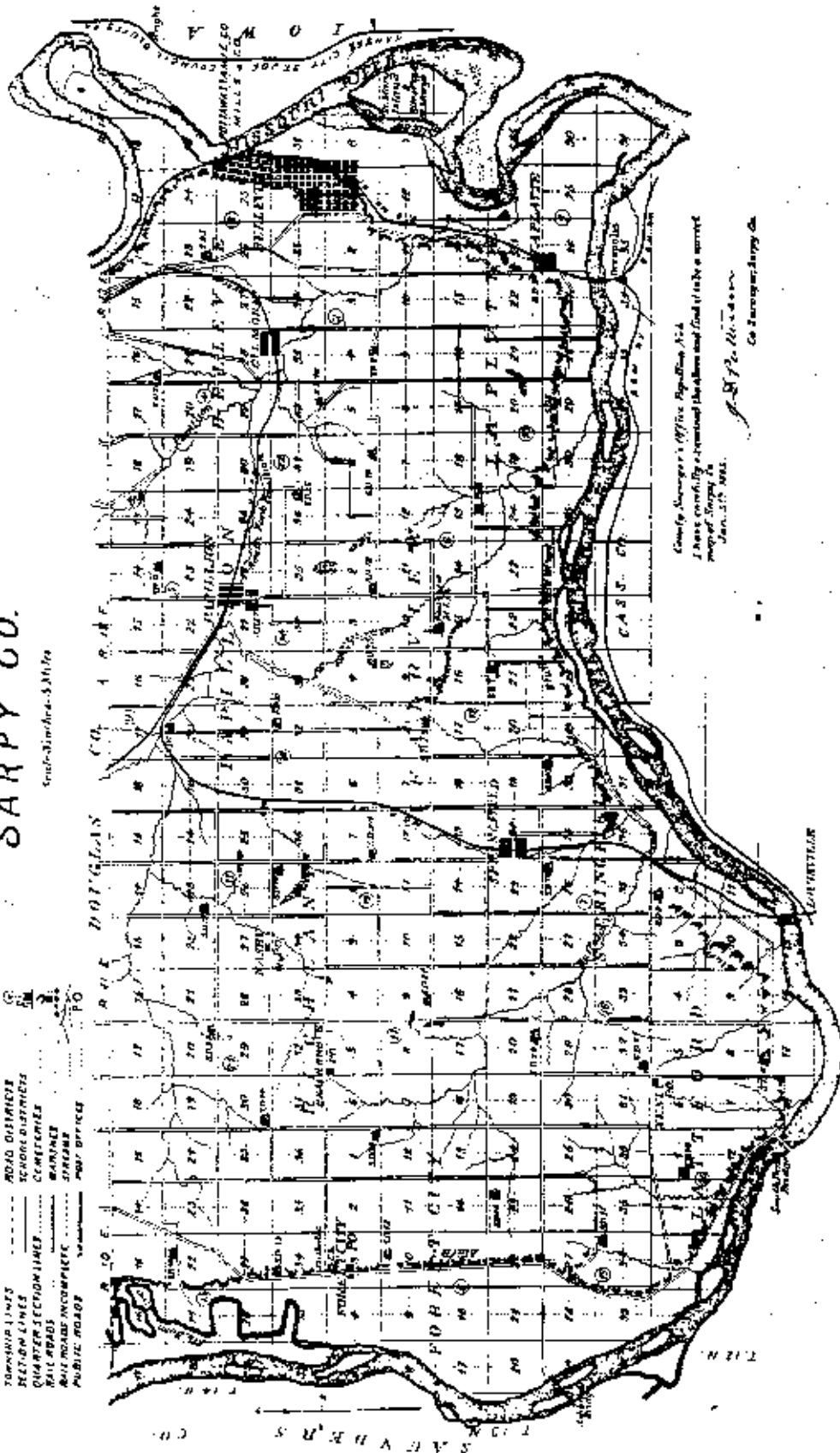
Three Langdon descendants of the third generation reside in Gretna as of 1989: Margaret Langdon Patterson, daughter of P.J. Langdon; Regina Langdon Sherry, daughter of P.J. Langdon and Frances Langdon Koke, daughter of John H. Langdon.

TABLE OF EXPLANATIONS

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- PUBLIC ROADS
- ROAD DISTRICTS
- SCHOOL DISTRICTS
- CEMETERIES
- WATERWAYS
- STREAMS
- PO

SARPY CO.

Scale - 3 Miles - 3.31 Miles



County Surveyor's Office, Sarpy County, Neb.
 I have carefully examined the above and find it to be correct.
 J. W. H. ...
 Jan. 25, 1885.
 Co. Surveyor Sarpy Co.

(Sarpy County, Nebraska) (January, 1885)

LANGAN-LANGDON

The origin and first record of the sept occurs in and around the towns of Rathlackan and Killala, Barony of Tirawley, County Mayo, Province of Con-naught, Ireland.

Long is a common English name and families of le Long came to Ireland very soon after the Anglo-Norman invasion of 1172. Though no doubt English Longs settled in Ireland from time to time since then the great majority of Irish Longs are not of planter stock but descendants of one of several Gaelic Iris septs. (clans). Another patronymic for which Long has been used as the angli ized equivalent is O'Longain which is properly made Longan or LANGAN in English. The Langans of County Mayo, where that name is now chiefly found, are said to be a branch of the Ulster sept of County Armagh now rare in its original habitat. The form of the name LANGDON occurred circa 1830 in Annah Parish near Ballyhounis, County Mayo.

The first generation of record consists of two sisters: Mary and Alva and four brothers: Patrick, William, Michael and John. It is interesting to note that Mary, Alva and Michael used the form LANGAN and Patrick, William and John used LANGDON. It appears that the change from Langan to Langdon occurred after emigration to America however John who remained in Ireland used the form Langdon according to his brother Michael's will. As late as 1850 William Langdon still used the form Langan as witnessed by his marriage record however by 1856 Patrick and William purchased land in Grundy County, Illinois and the deed has their names spelled Langdon. The reason for maintaining one spelling or using another is unknown albeight many of the Irish immigrants in America changed their names to avoid being so Irish hence Langdon with a softer sound does not sound as Irish as Langan.

Census records show that Patrick and Catherine Thomas Langdon emigrated in 1846 and Margaret Thomas in 1850. It has been impossible to date to ascertain what city in Ireland they sailed from or to what city in America or Canada. Emma J. Davis, grand-daughter of Catherine Thomas Langdon, told this complice that Catherine Thomas Langdon told her that it took six weeks to cross the ocean and that she almost died but that the ship's captain gave her some medicine and she recovered. Thousands of immigrants died during the Atlantic crossing(in 1847 there were 17,465 documented deaths) in coffin ships plyin a speculative trade, often little more than rotting hulks and thousands more died of sickness at disembrakation centers.

The first record of the Langdons in America is the birth of Anthony J. Langdon on August 9, 1847 in Springfield, Sangamon County, Illinois to Patrick and Catherine Thomas Langdon. On August 1, 1850 William Langdon married Margaret Thomas at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Joliet, Will County, Illinois and on June 1, 1853 Bridget Mary Langdon was born in Joliet. On February 19, 1856 Patrick and William Langdon purchased some 80 acres in Section 12, Township 34, Aux Sable Township, Grundy County, Illinois. Work began on the Illinois & Michigan Canal in 1836 and a new wave of immigrants arrived in the Aux Sable area. These were mostly men from Ireland who came by way of Canada and who were in the employ of the canal contractor When a shortage of funds stopped work on the canal in 1843, some of the idled workers turned to farming. Work resumed on the canal in 1845 and the project was finally completed in 1848. This may explain why the Langdons came to Illinois and possibly that they came from Ireland to Canada before America.



Looking east on Angus Street with the school building built in 1898 very prominently towering over the homes. Scene of early 1900.

St. Patrick's Catholic Church
Angus St, Gretna, Nebraska

1. Home of P.J. Langdon
2. Home of Catherine Thomas Langdon
3. St. Patrick's Catholic Church
4. Gretna School



House at 3329 Webster Street,
Omaha, Nebraska. Built in 1910 .
Bridget Langdon Davis, Tom W.
Langdon, Emma, Elizabeth, Angela
& Hazel Davis & Ellen Langdon all
lived here at one time. In 1914
J.H. Langdon had a contractor
build a duplicate of this house
at 706 West Angus, Gretna, Nebr.

Bank of Gretna

Make this bank your business home

Money Matters

Are your money matters being handled in a way satisfactory to you. We endeavor to keep our methods strictly up to date in every respect.

We are welcome to the benefit of our many years of experience in successfully handling money matters.

5 per cent on Time Deposits 6 or 12 mon.

Bank of Gretna

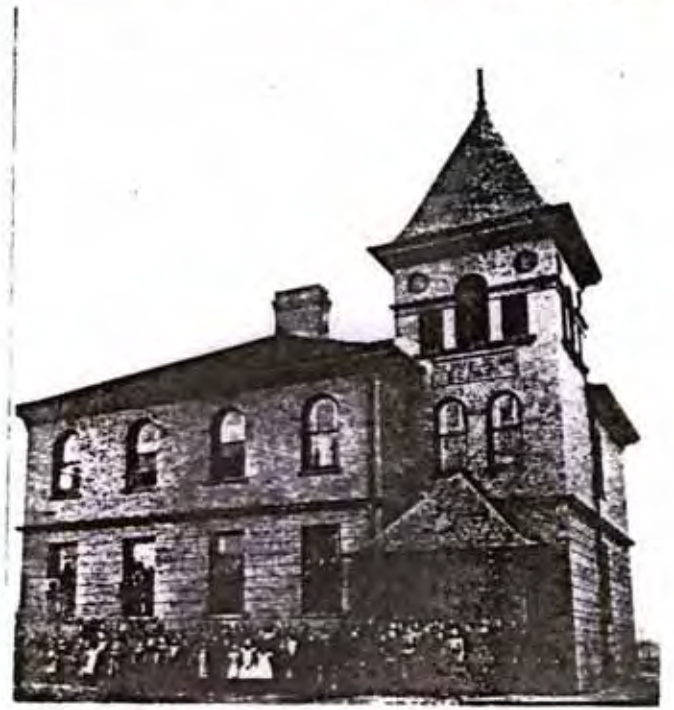
Gretna, Neb.

Mrs. P. J. LANGDON, President E. T. HUGHES, Cashier
 LORENZ STAHL, Vice Pres.
 PAUL J. LANGDON, Asst. Cashier
 H. K. DIERS, Asst. Cash.

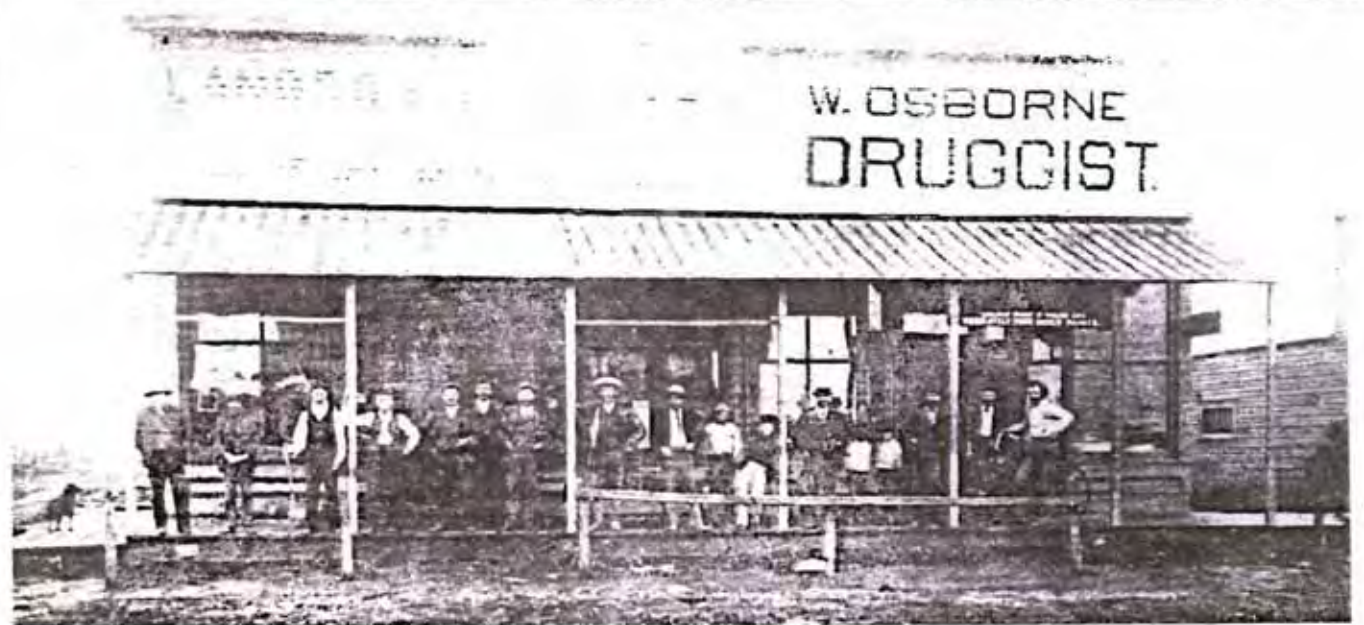
Largest Bank in Sarpy County

Assets over a half million

Thrift Will Win



Two-story brick schoolhouse, above, was constructed in 1896 south of Angus St. across from St. Patrick's Church. Its size was doubled in 1908, below, and a gymnasium was added in 1936.



Langdon Brothers building, located on the northwest corner of Angus St. and McKenna Ave., was built in the 1880's. It

was one of the best general merchandise stores in Sarpy and Douglas County during the last two decades of the 1800's.

LANGAN-LANGDON

On May 21, 1856 William and Margaret Thomas Langdon sold their forty acre share of the farm in Grundy County, Illinois to Patrick Langdon. In 1856 William and Margaret Thomas Langdon and their son Patrick J. left Illinois and set out westward in a covered wagon. In their 400 mile trek they crossed the Mississippi River, the State of Iowa and the Missouri River and on July 6, 1856 they arrived in Sarpy County. In 1857 after ten years in Illinois Patrick and Catherine Thomas Langdon also left Illinois with their seven children: Martin, Michael, Anthony J, Mary A., John J., Bridget and James. Patrick followed the same route as his brother William and arrived in Sarpy County in 1857. Here the two families lived out their lives in acquiring much land, farming and raising their children to adulthood. William and Margaret Thomas Langdon had eleven children; Patrick and Catherine Thomas Langdon nine children.

MARY LANGAN: was born in Ireland in 1810. She married a Kelly in Ireland and had two sons: Anthony (1838) and Michael (1840). The family emigrated to America and settled in the Rockwells Hill section of Scranton, Lackawana, Pennsylvania. Anthony remained single but Michael married a Margaret (surname unknown) and they had five children: Mary Anne (1872), Margaret (1873), Peter (1874), Anthony (1875) and Michael (1880). Michael's wife and all the children were born in Pennsylvania. Both brothers, Anthony and Michael are listed as miners and Mary Langan in 1880 was living with her son Michael and his family. Anthony also lived with them. It is not known when Mary Langan died but she is listed as deceased in her brother Michael's will dated July 20, 1889.

ALVA MIRL LANGAN: Nothing is known about Alva other than she is listed in her brother Michael's will dated July 20, 1889.

JOHN LANGDON: born in Ireland and lived in Rathlackan, County Mayo. He married and had five children: Michael, John, Patrick and two daughters, names unknown. As of 1889 he was deceased. It appears that this is the only member of the family not to emigrate. He is only of record in his brother Michael's will dated July 20, 1889.

MICHAEL LANGAN: was born in Ireland in 1818 and emigrated to America. The first record of him in America is July 3, 1861 when at Catlin, Illinois he was enrolled in Company D, 35th Illinois Regiment of Infantry for three years as a private. His residence is listed as Danville, Illinois. He was 43 years old and his military record shows him to be 5 foot, 8 inches tall, weighting 110 pounds and with a dark complexion. On August 28, 1861 he was mustered into the army at the St. Louis Arsenal in Missouri. Although ill much of the time he served his full term and fought with his regiment at Pea Ridge, Stone River and Chickamauga. Following the last battle he developed bronchitis and chronic dysentery which confined him to the hospital. He was mustered out on September 24, 1864 and honorably discharged from the service by reason of the expiration of term of service. He applied for and received a pension of \$4.00 a month. Following his discharge he lived in Springfield, Illinois. He then removed to Forest City, Nebraska where in 1870 he was working on his brother Patrick's farm. As a veteran he acquired farmland in Sarpy County and on January 24, 1889 he sold 144 acres for \$1200 to his nephew James Langdon. He died on February 23, 1889 at the age of 71 and is buried in Holy Sepulcher Cemetery, Gretna, Nebraska. Emma J. Davis told that as a child she sat on Michael's lap and that all through the battles Michael said the Hail Mary

LANGAN-LANGDON

over and over and he believed that this is why he went through all the battles unscathed. It should be noted that in his military record his name is spelled incorrectly as Langon instead of Langan. He is of record in the Federal Census of Nebraska of 1870, his will, headstone and cemetery records, Report of the Adjutant General of Illinois, Volume II, 1861-1866, Page 700 and in the GAR Records of the Nebraska State Historical Society.

WILLIAM LANGDON: was born in County Mayo, Ireland in 1821. It is not known in what year that he emigrated to America or Canada. On August 1, 1850 at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Joliet, Will County, Illinois, William Langdon married Margaret Thomas. One witness to the marriage was John Thomas, the father or brother of Margaret. Margaret Thomas was born in Rathlackan, County Mayo, Ireland on March 24, 1822 and in 1850 she emigrated to America. Their first child, Jane, was born in September, 1854 in Illinois and the second, Patrick J. was born in Morris, Grundy County, Illinois on March 7, 1855. On February 19, 1856 William and his brother Patrick purchase some 80 acres of land located in Section 12, Aux Sable Township, Grundy County, Illinois for \$180. On May 21, 1856 William sold his share to Patrick

William and Margaret Thomas Langdon and their two children, Jane and Patrick J. headed westward in a covered wagon. They crossed the Mississippi River, the State of Iowa, the Missouri River and ended their trek in Sarpy County, Nebraska, a distance of some 400 miles. They arrived in Sarpy County on July 6, 1856 and proceeded to accumulate land and engage in farming. Life was hard for these early settlers, living in dugouts, sod houses and working long hours to break the virgin soil. Eventually log cabins were built and for supplies they had to travel to Omaha. Here five children were born: Michael J. (1857), John H. (1858), Elizabeth (1862), Anthony E. (1863) and Catherine (1865). In all eleven children were born to William and Margaret Thomas langdon.

On August 18, 1884 William Langdon died at the age of 63 and was buried in the Thomas Calvary Cemetery, Gretna, Nebraska. Margaret then left the farm and spent the rest of her life in Gretna. On December 22, 1912 she died at the age of 90. She outlived her husband by some 28 years. She is buried beside her husband in the Thomas Calvary Cemetery. Six children survived her: Patrick J., John H., Anthony E., Elizabeth Hughes, Jane Doyle and Catherine. She was also survived by thirty-four grand children and twenty-one great grand children.

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PATRICK LANGDON: was born on July 16, 1810 in County, Mayo, Ireland. In 1840 he married Catherine Thomas who was born in 1821. Two sons were born in Ireland: Martin (1841) and Michael (1844). Most evidence indicates that Patrick and Catherine Thomas Langdon were from Rathlackan, County Mayo however oral evidence exists that Martin was born in Killaloe, County Clare and it is not known where Michael was born. It is possible that the Langdons were visiting relatives in County Clare when Martin was born or that the family at one time removed from County Mayo to County Clare. Neither Patrick or Catherine could read or write but spoke Irish (gaelic). The family of four emigrated in 1846. The story is told that Patrick and Catherine were going to leave Martin, age 5 and Michael, age 2 with relatives in Ireland when they emigrated and send for them later however as one of the children was handled rather roughly by the relatives Catherine stated " the boys are going with us". It is not known from what city in Ireland that they sailed from or if their destination was America or Canada. The crossing of the Atlantic Ocean took six weeks and Catherine took ill and almost died but that the Captain of the ship gave her some medicine and she recovered.

The first record of the family in America is the birth of Anthony J. in Springfield, Sangamon County, Illinois on September 8, 1847. Subsequently four children were born in Illinois: Mary A. in 1850, John J. on September 3, 1851, Bridget Mary on January 6, 1853 and James on April 16, 1856. The Catholic church in Joliet was St. Patrick's and no doubt the Langdon family were parishioners. On February 19, 1856 Patrick with his brother William purchased 80 acres of farmland in Section 12, Aux Sable Township, Grundy County, Illinois for \$180. On May 21, 1856 William sold his 40 acres back to Patrick.

In 1857, after some ten years in Illinois, Patrick, Catherine and their seven children pulled up stakes and headed west in a covered wagon. They crossed the Mississippi River, the State of Iowa, the Missouri River and into the Platte Valley of Sarpy County, Territory of Nebraska, a trek of some 400 miles. They settled on the bluffs overlooking the Elkhorn and Platte Rivers. The settlers chose this site because of the natural springs supplying good water, fertile soil and the abundant usable timber. Life was hard for these early settlers, living in dugouts, sod houses and working hard to break the virgin prairie. Eventually log cabins were built and a string of them extended from the north county line south and east along the entire width of the county. The settlers had to travel to Omaha, then a mere village in the flats of the Missouri River, for their supplies. Every fall they took their grain to a mill at Fort Calhoun to have it ground into flour. This trip required three whole days. Often they were raided by the Indians but the government provided them with guns and ammunition for protection.

Two children were born in Nebraska: Thomas W. in July of 1860 and Ellen A. in January of 1866. On September 10, 1867 Patrick Langdon took the oath and became a citizen of the United States in Bellevue, Nebraska and on March 1, 1867 Nebraska was admitted to the Union. Catherine Langdon had saved for some years to buy a shawl when one day her husband mentioned that there was a good 40 acres of farmland for sale but that he was short the purchase price. Catherine immediately took her savings and gave it to her husband so he could buy the 40 acres. By 1867, Patrick and Catherine had acquired 520 acres of farmland. Regarding the early days Catherine told the following story: One night in the dead of winter two Indians came to the door and

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asked to spend the night. They slept on the floor in a corner of a room with a blanket over them. Catherine had a tray of doughnuts set out that she had baked the day before. The next morning one of the Indians took an old burlap bag and scooped all the doughnuts into it and the two left without saying a word. In 1873 Patrick attended a funeral in the rain and caught pneumonia. He died on May 21st at the age of 62 and was buried in the Thomas Calvary Cemetery, Forest City, Sarpy County, Nebraska. His headstone shows his life span: 62 years, 10 months and 5 days. In 1884 son John J. removed to Pueblo, Colorado and in 1891 son Anthony J. also removed to Pueblo, Colorado. In 1891 Catherine removed to Oakland, California where she remained until 1897. She then returned to Gretna, Sarpy County, Nebraska and lived in the house that is adjacent to the Catholic church on Angus Street. As she got older it was told that she chose a bedroom facing the church so she could say her rosary looking at the church. Catherine died in the house on January 18, 1904 at the age of 84 and was buried beside her husband in the Thomas Calvary Cemetery. She outlived her husband by some 31 years. Six children survived her: Martin of Omaha, Anthony J. and John J. of Pueblo, Colorado, Thomas W. and Ellen A. of Gretna, Nebraska and Bridget Davis of Primrose, Boone County, Nebraska.



The House on Angus Street, Gretna
Where Catherine Thomas Langdon
Lived and Died - Circa 1900

EVIDENCE THAT THE LANGDON
FAMILY WAS FROM COUNTY MAYO

1. The Papillion Times: (Nebraska) dated December 26, 1912 states in Margaret Thomas Langdon's obituary that she was born in ROYLACCAN, Ireland.
2. The Will: of Michael Langan (brother of Patrick and William Langdon) dated July 20, 1889 states that he had a brother John and family located in RAN LARKIN, Ireland.
3. Death Certificate: of John J. Langdon (son of Patrick and Catherine Thomas Langdon) indicates that his father and mother were born in County Mayo, Ireland.
4. History of Nebraska-Biography: reference John H. Langdon (son of William and Margaret Thomas Langdon) indicates that his father and mother were born in LACKEN, County Mayo, Ireland.
5. Emma J. Davis: (grand-daughter of Catherine Thomas Langdon) who was 20 years old at the death of Catherine Thomas Langdon and knew her well told this compiler that the Langdons were from County Mayo in Ireland but that she didn't know the town.
6. Hibernian Research Company: of Dublin, Ireland states that the Killala area of County Mayo is where most Langan(Langdon) families occur.

Note: On December 20, 1988 this compiler interviewed Ellen Jean McCreary of Culver City, California. (daughter of Grace Langdon McCreary and grand-daughter of Martin Langdon). She stated that Martin Langdon (oldest son of Patrick and Catherine Thomas Langdon) was born in KILLALOE, County Clare, Ireland and that she obtained this information from her mother. Also Martin Langdon's obituary indicates that he was born in KILLOE, Ireland.

Conclusion: ROYLACCAN and RAN LARKIN would appear to be phonetic misspellings and typographical errors of the time but surely all variant spellings refer to RATHLACKAN which is a village in the parish of LACKAN County Mayo and is located about 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ miles north of Killala.

It is a possibility that Martin Langdon was born in KILLALA, County Mayo as two towns KILLALA, County Mayo and KILLALOE, County Clare are similar in spelling and accented pronunciation and could be readily interchanged.

The preponderance of evidence points to the town of RATHLACKAN, COUNTY MAYO as the origin of this Langan-Langdon family. However a possibility exists that Patrick Langdon and his family did at sometime remove to County Clare from County Mayo or were there on a visit when Martin was born. It is unknown as to where in Ireland the second son Michael was born.

JOHN A. LANGDON OF WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS
PATRICK & WILLIAM LANGDON OF SARPY COUNTY, NEBRASKA

The question arises: were the Will County Langdons related to the Sarpy County Langdons or were they merely friends and neighbors or were they acquainted at all?

John A. Langdon (1800-1875) was born in Ireland and married Bridget Gillespie (1810-1892) in 1832. Michael (1834) was born in Ireland. They The family emigrated to America circa 1835 and lived in New York State for about one year where William (1835) was born. They then removed to Joliet, Illinois where six children were born: Mary (1839), Sarah (1841), John (1844), Thomas (1846), Margaret (1849), Francis (1850) and Ellen A. (1855). John A. and Bridget Gillespie Langdon lived out their lives in Will County, Illinois.

Ellen A. Langdon (1855-1933) left her home in Joliet, Will County, Illinois and removed to Sarpy County, Nebraska where she met Martin Langdon, son of Patrick and Catherine Thomas Langdon. Martin and Ellen were married in 1878. Two stories exist as to why Ellen went to Sarpy County. First, that she was going to California, stopped in Sarpy County to visit friends and met Martin. Second, that she had a teaching position in Sarpy County and while engaged in teaching met Martin Langdon, Superintendent of Schools.

Questions: If Ellen A. Langdon stopped off in Sarpy County to visit friends while on the way to California were the friends the Sarpy County Langdons? Or how did Ellen ascertain that there was a teaching position available in Sarpy County? Through friends or relatives? Did John A. Langdon know Patrick and William Langdon in Ireland? Did they know each other in Illinois?

It is uncertain if the two Langdon families knew each other in Ireland but it seems most likely that they were acquainted in Illinois. Both families were Irish and of the Roman Catholic faith. St. Patrick's Catholic Church was the first Catholic church in Joliet, Will County, Illinois and it was here that William Langdon married Margaret Thomas in 1850. Some of the children of John A. and Bridget Gillespie Langdon were baptized in St. Patrick's church and no doubt the children of Patrick and Catherine Thomas Langdon who were born in Illinois were also baptized there. It would appear that the two families were fellow parishioners.

Patrick and William Langdon owned a farm located in Section 12, Aux Sable Township, Grundy County. John A. Langdon's second farm was located in Section 6, Troy Township, Will County. The farms are in adjacent townships and only seven or eight miles apart.

A Michael Langdon, age 63, born in Ireland appears with the John A. Langdon family in Will County, Illinois in the 1880 Census. The age is correct for the Michael Langan, the Civil War veteran and brother of Patrick and William Langdon. If they are one and the same then there is no doubt that the families knew each other.

Concluding that the two Langdon families knew each other the final question remains---were they related? Perhaps we shall never know unless future research uncovers some records or a relative comes forth with some facts to settle the question.

Gravesite of Patrick & Catherine
Langdon - (Small Stone) their son
James Langdon - Thomas Calvary
Cemetery, Gretna, Nebraska.



Gravesite of William & Margaret
Langdon - Thomas Calvary Cemetery,
Gretna, Sarpy County, Nebraska.



(Patrick Langdon became a citizen of the United States on Sept. 5, 1867)

Certificate of Citizenship.

C. C. & C. D. WOOLWORTH, Omaha, Nebraska.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Territory of Nebraska.

ss.

County of Cass

Be it Remembered, that on the 5th day of September
in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty seven
Patrick Langdon appeared in the District Court (the
said Court being a Court of Record, having common law jurisdiction, and a Clerk and Seal.)
and applied to the said Court to be admitted to become a Citizen of the United States of
America, pursuant to the provisions of the several acts of the Congress of the United States
of America for that purpose made and provided; and the said applicant having thereupon
produced to the Court such evidence, made such declaration and renunciation, and taken such
oaths as are by the said acts required:

THEREUPON, it was ordered by the said Court, that the said applicant be admitted, and
he was accordingly admitted by the said Court, to be a Citizen of the United States of
America.

In Testimony Whereof, the Seal of said Court is hereunto affixed,
at Bellevue County in
the State of Nebraska this 5th day
of September one thousand eight
hundred and sixty seven

Stephen D. Mayo Clerk.

This Indenture, "that the nineteenth day of August" in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty seven, between Patrick Langdon of the County of Taylor and Territory of Nebraska past and present of the County of Cass in the State of Kansas and State of Ohio and Walter Craig of the County of Cass in the State of Kansas and State of Ohio

WITNESSETH, that Patrick of the first part for and in consideration of the sum of One Hundred Dollars to him in hand paid by the party of the second part the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged has granted conveyed and assigned and by these presents do grant convey and assign unto the party of the second part and to their heirs and assigns forever all the certain piece or parcel of land situate in the County of Taylor Territory of Nebraska and described as follows to wit: The South Half of the North East Quarter of Section twenty two (22) in Township Thirteen (13) South of Range ten (10) East of the 6th principal meridian in the Territory of Nebraska

Together with all and singular the tenements and appurtenances thereto in anywise and in anywise whatsoever, whosoever it may concern, unto the party of the second part, his heirs and assigns forever.

And the party of the first part, do hereby covenant and agree with the party of the second part, his heirs and assigns that the party of the first part do lawfully own of the said premises and all the right title and interest thereof and therein, that the said premises are free from incumbrances and the said premises in the past and present possession of the party of the second part have been and ever were conveyed all and every parcel or parcels, whosoever, lawfully claiming or to claim the same in or out of the said premises herein defined.

In Testimony Whereof, the party of the first part has hereunto set his hand and seal the day and year first above written.

Signed, sealed and delivered in presence of } Patrick Langdon
 _____ }
 _____ }
 _____ }



(Deed showing Patrick Langdon's mark dated August 7, 1857)

Patrick Langdon being of sound mind and good judgment do first Order that my heirs and assigns shall be conducted in accordance with the rites of the Catholic Church of which I am a Member

Secondly I bequeath to my respective wife Catherine Langdon all my estate real and personal in Sarpy County State of Nebraska. I bequeath to my two sons Martin & Michael Langdon the Town lots in the city of Council Bluffs State of Iowa, and also the undivided half of three lots in the Town of Ashland together with five acres of land adjoining the same place in Sanders Co. State of Nebraska

By this Will I do hereby nullify any other made by me at any time past

I do furthermore appoint my respective wife Catherine Langdon sole executrix of this my last Will and Testament

Witnesses
 Michael Gillespie }
 John Melia }
 A. J. Langdon }

Patrick Langdon
 mark

State of Nebraska
 County of Sarpy

I James C. W. Probate Judge for said county of Sarpy hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the Will of Patrick Langdon received as proven and now of record in my office this 17th day of August 1857

(Will of Patrick Langdon dated May 16, 1873)

James C. W. Probate Judge

In Memory of Michael Langan-Priv.
 Co. D-35th Reg.-Ill.-Inf.-Vol.-
 Died Feb. 23, 1889 - Age 71 Years.
 Holy Sepulcher Cemetery, Gretna,
 Sarpy County, Nebraska.



Adjutant General's Office,

Washington, D. C.,

March 25th 1865.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt from your Office of application for Pension No. 52,934, and to return it herewith, with such information as is furnished by the files of this Office.

It appears from the Rolls on file in this Office, that Michael Langan was enrolled on the 3rd day of July, 1861, at Leaton in Co. D, 35th Regiment of Illinois Volunteers, to serve 3 years, or during the war, and mustered into service as a Private on the 26th day of August 1861, at St. Louis, in Co. D, 35th Regiment of Illinois Volunteers, to serve 3 years, or during the war. On the Muster Roll of Co. D, of that Regiment, for the months of Sept. & Oct. 1864, he is reported "Mustered Out, honorably Discharged, the service of the U.S. by reason of expiration of term of service."

I am, Sir, very respectfully,
 Your obedient servant, *[Signature]*

Assistant Adjutant General.

The Commissioner of Pensions,
 Washington, D. C.

Memorandum

Name of applicant

Address

M. M.

Honorable Discharge from U.S. Army for Michael Langan dated March 25, 1865, Washington, D.C.

L | **35** | **Ill.**
Michael Langan
 priv., Co. D, 35 Reg't Illinois Infantry.
 Age *39* years.

Appears on **Co. Muster-out Roll** dated
Springfield, Mo., Sep 27, 1864.
 Muster-out to date *Sep 27, 1864.*
 Last paid to *Feb 28, 1862.*

Clothing account:
 Last settled.....186; drawn since \$.....100
 Due soldier \$ *60³²* 100; due U. S. \$.....100
 Am't for cloth'g in kind or money adv'd \$.....100

Due U. S. for arms, equipments, &c., \$.....100
 amt paid \$.....100; due \$ *100*

Remarks *in Bat. Pea Ridge
 Stone River, Chickamauga*

Book mark:

Langan
 Copyist.

(261)

Michael Langan's
 Muster-Out Roll
 September 27, 1864

35th REGIMENT INFANTRY.

Organized at Decatur, Ill., July 3, 1861, and accepted by the Secretary of War as G. A. Smith's Independent Regiment July 23, 1861. Moved to Jefferson Barracks, Mo., August 4-5. Mustered in at St. Louis, Mo., August 28, 1861. Moved to Jefferson City, Mo., September 15, thence to Otterville September 25, and to Sedalia October 15. Fremont's Campaign against Springfield, Mo., October 15-November 8. Attached to Dept. of Missouri to January, 1862. 1st Brigade, Army of Southwest Missouri, to March, 1862. 1st Brigade, 4th Division, Army of the Southwest Missouri, to June, 1862. 1st Brigade, 4th Division, Army of Mississippi, to September, 1862. 32nd Brigade, 9th Division, Army of the Ohio, to October, 1862. 32nd Brigade, 9th Division, 3rd Army Corps, Army Ohio, to November, 1862. 3rd Brigade, 1st Division, Right Wing 14th Army Corps, Army of the Cumberland, to January, 1863. 3rd Brigade, 1st Division, 20th Army Corps, Army of the Cumberland, to October, 1863. 1st Brigade, 3rd Division, 4th Army Corps, to September, 1864.

SERVICE.—Moved from Springfield to Rolla, Mo., November 13-19, 1861, and duty there till January, 1862. Curtis' Campaign in Missouri and Arkansas. Advance on Springfield, Mo. and pursuit of Price to Cross Hollows, Ark., January 23-February 21. Battles of Pea Ridge March 6-8. March to Batesville, Ark., April 5-May 8. March to Cape Girardeau, Mo., May 10-21, thence moved to Hamburg Landing, Tenn., May 22-25. Advance on and siege of Corinth, Miss., May 27-30. Pursuit to Booneville May 31-June 12. March to Jacinto June 21-22, thence to Holly Springs June 27-29. At Jacinto till August 8. Guard Bear Creek Bridge till August 21. March to Nashville, Tenn., August 21-September 1, thence to Louisville, Ky., in pursuit of Bragg, September 2-26. Pursuit of Bragg into Kentucky October 1-15. Near Perryville October 6-7. Chaplin Hills, Perryville October 8. March to Nashville, Tenn., October 17-November 7 and duty there till December 26. Expedition from Edgefield to Harpeth Shoals and Clarksville November 26-December 1. Advance on Murfreesboro December 26-30. Nolensville Knob Gap December 26. Battle of Stone River December 30-31, 1862, and January 1-3, 1863. Duty at Murfreesboro till June. Scout to Franklin January 31-February 12. Reconnoissance to Salem and Versailles March 9-14. Operations on Edgeville Pike June 4; Middle Tennessee or Tullahoma Campaign June 24-July 7; Liberty Gap June 24-27. Occupation of Middle Tennessee till August 16. Passage of Cumberland Mountains and Tennessee River and Chickamauga (Ga.) Campaign August 16-September 22. Battle of Chickamauga, Ga., September 19-20. Siege of Chattanooga, Tenn., September 24-November 23. Chattanooga-Ringgold Campaign November 23-27. Orchard Knob November 23-24. Mission Ridge November 25. March to relief of Knoxville, Tenn., November 28-December 8. Operations in East Tennessee till January, 1864. At Loudon, Tenn., January 22-April 13. Atlanta (Ga.) Campaign May 1-August 26. Demonstration on Rocky Faced Ridge May 8-11. Buzzard's Roost Gap May 8-9. Demonstrations on Dalton May 9-13. Battle of Resaca May 14-15. Adairville May 17. Near Kingston May 18-19. Near Cassville May 19. Advance on Dallas May 23-25. Operations on line of Pumpkin Vine Creek and battles about Dallas, New Hope Church and Allatoona Hills May 25-June 5. Pickett's Mills May 27. Operations about Marietta and against Kennesaw Mountain June 10-July 2; Pine Hill June 11-14; Lost Mountain June 15-17. Assault on Kennesaw June 27. Ruff's Station, Smyrna Camp Ground, July 4. Chattahoochie River July 5-17. Peach Tree Creek July 19-20. Siege of Atlanta July 22-August 25. Moved to Chattanooga, Tenn., August 26-27, thence to Springfield, Ill., August 31. Mustered out September 27, 1864, expiration of term.

Regiment lost during service 7 Officers and 91 Enlisted men killed and mortally wounded and 5 Officers and 164 Enlisted men by disease. Total 267.

_____, of, in, or to the same, or any part thereof:
To Have and to Hold the above described premises, with the appurtenances, unto the said James Langdon
 _____, and to his heirs and assigns forever; and I, the
 said Michael Langan, for myself and my heirs, executors, and
 administrators, do covenant with the said James Langdon, and
 with his heirs and assigns, that I am lawfully seized of said premises, that they are free from incumbrance, that
I have good right and lawful authority to sell the same, and that I will and my heirs, executors, and
 administrators shall warrant and defend the same unto the said James Langdon
 and his heirs and assigns forever, against the lawful claims of all persons whosoever.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand, _____ this
18th day of January, A. D. one thousand, eight hundred, and Eighty nine

IN PRESENCE OF

Wm. B. Rishel
A. J. Langan witness do say
 The State of Nebraska

Michael Langan

Darby County. } ss.

On this 18th day of January A. D. 18 89
 before me, Wm. B. Rishel a Justice of the Peace, in and for said County,
 personally came the above named Michael Langan
Single, who is personally known
 to me to be the identical person whose name is affixed to the above Deed as
 grantor, and had acknowledged the Instrument to be his voluntary act and deed.

Witness my hand _____ the date aforesaid.

Wm. B. Rishel
Justice of the Peace

Document showing Michael Langan's mark
 (Dated January 18, 1889)

In the Matter of the Estate
of

File No. 200

Michael Langan, deceased

July 20, 1889. Filed duly verified petition of Martin Langdon, which states that Michael Langan, late of Sarpy County, departed this life in said County of Sarpy, on Saturday, February 23, 1889, leaving a last will and testament, said Michael Langan was an unmarried man at the time of his death, leaving no widow or children. That said deceased was at and immediately previous to his death an inhabitant of said Sarpy County, Nebraska and was possessed of real and personal estate situate in said County of the value of about \$800.00.

Further shows that the names and residence of the heirs at law of said deceased and other persons interested in his estate are as follows:- J. J. Langdon, Pueblo, Colorado, Martin Langdon, nephew, Omaha, Nebraska, M. J. Langdon, nephew, Lincoln, Nebraska, A. J. Langdon, nephew, Omaha, Nebraska, B. E. Davis, niece, Dublin, Nebraska, Thomas W. Langdon, nephew, Gretna, Nebraska, Ellen Langdon, niece, Gretna, Nebraska, children of Patrick Langdon, deceased.

Patrick J. Langdon, nephew, Gretna, Nebraska, Jane ^{Doyle} Dugli, niece, Gretna, Nebraska, John H. Langdon, nephew, Gretna, Nebraska, Elizabeth Hughes, niece, Gretna, Nebraska, Michael W. Langdon, nephew, Gretna, Nebraska, Catherine A. Langdon, niece, Gretna, Nebraska, Anthony E. Langdon, nephew, Papillion, Nebraska, children of William Langdon, deceased.

Anthony Kelly, nephew, Scranton, Pennsylvania, Michael Kelly, nephew, Scranton, Pennsylvania, children of Kay Kelly, deceased, and sister of Alva Mirl Langan.

Michael Langdon, nephew, San Larkin, Ireland, John Langdon, nephew, San Larkin, Ireland, children of John Langdon, deceased.

Patrick Langdon, nephew, San Larkin, Ireland and two daughters, names unknown, all children of John Langdon, deceased.

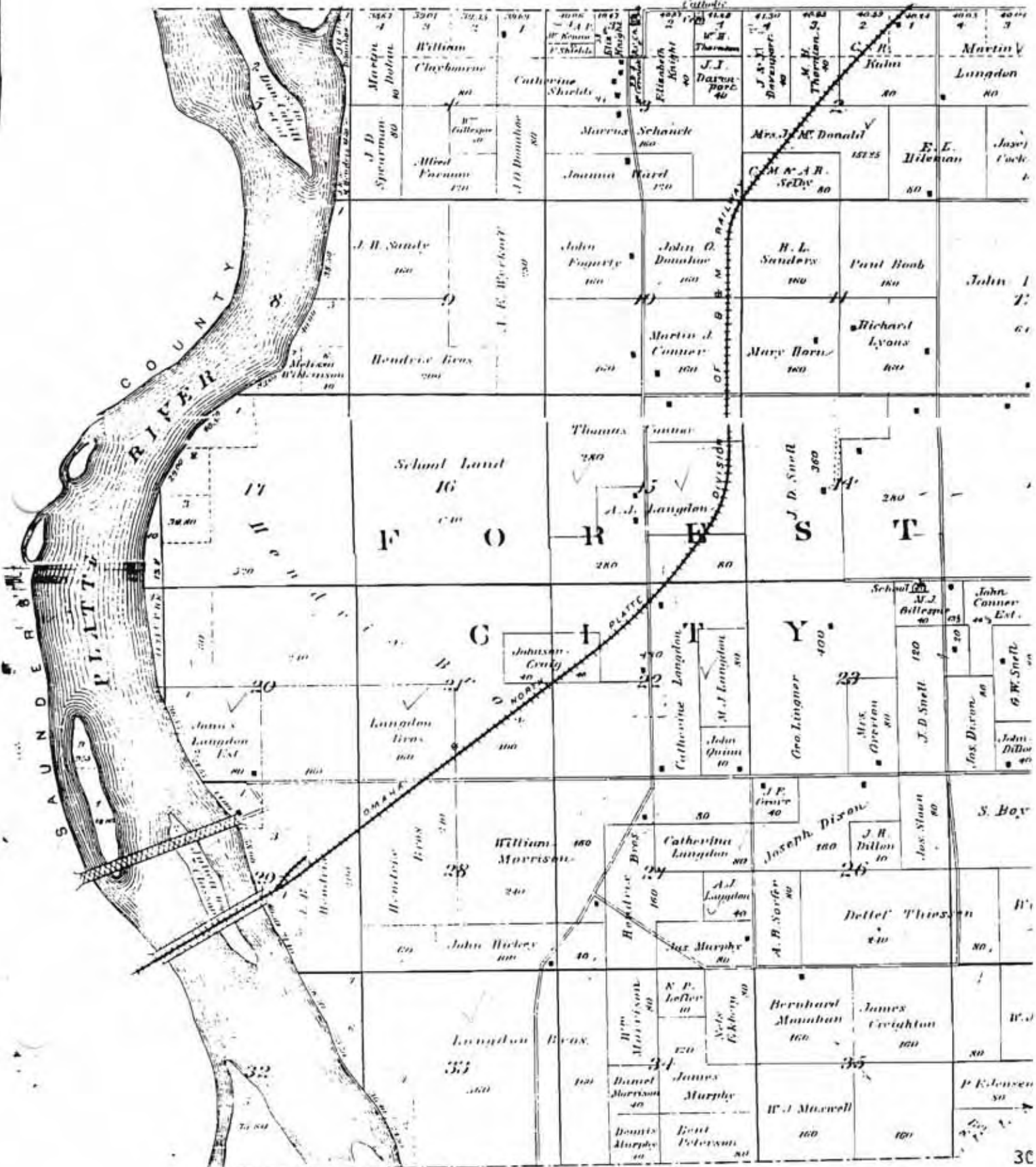
(Will of Michael Langan dated July 20, 1889)

TOWNSHIP 13 NORTH, RANGE 10 EAST.

Scale 2 miles to one Inch.

of the 6th Principal Meridian.
Almost 2000 Acres owned by
Langdons-Sarpy Co.-1889.

1889



TREASURER'S OFFICE,

Sarpy County, Nebraska, Sept 2 1887

Received of *P. Langdon* the sum of *100.00* Dollars and *00* Cents, in full for Territorial, County, School and Road Taxes, for the year 1886, on all personal property, and the following Real Estate, to-wit:

PARTS OF SECTION.	Sec.	Town.	Range.	Acres.	NAME OF TOWN.	LOT.	BLOCK.
<i>S 1/2 of N 8 1/4</i>	15	13	10	80			
<i>S 1/2 of E 1/4</i>	"	"	"	160			
<i>N 1/2 of N 1/4</i>	20	"	"	80			
<i>S 1/2 of S 1/4</i>	"	"	"	80			
<i>N 1/2 of N 6 1/4</i>	27	"	"	80			
<i>N 1/2 of S 1/4</i>	"	"	"	160			

Samuel ... Treasurer.

762	482	601	361	482	2018	2018	Deputy.
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	------	------	---------

Tax Bill for Patrick Langdon
Sept. 2, 1867 - Sarpy County

STATE LEVY.

General Fund	5	Mills
Slaking	70	"
School	44	"
University Fund	34	"
Inst. Feeble Minded Fund	14	"
State Relief Fund	14	"
Total	235	"

COUNTY LEVY.

General Fund	9	Mills
Bridge Fund	4	"
General Road Fund	3	"
Total	16	"

\$152.72 Treasurer's Office, Sarpy County, Neb.
Oct 7 1895

RECEIVED OF *T. W. Langdon*
One hundred fifty-two and 72/100 DOLLARS.

in full of the Taxes for the YEAR 1894 on the following described property:
Treasurer's Fee for sending receipt to non-residents is \$1.00.

DESCRIPTION	Sec. or Lot	Town or R's	Range or Lot	Acres or Block	Consolidated Tax	Dist. School Fund	School Bond Tax	Road Tax	Labour Tax	Village Tax	TOTAL
<i>S 1/2 of S 1/4</i>	15	13	10	762	10 00	3 61		1 13			14 64
<i>N 1/2 N. 1/4 - S. 1/4 N. 1/4</i>	22	13	10	117	17 75	6 41		1 13			25 29
<i>N 1/2 N. 1/4 - S. 1/4 N. 1/4</i>	22	13	10	112	11 85	4 37		1 22			17 34
<i>N. 1/2 N. 1/4 S. 1/4</i>	22	13	10	40	4 65	1 68		4 1			6 34
<i>S. 1/2 N. 1/4 S. 1/4 S. 1/4</i>	22	13	10	200	24 45	8 12		2 53			35 00
<i>S. 1/2 N. 1/4 S. 1/4</i>	27	13	10	40	3 10	1 28		5 2			9 60
<i>S. 1/2 N. 1/4 S. 1/4</i>	27	13	10	40	5 05	2 08		2 1			9 14
<i>N 1/2 N. 1/4</i>	20	13	10	80	8 15	2 94		8 4			19 13
<i>S. 1/2 N. 1/4</i>	20	13	10	144	13 30	4 30		1 37			19 27
Advertising											2 40
Interest											6 00
Value, \$											152 72

No. 1653

ORIGINAL.

Geo. ... Treasurer.

W. H. ... Deputy.

Tax Bill for Thomas W. Langdon
October 7, 1895 - Sarpy County

The State of Nebraska

County Treasurer's Office,

SARPY COUNTY.

Papillion, Nebraska, March 22, 1880.

Received of

Ms. Catherine Langdon for James Langdon

70 DOLLARS.

in full for the following Taxes for the year 1878.

DESCRIPTION	Sec. of Lot	Tp. of 36's	Sec.	Arms	Rate General Tax	Rate Sinking Tax	Rate School Tax	Rate University Tax	County Gravel Tax	Road Interest	District School Tax	Dog	Advertising	Interest	TOTAL
42 804	22	13	10	50	86	24	24	9	2	70	48	168		61	670

Tax Receipt for Catherine Langdon and James Langdon - March 22, 1880

WARRANTY DEED.

FROM

Michael Langan

TO

James Langdon

Entered in Numerical Index of Deeds,

COUNTY CLERK.

Received for Record this 24 day

of January A. D. 1887

at 8 o'clock P. M., and recorded in

Book 11 of Deeds, at

Page 161

J. B. Baumburg

COUNTY CLERK.

Sarpy

COUNTY, NEBRASKA.

James Langdon

Deed from Michael LANGAN to James LANGDON (his nephew). Shows both spellings in use. Jan. 24, 1889, Gretna, Nebr.

Know All Men by These Presents, That Catherine Langdon (widow) of Gretna, Sarpy County, Nebraska, in consideration of one Dollar, to her and her heirs, executors, administrators, assigns and assigns forever, the following described (Tract, Estate, etc.) in the County of Sarpy, Nebraska, and State of Nebraska, to-wit: The South half of South West quarter and the North West quarter of the South East quarter of the Section 9, Township 13 North, Range 10 West of the Principal Meridian containing 120 Acres more or less according to Government Survey.

Together with all the Taxments, Hereditaments and Appurtenances to the same in law and all the Easements, Rights, Claims or Demands whatsoever of the said Catherine Langdon, in, to or to the same in any part thereof.

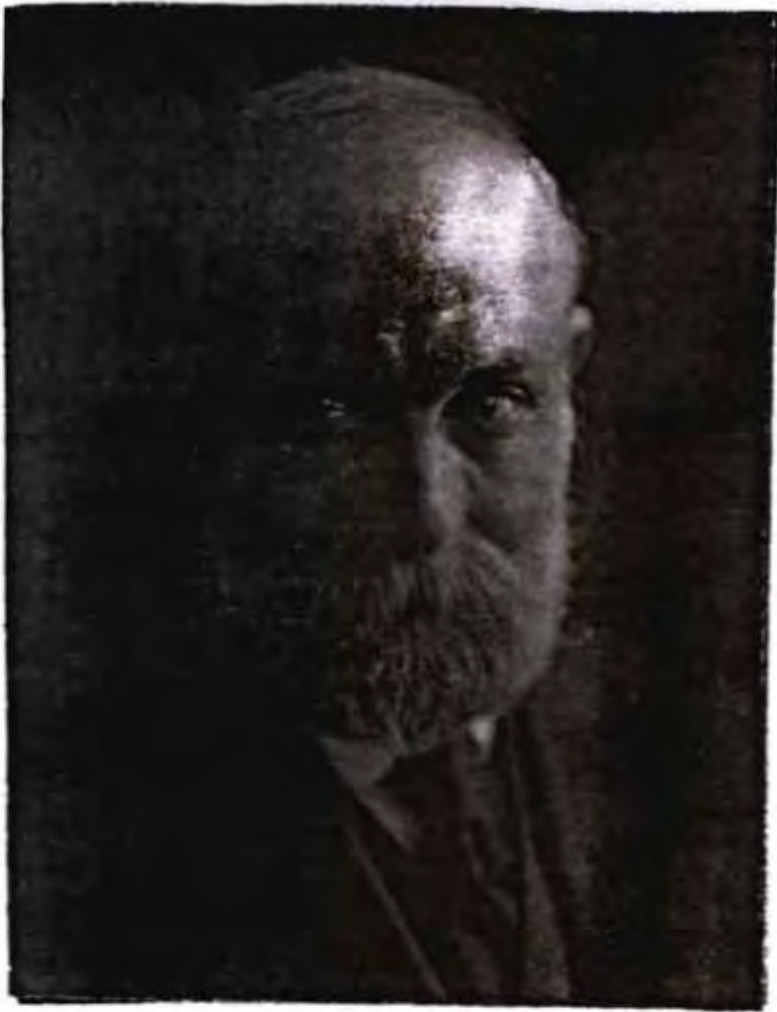
To HAVE AND TO HOLD the above described premises, with the appurtenances thereto, unto her heirs and assigns forever. And she the said Catherine Langdon for herself, her heirs, executors and administrators, do hereby warrant and defend unto her heirs, executors and assigns, that she is lawfully seized of said premises, that they are free from encumbrances, and that she has good right and lawful authority to sell the same, and that she, her heirs, executors and administrators shall warrant and defend the same unto the said James Langdon and his heirs and assigns forever against the lawful claims and demands of all persons whatsoever.

In WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 24th day of January, A. D. 1887, at Gretna, Nebraska.

IN PRESENCE OF
 James Langdon
 STATE OF NEBRASKA,
 County of Sarpy. On this 24th day of December A. D. 1887, before me, a Notary Public, in and for said county, personally came the above named Catherine Langdon (widow), who is personally known to me to be the legal person whose name is affixed to the above Deed as grantor, and she acknowledged the instrument to be her voluntary act and deed.

Deed showing mark of Catherine Thomas Langdon - Dec. 29, 1898.

John J. Langdon



John J. Langdon



Thomas W. Langdon

Anthony J. Langdon



Sons of Patrick & Catherine Langdon



Mary A. Langdon (A)



Bridget Langdon Davis (A)



1. Ellen A. Langdon (A)
2. Bridget Langdon Davis (A)
3. Kate Langdon (B)
4. Nellie Davis Stow (C)



Standing (L-R)

1. Bridget Langdon Davis (A)
2. Emma J. Davis (C)

Sitting (L-R)

1. Elizabeth Davis (c)
2. Hazel Davis Nolan (C)

- (A) Daughter of Patrick & Catherine Langdon
 (B) Daughter of William & Margaret Langdon
 (C) Daughter of John Davis & Bridget Langdon Davis



(L-R)

Thomas W. Langdon
(Son of Patrick Langdon)
Patrick J. Langdon
(Son of William Langdon)
Elizabeth Hughes Langdon
(Wife of P.J. Langdon)
Kate Hughes Schmidt
(Sister of Mrs. P.J. Langdon)



(L-R)

Patrick J. Langdon
(Son of William Langdon)
Elizabeth Hughes Langdon
(Wife of P.J. Langdon)
John H. Langdon
(Son of William Langdon)
Ella Morgan Langdon
(Wife of John H. Langdon)



Bridget Thomas Melia



Margaret Thomas Langdon

ESTABLISHED 1844

KINGSLAND & FERGUSON MANUFACTURING CO

Philip Kingsland, Pres.
D.K. Ferguson, Vice Pres.

L.D. Kingsland, Treas.
E.V. Ferguson, Secy.

Dallas Texas

In reply to yours

H. Texas, April 18 1882

Miss B.

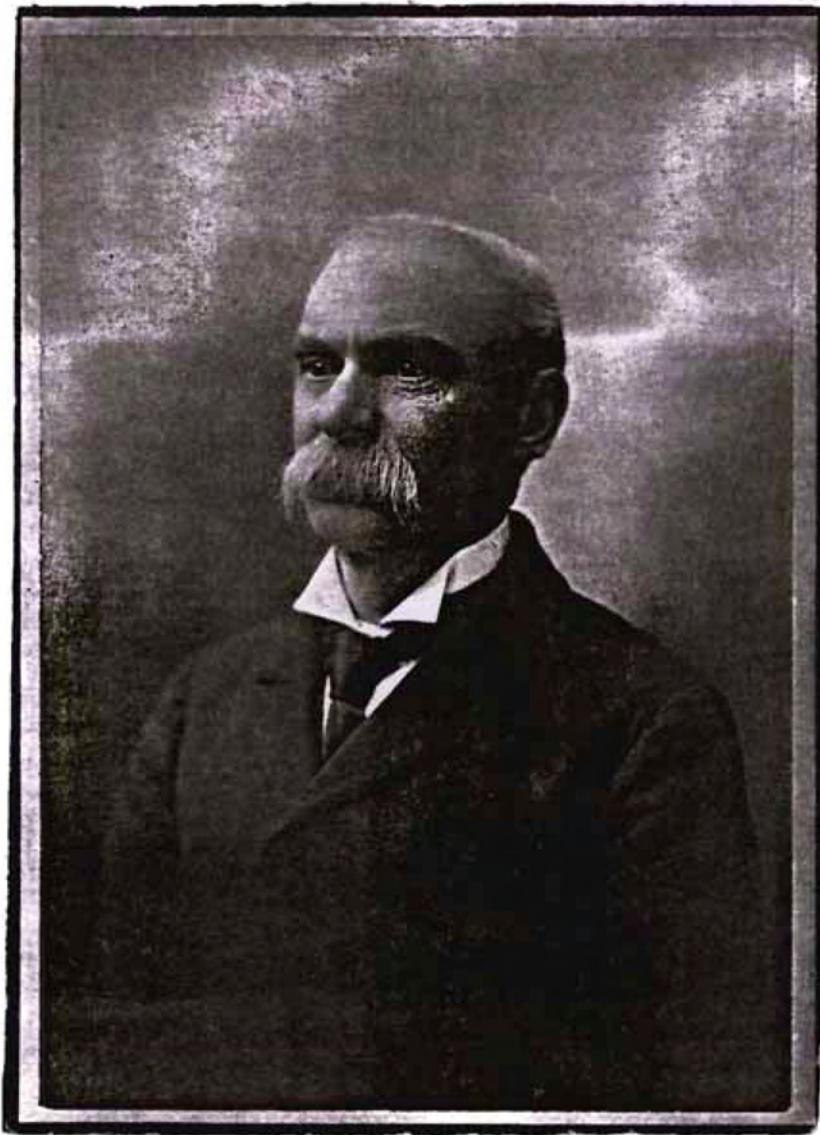
Dear sister

It is so long since I heard from you that I don't know which of us wrote last but as I have returned to Dallas and have a little leisure I will write you a short note. I rec'd a letter from James & one from A.J. on my arrival here and was glad to hear that all at home were well. I have been traveling very fast for the last two months and am now pretty well through with my business in Texas and will now leave for Arkansas in a few days. My dear sister I will come home the middle of next month & hope to meet you all & find you all enjoying the best of health. do not tell any one outside of Mother's brother & sister that I am coming home as soon. You will be agreeably surprised when you hear the reason. Love to Mother. Your affectionate

Write me at Dallas
Box 273

Bro M J Langdon

(Letter from Michael J. Langdon to his sister Bridget Langdon)
(Dated April 18, 1882 - Dallas, Texas)



MARTIN LANGDON.

Born at Killoe, Ireland, November 8, 1841. He came to the United States with his parents in 1846. They settled in Kendall county, Illinois, and in 1847 moved to Minoeka, Illinois, where Mr. Langdon received his preliminary education. In June, 1857, he moved with his parents from Illinois to Sarpy county, Nebraska. He attended the high school at Council Bluffs, Iowa, and the State Normal at Peru, Nebraska. In 1865, Mr. Langdon was elected to the Territorial Legislature of the then territory of Nebraska, after which he taught school for four years. In 1876 he was elected county superintendent of schools of Sarpy county, serving four years. Mr. Langdon studied law and was admitted to the bar in September, 1882. He was elected County Judge of Sarpy county for four years, after which he continued the practice in Sarpy county until 1888, when he and his family moved to Omaha where he has since been engaged in the active practice, having among his clients many important financial interests. Mr. Langdon belongs to the American Bar Association, State Bar Association and Omaha Bar Association.



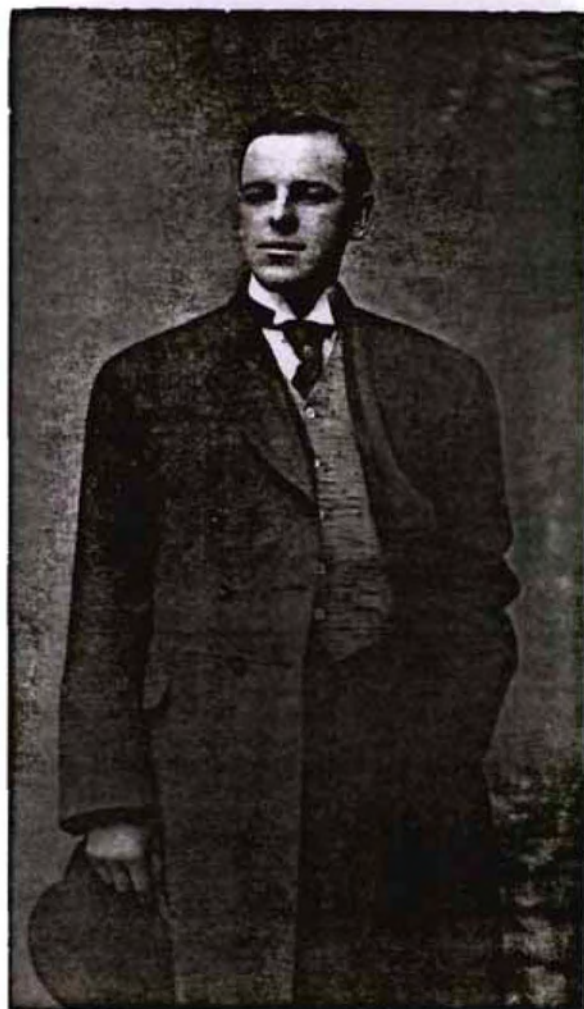
Annette Langdon Stahl
(Daughter of John H. Langdon)



Emma J. Davis (Daughter
of Bridget Langdon Davis)



William Kieran Langdon
(Son of Michael Langdon)



John Frederick Langdon
(Son of Martin Langdon)

ILLNESS FATAL

ANTHONY J. LANGDON

Prominent Real Estate Man, Long a Resident of Pueblo, Succumbs—Funeral Will be Held This Afternoon

After a lingering illness which has confined him to his bed for three months, Anthony J. Langdon, one of Pueblo's most prominent real estate men, passed away yesterday morning at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Maria Crum, 426 west Ninth street. Mr. Langdon was 62 years old last September 8.

The funeral will be held this morning at 9:30 o'clock from the Sacred Heart Catholic church, and in keeping with a desire of the deceased, the mourners are requested to bring no flowers. Father T. J. Wolohan will officiate. The deceased has been a member of the Sacred Heart church for many years, and was a member of the Knights of Columbus.

Mr. Langdon is survived by his wife, Margaret Herron Langdon, his daughter, Mrs. Crum, two brothers, J. J. Langdon of Pueblo, president of the Pueblo Abstract company and T. W. Langdon of Omaha, Neb., and two sisters, Mrs. John Davis and Miss Nellie Langdon of Omaha.

The deceased was born in Springfield, Ill., September 2, 1847, and as a boy of 12 years, in 1859 removed with his parents, brothers and sisters to Sarpy county, Neb. Those were in the

six weeks before railroads crossed the western prairie, and the trip was made overland in a prairie schooner. The Langdon family settled on a farm and the children grew up there, the sons engaging in farming and cattle raising. A. J. Langdon married Margaret Herron of Omaha in 1878, the wedding being celebrated at the Catholic cathedral in that city.

In 1891 A. J. Langdon retired from the cattle business in Sarpy county and followed to Pueblo his brother John J., who came here in 1884. Here the deceased engaged in the real estate business and invested quite heavily in Pueblo realty. He was a shrewd, conservative dealer and his advice as to real estate values and prospects was considered sound and reliable.

Decline Is Gradual

Early in June of this year Mr. Langdon became ill and was confined to his bed with a complication of diseases. From that time he gradually declined in health and for several days prior to his death it was realized that the end was near.

The deceased is an uncle of Deputy District Attorney Laurence Langdon and deputy clerk of the District Court Genevieve Langdon.

J. J. Langdon Funeral To Be Held Wednesday

John J. Langdon, active business man in Pueblo circles and a resident here since 1884, died Monday morning at a local hospital after an illness of several months. He was 74 years old at the time of his death and has lived in Pueblo for 44 years, being known widely in the real estate business.

He was born near Chicago Sept. 7, 1831, and when four years old, moved with his parents to a place near Omaha, Neb. He came to Colorado in 1877 and located permanently in Pueblo in 1884. He was a member of the Sacred Heart church and also of the Pueblo council No. 557, Knight of Columbus.

He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Frances G. Langdon, and six children, Sister Mary Lawrence of the Sisters of Mercy order, Denver; Lawrence E., Mary, Josephine and John A., of Pueblo; Frank A., of Chicago, and six grandchildren.

Rosary services will be held Tuesday evening at 7:15 at the family home at 502 West Eleventh street by the local chapter of the Knights of Columbus, Catholic Daughters and Astar and Rosary societies of Sacred Heart church. Funeral services will be held at 8:30 Wednesday morning from the residence and at 9 o'clock from the Sacred Heart church. Interment will be made in the family plot in Roselawn cemetery. The body is in charge of T. G. McCarthy and sons.

LAURENCE EDWIN LANGDON.

Laurence Edwin Langdon, a prominent representative of the legal profession in Pueblo, is making an excellent record in the position of deputy district attorney. His birth occurred in Sarpy county, Nebraska, on the 11th of August, 1883, but he has spent practically his entire life in Colorado, his parents, John J. and Frances G. (Heron) Langdon, removing to this state in the spring of 1884. His father was engaged in the abstract business in Pueblo for many years but disposed of his interests in that connection in 1917 and has since given his attention to real estate dealing. The period of his residence in the city covers more than a third of a century and he has long been numbered among its successful business men and esteemed citizens. Mr. Langdon of this review has three brothers, one of whom is at present serving his country as a member of the One Hundred and Fifty-ninth Infantry.

Laurence E. Langdon began his education in a parochial school and later continued his studies in the Centennial high school, from which he was graduated in 1902. Subsequently he spent a year in the University of Notre Dame in Indiana and for two years was a student in the University of Michigan, being graduated from the latter institution as a member of the class of 1910. For five years before taking up the study of law, however, he had been associated with his father in the abstract business. In 1911 he was elected city attorney of Pueblo, acting in that capacity for seven months or until November, 1911, when he was appointed deputy district attorney by John W. Davidson, who was serving as district attorney at that time. Throughout the intervening period of seven years he has discharged his duties as deputy in a most commendable and efficient manner, winning an enviable reputation in professional circles.

Mr. Langdon gives his political allegiance to the democratic party, while fraternally he is an Elk and a fourth degree Knight of Columbus. He belongs to the Minnequa Club and the Golf Club and has those qualities which make for personal popularity. Having spent almost his entire life in Colorado, he has witnessed the growth and progress of the state with enthusiastic interest and he is well known as a public-spirited, respected and representative citizen of Pueblo.

Anthony J. Langdon & John J. Langdon
(Sons of Patrick & Catherine Langdon)
Laurence Edwin Langdon
(Son of John H. Langdon)

FRIDAY, JULY 24, 1896.

Langdon-Hughes.

On Monday morning at 8 o'clock Mr. Patrick J. Langdon and Miss Elizabeth M. Hughes were married at St. Patrick's church, Rev. Father Wallace officiating.

The wedding was a quiet one and was witnessed only by the immediate relatives and friends of the contracting parties. Mr. Thos. W. Langdon acting as groomsmen and Miss Katie Hughes as bridesmaid. After partaking of the wedding breakfast at the residence of Mr. Michael J. Hughes, a brother of the bride, the couple left for Denver and Colorado Springs on an extended wedding tour. They expect to visit all the points of interest before they return.

The contracting parties are both too well known here, to require an introduction from us. Mr. Langdon is the senior member of the firm of Langdon Bros., general merchants, and head of the largest merchandise establishment in Serpy county; a successful business man, mayor of the city and an active worker in all public enterprises. The bride is the beautiful and accomplished daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dominic Hughes, and is known far and wide as one of the most successful teachers in Serpy county, she having had charge of one department of our schools for the past three years. She is also an accomplished musician and has been at the head of the St. Patrick's Church choir for a number of years.

At the depot when they left on their wedding tour the shower-wednes that followed them, resembled an old fashioned hail storm in full blast.

The Reception joins with the entire community in extending hearty congratulations.

They will make this their home and will be at home to their friends after October 1.



Patrick J. Langdon



PAPILLION, OF SARPY, F: JOSEPH D PATTERSON, M: MARY D GIBSON)
 MD BY R M L BRADEN AT PAPILLION. WIT: JOHN SPEEDIE, HORACE P PATTERSON
 4/455 15 JULY 1896 WALTER A BRINN (A: 21, B: OMAHA, OF DOUGLAS CO, NE,
 JAMES BRINN, M: ANNA EVERS) MD TONNY MUTL (A: 20, B: BOHEMIA, OF DOUGLAS CO,
 NEB, F: ANTON MUTL, M: ANNA BENNICK?)
 MD BY EDGAR HOWARD AT PAPILLION. WIT: GEORGE MENZIES OF DOUGLAS CO, NE,
 CHARLES BRINN OF DOUGLAS CO, NEB
 4/456 16 JULY 1896 JOHN J STOCK (A: 22, B: DENMARI, OF DOUGLAS CO, NE,
 JOHN F STOCK, M: ANNA LARSEN) MD JOSIE HANSEN (A: 22, B: DENMARI, OF DOUGLAS
 CO, NEB, F: HANS HANSEN M: HANNAH CHRISTIANSEN)
 MD BY EDGAR HOWARD AT PAPILLION. WIT: JACOB RASMUSSEN OF DOUGLAS CO, NE,
 STOCK OF DOUGLAS CO, NEB
 4/457 21 JULY 1896 PATRICK J LANGDON (A: 41, B: ILL, OF SARPY, F: W.
 LANGDON, M: MARGARET THOMAS) MD ELIZABETH MARGARET HUGHES (A: 25, B: MO,
 SARPY, F: DOMINIC HUGHES, M: MARY McDONALD)
 MD BY JOHN V WALLACE AT ST PATRICK'S CHURCH, GRETNA, WIT: THOMAS LANGDON
 CATHERINE HUGHES
 4/458 25 JULY 1896 HENRY WISENBURG (A: 38, B: ILL, OF DOUGLAS CO, NE,
 JOHN H WISENBURG, M: KATHERINE HORSMAN) MD MRS ELIZABETH BARBARA BAILEY
 B: ILL, OF DOUGLAS CO, NEB, F: MICHAEL ROBLING, M: BARBARA KAHLER)
 MD BY EDGAR HOWARD AT PAPILLION. WIT: WILLIAM SNYDER, MINNIE GOETTSCHE
 4/459 30 JULY 1896 WALTER JAMES MUNFORD (A: 25, B: SAUNDERS CO, NEB,
 SARPY, F: JOHN MUNFORD, M: MARY INGERSOLL) MD LETTIE BRANSON (A: 20, B: I:
 SARPY, F: U T BRANSON, M: ---)
 MD BY C A HUYSK AT SPRINGFIELD. WIT: D O BROWNER, MRS D O BROWNER
 4/460 8 AUG 1896 CHARLES E MATHews (A: 28, B: NASHVILLE, TENN, OF DOU,
 CO, NEB, F: JAME H MATHews, M: MARY ASHTON) MD MINNIE E BOYS (A: 18, B: M,
 CO, IA, OF DOUGLAS CO NEB, F: G W BOYS, M: MARGARET TRIPP)
 MD BY EDGAR HOWARD AT PAPILLION. WIT: LENA BOYS OF DOUGLAS CO, NEB, METI
 GRAHAM

Patrick J. Langdon married Elizabeth Margaret Hughes on July 21, 1896 at Saint Patrick's Church, Gretna, Sarpy County, Nebraska.

MARRIAGE LICENSE

The State of Nebraska in say From Legally Authorized to Celebrate Marriages, Granting:

I hereby authorize to join in the holy bonds of matrimony, and to celebrate within said County the rites and ceremonies of marriage between

Mr. John Hughes
 & Miss Elizabeth Langdon

The father's name of the said John Hughes is John Hughes and the maiden name of his mother is Mary McParrell
 and the father's name of the said Elizabeth Langdon is William Langdon and the maiden name of her mother is Mary Ann Thomas

The said John Hughes resides in the County of Sarpy and State of Nebraska
 is aged 32 years, was born in Ireland and is a white person.
 The said Elizabeth Langdon resides in the County of Sarpy and State of Nebraska
 is aged 19 years, was born in Nebraska and is also a white person.

And these presents shall be your good and sufficient warrant, and you are required to return this license to me within three months from the celebration of such marriage, with a certificate of the same appended thereto, signed by you, under the penalty of five hundred dollars.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Seal of the County Court of said County of Sarpy
 this 1st day of Dec A.D. 1896
John Walsh
 County Clerk

MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE.

The State of Nebraska,)
) ss. Be it Remembered, That on
 in said County of Sarpy on the 21 day of July A.D. 1896
 Mr. John Hughes and Miss Elizabeth Langdon
 named in the foregoing license, were legally united in marriage by me in the presence of
Mr. Patrick Hughes residing in the County of Sarpy
 and State of Nebraska and Miss Helen
 residing in the County of Sarpy and State of Nebraska
 Witness my hand this 21 day of July A.D. 1896
Geo. W. Walker

Elizabeth Langdon married John Hughes on January 4, 1880 in Forest City, Sarpy Co, Nebraska.

P. J. Langdon Dies.



P. J. LANGDON.

Last Friday evening Gretna and western Sarpy lost a citizen that we can ill afford to spare when P. J. Langdon answered the last call, and passed to his final reward, death coming at 9:45 that evening, he passing away peacefully, surrounded by his loved ones. His death was due to distension of the aorta artery and bronchitis, both of which were the result of an attack of the flu two years ago.

Mr. Langdon had known for some time that his end was fast approaching, and had made strenuous efforts to get his business affairs settled before the end came. He had been confined to his bed for several weeks, but his mind was clear to the last.

The funeral services were conducted Monday morning at St. Patrick's church, which could not hold half of the friends who had gathered to pay their last respects to his memory. Rev. P. J. Moran conducted the high requiem mass, the singing of which was furnished by a male choir of Omaha. Mr. McCreary of Omaha sang a beautiful and comforting solo, "Thy Will Be Done." The Knights of Columbus had a guard of honor at the head of the casket. Father Moran made a splendid talk on the life of Mr. Langdon, and paid fitting tribute to his ser-

VICES to this community. Burial was made in Forest City cemetery. During the hours of the funeral the schools were dismissed and all the business houses of the town were closed. Friends were here from all the surrounding towns.

Mr. Langdon was born at Morris, Illinois, March 7, 1865. He came to western Sarpy with his parents in 1856. He graduated from a business college in Keokuk, Iowa, taught school a few years, and then he travelled as a salesman in Texas. In 1889 he and his brother, John H. Langdon, entered the general merchandise business, and in those lean years many a family in this community benefitted by their bounty. They were in this business 9 years.

He was married to Miss Elizabeth Hughes July 21, 1896, who with the following children survive him: Mrs. B. H. Patterson of Kearney; Mary, who has recently entered the novitiate of the Order of St. Dominic, Milwaukee; Misses Winifred, Catherine and Regina, Paul J., Wallace J., and Maurice F., Gretna. He also leaves three sisters, Mrs. Jane Doyle, Murdo, S. D.; Mrs. John Hughes, Gretna, and Miss Kate Langdon, Omaha; also two brothers, John H. Langdon, Gretna, and Anthony E. Langdon, Papillion and many other relatives.

The names of Mr. Langdon and Gretna are synonymous, for both are closely linked together, as he has been an active figure in the development of the town since its incorporation. He was a member of the first village board, serving on it many years. He also took an active interest in school affairs, serving on the school board, and he deserves a large part of the credit in Gretna having such a magnificent school property. He was a far-seeing, keen business man, with a strong faith in Gretna and western Sarpy, backing his judgment with money, which made him wealthy. A rough estimate of his holdings shows him to be worth over \$300,000.

He was the father of the drain-

PATRICK J. LANGDON

d 7 Mar 1855
Morris, Grundy Co., IL
d 22 Oct 1920
Gretna, Sarpy Co., NE

Son of William &
Margaret Thomas Langdon

The Gretna Breeze
29 Oct 1920

age districts of western Sarpy, and it was largely by his efforts that the Platte valley was changed from duck ponds to the most highly productive land in the world. This alone would be a fitting monument. But in all public affairs he was a big man, and the name of P. J. Langdon is indelibly written in the history of the town.

He was president of the Bank of Gretna since its organization. He belonged to the Modern Woodmen and the Knights of Columbus.

Mr. Langdon was a kind and loving husband and father. He took great pride in his family and home life, very seldom being away from home nights, and his efforts were all for their future good. As he bade them goodbye he gave each one of his children good advice which they will long cherish in loving memory.

We have lost a good citizen, and time will show the loss more acutely.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved wife and children and other relatives.

It can all be written of his life's work the text Father Moran chose. "Well Done."

CARD OF THANKS.

To our friends who so kindly assisted us in our recent sorrow by their presence and with messages of sympathy we extend our sincere thanks.

Mrs. P. J. Langdon
and Family.

Mr. and Mrs. John H. Langdon Observe Golden Wedding Anniversary

Pioneer Couple of Gretna Hold Open House Tuesday Afternoon for Host of Relatives and Friends

Mr. and Mrs. John H. Langdon of Gretna celebrated their golden wedding anniversary Tuesday at their palatial home. Hosts of friends gathered throughout the afternoon and evening to greet the couple on their day of achievement.

For Mr. Langdon it is an event of dual meaning, for he was born not far from Gretna seventy-five years ago and has spent practically all of three-quarters of a century there.

For Mrs. Langdon it is also a momentous occasion, for her par-

ent, April, 1864. His brother, John, later built a railroad in Oregon, traveling for a long distance through the Rocky Mountains. She now has in her possession a letter of invitation sent by Samuel Hallett to her mother and father to attend a celebration held at Westport, Mo., June 1, 1864.

Mr. and Mrs. Langdon like to tell the stories of their early battles in the western country. They used to go to church in a lumber wagon on Sundays. Then as they prospered they got a cart—but one



ents celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in Gretna over 50 years ago.

For their three children, eleven grandchildren and one great grandchild they have furnished a sure heritage. Mr. Langdon comes from pure pioneer stock, as he was born several miles northwest of old Forest City, vestige of which may be seen southwest of Gretna.

He was born on June 23, 1854, a son of William and Margaret (Thomas) Langdon. His father was born at Lackan, Mayo County, Ireland in 1821, and came to this country in 1846, and died August 15, 1884. Mr. Langdon developed into an owner of large tracts of land.

His mother came with her parents from Ireland, was born at Lackan, March 24, 1824 and died at Gretna Dec. 31, 1917.

Mr. Langdon attended the public school in the early days when educational facilities were few. Vividly he recalls the days spent behind the roughly hewn benches of cottonwood gaining the elementary parts of education.

He went into business at an early age, and as Forest City had failed to get the railroad, it was natural his sphere of activity was shifted to Gretna, where he engaged in the implement business.

After a few years of it he moved to a farm, and in time back to town where with his brother, F. J. Langdon, he opened a general merchandise store. Later he was one of the organizers of the Bank of Gretna.

Meanwhile he had made a trip to Rochester, Minn., and on Oct. 24, 1883 made another trip there and married his bride, with whom he is now celebrating fifty years of marital bliss.

Mrs. Langdon also has a lineage of sturdy pioneers, as Ella May Morgan she was born at Chatham, N. Y., Jan. 1, 1866. She is a third cousin of Robert Fulton, inventor of the steamboat. Her grandmother, Nancy Fulton Hallett, who was his cousin, accompanied him on the first voyage of the "Clermont" up the Hudson river in 1807. Nancy was then seven years old.

Mrs. Langdon's uncle, Samuel Hallett, built the first 40 miles of Union Pacific railroad west of the Missouri, which was completed in

five day it broke down with them.

Tending to be philosophical on the eve of the celebration, Mr. Langdon said, "Fifty years is a long time to look forward to but an amazingly short time to look back upon."

As their crowns of glory to cheer the sunset of their lives, Mr. and Mrs. Langdon say, "Give living children, eleven grandchildren, and one great grandchild."

They are Will who was born Feb. 28, 1887; John LeRoy, born April 24, 1891, and Ella Francis, who married Joe W. Koka. Two have already passed—Annette C., who married Henry Stahl and died Sept. 3, 1918, and Frederick, who died in 1896, when seven years old.

The grandchildren are: Russell Langdon, who is in the Navy at Long Beach, Calif.; Naomi of Omaha, Esther, now ill with pneumonia in an Omaha hospital; Rita Langdon, Mrs. Agnes Hurst, and John Langdon of Gretna, Doris and Darlene Koka, Langdon, Sterling and Eleanor Stahl of Gretna.

The great grandson is Tommy, eighteen month old son of Mr. and Mrs. Hurst.

The family has affiliated with St. Patrick's church at Gretna, where high mass was celebrated at 8 a. m. Tuesday commemorating the golden wedding anniversary. It was conducted by Rev. P. W. Burke. The family attended in a body. Several relatives sang in the choir. Wallace Langdon, a nephew came from Omaha to sing.

All some 25 relatives sat down to a family dinner in honor of the event.

From three to five the elderly couple stood in the receiving line greeting the hundreds of home folks, as well as numerous ones from all over the county who came to extend congratulations and best wishes.

Many gifts from the family and close friends were on display during the day.

The day was especially one of thankfulness for the day before—Sterling Stahl, a grandson appeared. He had secured a thirty-day leave of absence from his duties aboard ship near Long Beach, Calif. He has been in the navy for over a year.



JOHN H. LANGDON

Parish of St. Mary's Church, Omaha, Nebraska, U.S.A.

St. Patrick's Church

Gratno, Nebraska

21st August 1858

1858

7th Octobr. " To day, I baptizid an infant, to whom we give the
in John, legitimately born, 23rd day of June 1858, of
William and Margaret Langan, both of Ireland. His sponsors
are Antony and Mary Thomas of Forest City Nebraska.

(Signed) Francis B. Cannon C. S. B.
Pastor.

Attested to by Rev. James W. Steen
St. Philomena's Church, Omaha Neb.

Translated by Rev. Patrick W. Burke B. A.
Pastor, St. Patrick's Church, Grattan Neb.

Libe. Baptizatorum Eccl. S. M. V. m.
officio Omaha, U. S. A.

St. Philomena's Church
South and William Streets
Omaha, Neb.

1858
7th Octo. 7th

" Hodie baptizari infantem, cui impositum est
nomen Joannes, legitimum natum die 23rd Junii 1858;
ex Gilielmo et Margarita Langan, duobus de natione
Hibernorum. Susceptoribus Antonio et Maria Thomas
de Civitate Arborata.

Franciscus B. Cannon C. S. B. Pastor.

(John H. Langdon was baptised
on October 7, 1858 in Omaha
Nebraska. Certificate is both
in Latin and English-Sponsors:
Anthony & Mary McCoy Thomas-
Note that the surname is spelled
LANGAN)

Attested by
Rev. James W. Steen
St. Philomena's Church

E
J. H. B.
M.L. 177218

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GENERAL LAND OFFICE.

WASHINGTON, D. C., September 27, 1906.

ADDRESS ONLY THE
COMMISSIONER OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE

Mr. A. E. Langdon,
Attorney at Law,
Papillion, Nebraska.

Sir:

In compliance with the request contained in your letter dated
September 22, 1906, with which you enclosed \$225, I transmit here-
with a certified copy of letters dated March 30, 1896 and February 5,
1904, from this office addressed to W. J. McNaughton and A. A.
Hoeling, Jr., respectively, relative to an alleged island in the
Platte River in Secs. 18, 19 and 20, T. 13 N., R. 10 E., Nebraska,
the fee for which is \$225, the amount received with your letter.

This office does not furnish its original records to parties
for inspection or otherwise. Under the provisions of Section 891
U. S. Revised Statutes, copies of any records in this office, au-
thenticated by the seal and certified by the Commissioner, or when
his office is vacant by the Principal Clerk, "shall be evidence
equally with the originals thereof."

Very respectfully,

H. A. Reardon
Commissioner.

(Letter written to A. E. Langdon, Attorney at Law, dated Sept. 27, 1906)

JCP.

THE NEBRASKANA SOCIETY



This is to certify that

ELLA M. LANGDON

residing at

GRETA

has been duly elected to life membership in

The



Society

*in recognition of outstanding achievements
toward the social and economic progress of*

The State of Nebraska

*Witness the signatures of the officers and the seal
of the Society at Hebron, Nebraska, this 29 day of Dec. 1930*



[Signature]
SECRETARY OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

[Signature]
H. P. [Signature]
ROBERT M. BALDWIN
EDITOR OF NEBRASKANA

THE NEBRASKANA SOCIETY



This is to certify that

JOHN H. LANGDON

residing at

GRETA

has been duly elected to life membership in

The



Society

*in recognition of outstanding achievements
toward the social and economic progress of*

The State of Nebraska

*Witness the signatures of the officers and the seal
of the Society at Hebron, Nebraska, this 29 day of Dec. 1930*

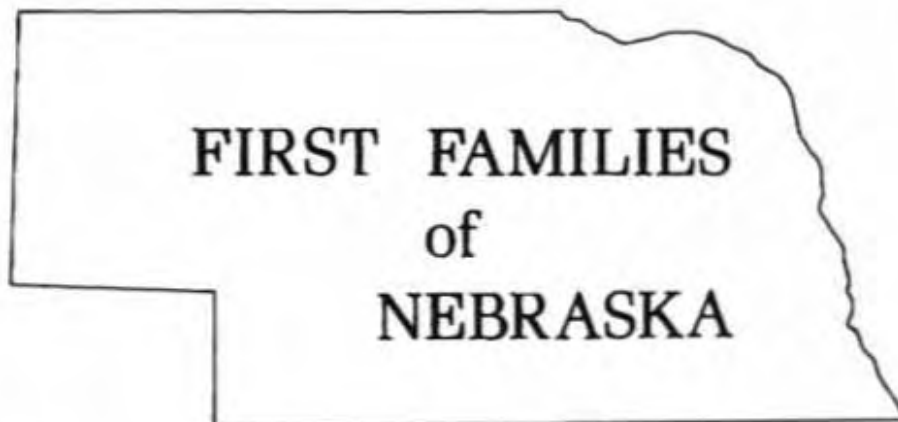


[Signature]
SECRETARY OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

[Signature]
H. P. [Signature]
ROBERT M. BALDWIN
EDITOR OF NEBRASKANA

#782

Nebraska State Genealogical Society FAMILY RECOGNITION CERTIFICATE



In recognition of the contribution to the development
of the State of Nebraska

PATRICK LANGDON and wife, CATHERINE THOMAS

Forest City, Sarpy County - 1857

ancestors of Thomas M. Nolan



Allen Bellman

Secretary of the
State of Nebraska

George J. Bone

President, Nebraska State
Genealogical Society

Issued 5 October 1989

THOMAS

The Thomas and Langdon families are united together for two brothers Patrick and William Langdon married two sisters Catherine and Margaret Thomas. The family is stated to have originated in County Roscommon, Ireland in a contemporary newspaper article however Margaret Thomas Langdon's obituary indicates that she was born in Rathlackan, County Mayo. In addition Catherine Thomas Langdon told her grand-daughter Emma J. Davis that she was from County Mayo. Perhaps at one time the family moved from County Roscommon to County Mayo.

JOHN THOMAS, SR: was born in 1781 and his spouse Mary Gillispie in 1793. It should be noted that Mary Gillispie spelled her name with an I rather than the more common form with an E as Gillespie. Six children were born in Ireland: Mary (1813-1889), Bridget (1818-1900), Catherine (1821-1904), John Jr, (1827-1911), Margaret (1823-1912) and Anthony (1826-1870). From records it appears that the Thomas family emigrated to America as follows: Bridget(1840), Mary (1843), Catherine (1846), John Jr, (1847) and Margaret (1850). No record has been found to show the emigration date of John Thomas, Sr, or Anthony however they are both of record in the 1860 Nebraska Census. The first record of the family in America is August 1, 1850 where John Thomas is a witness at the wedding of William Langdon and Margaret Thomas in Joliet, Will County, Illinois. It is not known if the witness was John Thomas Senior or Junior. The family left Illinois by covered wagon train and crossed the Mississippi River, Iowa and the Missouri River and settled by the Elkhorn River in Sarpy County, Territory of Nebraska in August of 1856. They lived in a dugout for the first year and then a log house was built. In December, 1858 Mary Gillispie died and John Thomas, Sr. donated land for the Thomas Calvary Cemetery. John Thomas, Sr, died in 1862 at the age of 81 and was buried in the Thomas Cemetery next to his wife.

MARY THOMAS: was born May 10, 1813 in County Mayo, Ireland. She married William Gillespie and a son Patrick was born March 10, 1833. In 1843 the family emigrated to America and first settled in Indiana. Five children were born: William, Mary, Margaret, Michael and Catherine. The family moved from Indiana to Joliet, Will County, Illinois and in 1856 joined "The Colony" moving westward by wagon train to Council Bluffs, Iowa. Here William Gillespie died of pneumonia and Mary took the family to Omaha and later to Forest City in Sarpy County, Nebraska. Late in 1857 they removed to Nebraska City, Otoe County, Nebraska. In 1862 they removed to Forest City, Sarpy County and commenced farming. Mary died on February 24, 1889 at the age of 76 and is buried in Holy Sepulcher Cemetery, Gretna, Sarpy County, Nebraska.

BRIDGET THOMAS: was born July 9, 1818 in County Mayo, Ireland and in 1831 married Michael John Melia who was born on September 29, 1798 in Killala, County Mayo, Ireland. Four children were born in Ireland: Michael, Jr, (1838), Ellen (1843), Patrick (1845) and Mary Ann (1849). Michael, Sr. emigrated to America in 1837 to work on the Erie Canal. He returned to Ireland for his family in 1840 or 1841. The family left Ireland in 1846 and landed in New York after six weeks on the ocean. They went west and settled in Morris, Grundy County, Illinois. Four children were born in Illinois: John (1850), Kate (1852), Elizabeth (1855) and James (1857). In 1857 the family removed to Forest City, Sarpy County, Nebraska where two more children were born: Hannah (1857) and Martin. Bridget was the midwife and "doctor" for Forest City as medical aid was scarce. Michael John Melia died on September 29, 1871 at the age of 73. Bridget Thomas Melia died July 1, 1900 at the age of 82. Both are buried in the Thomas Calvary Cemetery, Gretna, Nebraska.

THOMAS

CATHERINE THOMAS: See Biography of Patrick Langdon.

MARGARET THOMAS: See Biography of William Langdon.

JOHN THOMAS, JR.: was born in June, 1827 in Ireland and emigrated in 1847 to America. He married Catherine Connor in 1852 and they settled in Joliet, Will County, Illinois. Catherine Connor was born in August, 1833 in Ireland and emigrated to America in 1848. Three children were born in Illinois: Francis (1853-1868), Mary Ann (1857-1890) and Andrew (1855-1908). About 1858 the family removed to Forest City, Sarpy County, Nebraska by covered wagon. Here five children were born: Ellen (1859-), Sarah (1862-1911), George (1863-1911), Teresa (1868-1891) and Katie (1871-1897). John Thomas was Justice of the Peace for over forty years and as such performed marriages in Sarpy County. John Thomas died in 1911 at the age of 84 and is buried in the Thomas Calvary Cemetery, Gretna, Sarpy County, Nebraska.

ANTHONY THOMAS: was born in 1826 in Ireland. He emigrated to America and married Mary McCoy in 1854. Mary McCoy (1838-1911) was from Ohio. Anthony operated a general store in Forest City, Sarpy County, Nebraska. He died in 1870 at the age of 44 and is buried in the Thomas Calvary Cemetery.

When the Union Pacific Railroad was built as far as Elkhorn, A Mr. Crawford sold his store to Anthony Thomas. Anthony moved into Forest City and in addition to his grocery department he put in a stock of liquor, cider and drugs. He did a big business and was well liked by all the people. There was one fellow who lived adjoining him on the south named Jack Nolan. He was a bachelor and blind in one eye, he was a blacksmith and had his shop set up in the woods and his house was on the bank of the Elkhorn River. He was a bad hombre and he and Anthony never could get along together. He came down to Anthony's store one day and he got some of that "forty-rod" whiskey under his belt and he proceeded to clean up the joint--which he did in short order. He ordered all the people in the store to skedaddle and when he pulled out a six-shooter, cap and ball cavalry revolver and started to shoot, they didn't need any further instructions. When the smoke cleared away, Anthony was shot in the arm, the ball entering near the wrist and coming out at the elbow. John Thomas was shot in the side. After Jack went home some of the people came and gave first aid to the wounded. They put John on his horse and Mrs. Joe Cleburne gave him her father's sword to protect himself with and he started for home but when he got as far as the Welch house he became weak from loss of blood and fell off of his horse. Mrs. Welch and Mrs. Dolan lifted him up and put him on the horse again and while one of them led the horse the other held on until they came to Mrs. Dolan's dugout. They sent word to his family and Old Fitzgerald the schoolmaster came down and in trying to dig out the ball with the handle of a spoon he pushed ball, spoon handle and all plumb through into his internal cavity where it remained as long as he lived and always caused him a lot of trouble. A short time after that Jack Nolan went up to Elk City and got into a dispute about a bet and shot a fellow and thought he had killed him so he skipped town. That was the last seen of him in Forest City but P.J. Melia met him in Wyoming 20 years afterward. (It should be noted that the Jack Nolan mentioned in the above story is no relation of the compiler of this history).

(The eighth in a series about pioneer families of Gretna.)

By Gregg Dahlheim

The Thomas family has been in the Gretna area longer than Gretna itself.

The first of the Thomas ancestors settled west of Gretna in August of 1856.

John and Mary Thomas were born in 1781 and 1793 in Roscommon County, Ireland. When they were young they emigrated to America.

Came by covered wagon

John and Mary, along with their son John and his wife Catherine, pulled up their roots in Joliet, Ill., and came to the Gretna area by covered wagon. John and Catherine also brought along their daughter, Mary, and their 15-month-old-son Andrew.

Andrew was the father of Irene Thomas Wainwright, a current resident at Bethesda Care Center in Gretna.

John and Mary also had five other children: Bridget (Melia), Margaret (Langdon), Catherine (Langdon), Mary (Gillespie) and Anthony. Many of Gretna's residents are descendants of this pioneer family.

The family settled on land near the Elkhorn River, presently owned by Pat Gottsch. After living in a dugout in the hills for the first year, they hewed logs from nearby timber and built a house in 1857.

In December of 1858, Mary, wife of John, died and was buried in a plot of their land which John donated for a cemetery. It is known as Thomas Calvary Cemetery, located east of Bob Woolman's home. The cemetery has been recently restored. Many of the graves are of descendants of the John Thomas family.

Trips to Omaha

As the Thomas's settled in their new surroundings they took up farming and raising livestock. The cattle were taken to Omaha twice a year by wagon. The expedition took several days. Upon their return, they would bring back enough supplies to last six months. They took their grain to Fort Calhoun to be ground into flour.

All of the Thomas children attended school in Forest City. They made the two-

their homes until a church was built in Forest City.

In 1866, Andrew married Margaret McIntee of Mineral Point, Wis. They settled on land in which the town of Forest City was started.

Farmed north of town

Andrew and his family lived on a farm north of Gretna until he retired in 1906 and later moved to Gretna. Andrew and Margaret had six children: John, Will, Charles, Loretto, Drew and Irene.

Loretto graduated from Gretna High School in 1908. Because her family lived on a farm, she lived in town and worked for her room and board to be able to attend school.

Descendants of this family still living in the community include Lucille (Doran) McMahon and Lois (Doran) Rongisch, daughters of Loretto.

Irene Thomas was born in 1895. She was the first child baptized in the then, newly constructed St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Gretna. She graduated from Gretna in 1914. After graduation she taught school.

Irene tells stories of riding her horse to school to teach in the freezing temperature. She said in the winter it wasn't uncommon to have 40 students in the eight grades she taught. The classes decreased in the spring when the older kids began to work on their parents' farms.

Irene marries

In May 1917, Irene married her old classmate, Jay Wainwright. The Wainwright family came to Gretna in 1879 from Big Run, Penn. They lived on a farm south of Gretna until 1953 when he retired and moved to Omaha.

After Jay passed away in 1961, Irene moved to town and built a home.

Irene and Jay had three children: Drew, who lived and farmed in Gretna until his death; Dorene (Evans), she lives in Omaha and is a nurse for the Omaha Public Schools; and Dolores (Haldeman). Dolores, her husband Merlyn and daughter April live west of Gretna. Dee is head librarian at Gretna High School.

Jill (Haldeman) Perry, her husband Grant and daughters Ann and Beth also reside in Gretna. Jill is the daughter of Merlyn and Dee. For many years Merlyn



FOUR GENERATIONS — This photo is of four generations of descendants of the Thomas family that settled in the Gretna area in 1856. Pictured are (back row, left): granddaughter

MD BY JOSHUA RIALE AT PAPIILLION. WIT: JOHN J ALLEN OF DOUGLAS CO. MD L
 RIALE
 3/152 15 FEB 1882 JAMES E JARMAN (A: 26, B: ILL. OF SARPY, F: JAMES
 JARMAN, M: SARAH DAVIDSON) MD CHLOE E SNIDER (A: 20, B: IOWA, OF SARPY,
 SNIDER, M: MARGARET JONES)
 MD BY JOSHUA RIALE AT ABRAM SNIDER'S. WIT: ABRAM SNIDER, J L JARMAN
 3/153 24 FEB 1882 JOHN FULLER (A: 24, B: MO, OF SARPY, F: ALEXANDER
 M: SARAH JANE PAGGET) MD MARGARET OVERTON (A: 18, B: NEB, OF SARPY, F: M
 OVERTON, M: ---)
 MD BY JOSHUA RIALE AT PAPIILLION. WIT: JOHN ADDLEMAN, MRS LYDIA RIALE
 3/154 28 FEB 1882 SHADRACK W WILSON (A: 28, B: PENN. OF SARPY, F: WILSON
 WILSON, M: MARGARET HANGRESH?) MD LOTTIE CHESTERON (A: 22, B: NY. OF SARPY,
 ---, M: ---)
 MD BY MARTIN LANGDON AT PAPIILLION. WIT: LOUIS LESIEUR, A J SPEARMAN
 3/155 28 FEB 1882 WILLIAM T SMITH (A: 28, B: MASS, OF SARPY, F: CHARLES
 SMITH, M: HANNAH S THURSTON) MD BENA NELSON (A: 28, B: NY, OF SARPY, F: BEN
 NELSON, M: ELIZABETH PETIGREW)
 MD BY ALBRIGHT PORTER AT BELLEVUE. WIT: JAY J SMITH, JOLEN H WILCOI,
 WRIGHT
 3/156 2 MARCH 1882 AARON H LINCOLN (A: 32, B: NJ, OF PIERCE CO, NEB. A
 JOSEPH A LINCOLN, M: SARAH HOMER) MD MRS KATE BLINES (A: 33, B: MO, OF
 ALEXANDER LAPORTE, M: MARY HAYES)
 MD BY S F VAN DOOZIER AT LA PLATTE. WIT: A ADAMS, H E HAINS
 3/157 5 MARCH 1882 PETER ANDERSON (A: 23, B: DENMARK, OF SARPY, F: PETER
 ANDERSON, M: NETTIE PETERSON) MD PHENNIE JENSEN (A: 22, B: NEB, OF SARPY,
 JENSEN, M: CAROLINE HANSEN)
 MD BY JOSHUA RIALE AT NEAR XENIA. WIT: S E JENSEN, CAROLINE C JENSEN
 3/158 11 MARCH 1882 GEORGE McCLINTOCK (A: 23, B: MICH, OF SARPY, F: GEORGE
 McCLINTOCK M: SARAH COOLEY) MD CORA GARY (A: 17, B: IND, OF SARPY, F: J B
 M: JANE UMPSTEED)
 MD BY JOHN THOMAS AT HOUSE OF J W GARY. WIT: JAMES LANGDON, J W GARY
 3/159 22 MARCH 1882 JOHN PETTY (A: --, B: CANADA, OF SARPY, F: JOHN PETTY
 M: PHOEBE BELL) MD DORA BARTON (A: 22, B: IOWA, OF SARPY, F: HENRY BARTON,
 HARRIET BARTON)
 MD BY MARTIN LANGDON AT PAPIILLION. WIT: MRS ELLEN A LANGDON, MISS P L

Marriage performed by John Thomas-
 March 11, 1882 - Witness: James Langdon
 Note: Next marriage of 22 March 1882-
 Couple married by Martin Langdon -
 Witness: His wife Ellen A. Langdon.

Together with all the Tenements, Hereditaments, and Appurtenances to the same belonging, and all the Estate, Right, Title, Interest,
 Dower, claim, or Demand whatsoever, of the said Anthony J. Langdon and Margaret E. Langdon
 of, in, or to the same, or any part thereof. To have and to hold the above described premises with the appurtenances, unto the said

Catherine Langdon

and to her heirs and assigns forever. And they do hereby covenant with the said Catherine Langdon
 and her heirs and assigns, that they lawfully seized of said premises; that they
 are free from incumbrance; that they have good right and lawful authority to sell the same; and they do hereby
 covenant to warrant and defend the said premises against the lawful claims of all persons whomsoever.

Signed this 6th day of May A.D. one thousand, eight hundred and eighty

IN PRESENCE OF

James Langdon

Anthony J. Langdon

Margaret E. Langdon

STATE OF NEBRASKA. } ss.
Sarpy County }

On this 6th day of May A.D. 1882,
 before me, a Justice of the Peace, in and for said County, personally came the above
 named A. J. Langdon and Margaret E. Langdon, who are personally known to me to be the identical
 persons whose names are affixed to the above Deed as grantors, and severally acknowledged
 the instrument to be their voluntary act and deed.

Witness my hand, and Official Seal, the date aforesaid.

John Thomas
 Justice of the Peace

Deed signed by: Anthony J., Margaret E.,
 & James Langdon. Witness: John Thomas-
 Justice of the Peace - May 6, 1880.

Family Group Sheet

Husband's Full Name

JOHN THOMAS

Chart No.

Husband's Data	Day	Month	Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Husband
Birth			1781			Ireland	
Chr'nd							
Marr.							
Death			1862	Forest City	Sarpy	Nebraska	
Burial				Forest City	Sarpy	Nebraska	
Places of Residence Ireland, Illinois & Nebraska							
Occupation		Farming		Church Affiliation		Catholic	
						Military Rec.	
<small>Other wives, if any, No. (1) (2) etc. Make separate sheet for each man.</small>							
His Father				Mother's Maiden Name			

Wife's Full Maiden Name

MARY GILLISPIE

Wife's Data	Day	Month	Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Wife
Birth			1793			Ireland	
Chr'nd							
Death			1858	Forest City	Sarpy	Nebraska	
Burial							
Places of Residence Ireland, Illinois & Nebraska							
Occupation		Housewife		Church Affiliation		Catholic	
						Military Rec.	
<small>Other husbands, if any, No. (1) (2) etc. Make separate sheet for each man.</small>							
Her Father				Mother's Maiden Name			

Sex	Children's Names in Full (Arranged in order of birth)	Children's Date	Day	Month	Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Children
F	1 MARY THOMAS	Birth	10	MAY	1813			Ireland	Emigrated
		Marr.						Ireland	1843
	Full Name of Spouse	Death	24	FEB	1889				
	William Gillespie	Burial							
F	2 BRIDGET THOMAS	Birth	9	JUL	1818			Ireland	Emigrated
		Marr.							
	Full Name of Spouse	Death	1	JUL	1900				1840
	Michael Melia	Burial							
F	3 CATHERINE THOMAS	Birth			1821		Mayo	Ireland	Emigrated
		Marr.			1840			Ireland	1846
	Full Name of Spouse	Death	6	JAN	1904	Gretna	Sarpy	Nebraska	
	Patrick Langdon	Burial				Gretna	Sarpy	Nebraska	Thomas Cem.
F	4 MARGARET THOMAS	Birth	24	MAR	1822	Rathlackan	Mayo	Ireland	Emigrate-1860
		Marr.	1	AUG	1850	Joliet	Will	Illinois	St. Patricks
	Full Name of Spouse	Death			1912	Gretna	Sarpy	Nebraska	
	William Langdon	Burial				Gretna	Sarpy	Nebraska	Thomas Cem.
M	5 ANTHONY THOMAS	Birth			1826			Ireland	
		Marr.			1854				
	Full Name of Spouse	Death			1870	Forest City	Sarpy	Nebraska	
	Mary A. McCoy	Burial							
M	6 JOHN THOMAS, JR.	Birth		JUN	1827			Ireland	Emigrated
		Marr.			1852				1847
	Full Name of Spouse	Death			1911				
	Catherine Connor	Burial							
	7	Birth							
		Marr.							
	Full Name of Spouse	Death							
		Burial							
	8	Birth							
		Marr.							
	Full Name of Spouse	Death							
		Burial							

Compiler	Thomas Nolan	Notes:	Source for John Thomas & wife: Irish Pedigrees by Margaret Dickenson-Nebr. Census-1860
Address	11672 McDonald St.		
City, State, Zip	Culver City, Ca. 90230.		
Date	1989		

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Husband's Full Name

ODDS & ENDS

The year 1781 was an eventful one. King George III was ruler in England George Washington was head of the Continental Army and John Thomas, Sr., was born in Ireland. The time span between the birth of John Thomas and Heather Rilling in 1987 is some 206 years.

In making out his will in 1889 some 40 years after emigrating from Ireland how would Michael Langan know about his sister Mary's family in Scranton, Pennsylvania and his brother John's family in Rathlackan, Ireland? As none of the Langdon or Thomas family members could read or write one wonders how they communicated. One would have to assume that it was their children who had been educated or the local parish priest.

Four Langdon women became nuns: Mary A. Langdon of Forest City, Nebraska, Genevieve Langdon of Pueblo, Colorado, Mary Patricia Langdon of Gretna, Nebraska and Catherine Eileen Langdon of Gretna, Nebraska.

The following names by affinity appear in the descendants of Patrick Langdon: Benjamin, Bergren, Bowler, Cahill, Conry, Cozad, Crowley, Crum, Cummings, Davis, Emerson, Grier, Hansen, Heron, Hill, Kaufmann, Keefe, Kelley, Kennedy, Kocher, Leeker, Lyons, McCreary, Murphy, Nolan, Perkins, Rilling, Saylor and Stow.

Between the birth of William Langdon in 1821 and that of Jeremy Proutt in 1989 which comprises 6 generations is a span of 168 years.

The two Langdon brothers, John J. and Anthony J., who moved from Sarpy County, Nebraska to Pueblo, Colorado married sisters: Frances G. and Margaret Heron. The surname is seen in the obituaries spelled with one R and two so it is not known which spelling is correct.

The last record of the Langdons who moved to Pueblo, Colorado is in the 1939 Pueblo City Directory. Shown living there were Frances G. (widow of John J.), John A., Josephine, May and Laurence (children of John J.). John J.'s obituary lists 6 grandchildren but their whereabouts are unknown. They may have been children of Frank A. who moved to Chicago.

The house located at 3329 Webster Street, Omaha, Nebraska where many of the Langdons lived was purchased new in 1910 for \$5,000 and was for sale in 1989 for \$46,950.

As of 1989 Langdon descendants are found in the following states: Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Massachusetts, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New York and Texas.

The following names by affinity appear in the descendants of William Langdon: Arnold, Aschoff, Bahrke, Barnes, Biel, Borgeson, Borowiak, Closner, Conley, Conlan, Connor, Cornish, Doyle, Friewald, Gentleman, Haller, Hess, Hoffman, Howard, Hughes, Hurst, Jarzemkoski, Kemmy, Kemper, Kessler, Kimmel, Kirkman, Knight, Koke, Kreifels, Kuehn, Kuhfahl, LaBorde, Larson, Marx, Morgan, Mossbacher, Patterson, Pratt, Proutt, Ragsdale, Reisser, Richards, Ritts, Robbins, Roll, Royal, Sallyards, Simpson, Sherry, Stahl, Stednitz, Stephen, Swan, Thornbough and Varga.

ODDS & ENDS

Tending to be philosophical on the celebration of his Golden Wedding Anniversary John H. Langdon said, "Fifty years is a long time to look forward but an amazingly short time to look back upon."

Chester Arthur was president when Emma J. Davis was born in 1884. She was the daughter of Bridget Langdon Davis and the grand-daughter of Catherine Thomas Langdon. She lived through various depressions, the Indian Wars, the Spanish-American War, World Wars I & II, the Korean War and Vietnam. She sat on the lap of her uncle Michael Langan, a veteran of the Civil War, rode on a stagecoach, witnessed a gun fight and taught school in a one room school house. She rated the two Roosevelts as the best American presidents and has the distinction of being the only Langdon descendant to reach the age of 100. Her sister, Elizabeth Davis, lived to the age of 99.

Margaret Langdon Patterson stated in a letter that as a youngster in Gretna, Nebraska she overheard adults saying, "the English did it!" Even in America the terrible times in Ireland had not been forgotten.

This compiler heard Emma J. Davis recite the Hail Mary and the Our Father in the Irish (Gaelic). She had learned this from her grandmother Catherine Thomas Langdon who was born in Ireland in 1821.

From a letter written by Grace Langdon McCreary: "Father's (Martin Langdon) mother was Catherine (Thomas Langdon) and well I remember her as she and her daughter Nell (Ellen A. Langdon of Sarpy County, Nebraska) spent a winter with us. Mother (Ellen A. Langdon of Will County, Illinois) told me this: Grandmother lived in Gretna and we went out there often to see her. My aunt Nell and she lived together. Mother said that when Rose was born, they named her Rosemary Catherine and took her out to Gretna to show her off and when mother told Catherine the baby's name she said: Thank you, Madam for your middle name, I care nothing about it. She Catherine Langdon was so small in stature but fiery in nature. She was fond of mother and gave to her 80 acres of good farm land. She said to mother: I will not give it to Mart (Martin Langdon) because he will just buy books with it. This never bothered him a bit and it was always in mother's name.

Among other things listed in Catherine Thomas Langdon's will were one horse, one phaeton, one buggy and two sets of single harness.

The following Langdons and their inlaws served as mayor of Gretna, Nebraska: P.J. Langdon (1896-1898), Thomas W. Langdon (1900-1904). Lorenz Stahl (1914-1915) (Father-in-law of Annette Langdon) and J.F. Kemmy (1947-1948) (Husband of Winifred Langdon).

Langdon Avenue in Gretna, Nebraska was named for P.J. and J.H. Langdon who platted and developed that part of town. Margaret Langdon Patterson, daughter of P.J. Langdon resides on Langdon Avenue.

Martin Langdon started school at the age of 14 years and taught school at the age of 19 years. He became county surveyor, superintendent of schools, county treasurer, county clerk and county judge, all in Sarpy County, Nebraska and finally a prominent Omaha lawyer.