

CANAWLERS AT REST

DENNIS O'BRIEN

b. March 25, 1834

d. March 20, 1892

Find A Grave 82995179

By Carolyn I. Schmidt

Dennis O'Brien was born to William and Mary (Brady) O'Brien in Wexford county, Ireland, on March 25, 1834. His brother, Patrick O'Brien, the subject of last month's Canawlers At Rest, was the first of the family to emigrate to American arriving in 1849 in New York. Dennis, his parents and the rest of the family came in 1852 and settled in Huntington, Indiana. Dennis was the youngest of their children.

Dennis was first employed by the railroad. Then for twelve years he worked on the Wabash & Erie Canal. Eight of those years he spent as foreman on a state

boat. You will recall that canawlers on a state boat kept the canal in repair.

In 1865 he moved to Fort Wayne. There he met and married Nancy Sheridan in 1872. Nancy was born near New Haven in Allen County, Indiana. They had eight children: John D., William P., Robert E., Helen M. Frank B., Annie, Albert, and an infant girl, who died in 1878. They lived at 225 W. Washington in Fort Wayne.

Dennis was a democrat, a Catholic, and a member of the Catholic Knights. In 1877 his integrity and industry were recognized by his fellow citizens when they elected him Fort Wayne's street commissioner.

Dennis O'Brien died on March 20, 1892 at the age of 58. His obituary was carried in a Fort Wayne newspaper on March 22, 1892. He was laid to rest in Fort Wayne's Catholic Cemetery in Section B Lot 405.

Nancy (Sheridan) O'Brien died at the age of 80 on June 30, 1927. Her obituary was in the *Fort Wayne News Sentinel* on July 2, 1927. It said she had been a life long resident of Fort Wayne and had passed away at 4:11 o'clock at the home of her daughter Mrs. Helen Pequignot at 417 Rose Lane. She had been ill for three years and had been bedfast for a week. She died of infirmities of age. She was baptized when an infant at the Cathedral in Fort Wayne. She was a member of St. Patrick's Catholic Church and the Rosary Society. Surviving her were her daughter Helen and son Frank of 214 Wildwood Avenue; two brothers and two sisters.

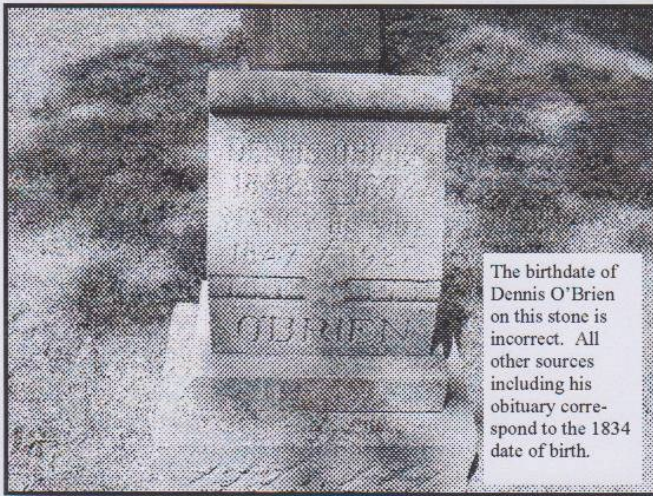
PARENTS & SIBLINGS OF DENNIS O'BRIEN

<u>NAME</u>	<u>BORN</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>EMIGRATED</u>	<u>DIED</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>BURIAL</u>
William O'Brien	@1785	Ireland	1852*	Spring 1865	Huntington, IN	
Mary Brady married ?	@1780	Ireland	1852*	@1872	Huntington, IN	
Patrick O'Brien	3-20, 1820	Ireland	1849-50	2-01-1904	Huntington, IN	Mt. Calvary Cemetery
Ellen O'Brien		Ireland	1852*			
Dennis O'Brien	3-25-1834	Ireland	1852*	3-20-1892	Ft. Wayne, IN	Catholic Cemetery B405
Mary O'Brien		Ireland	1852*			

*(Another source says they emigrated in 1854)

WIFE & CHILDREN OF DENNIS O'BRIEN

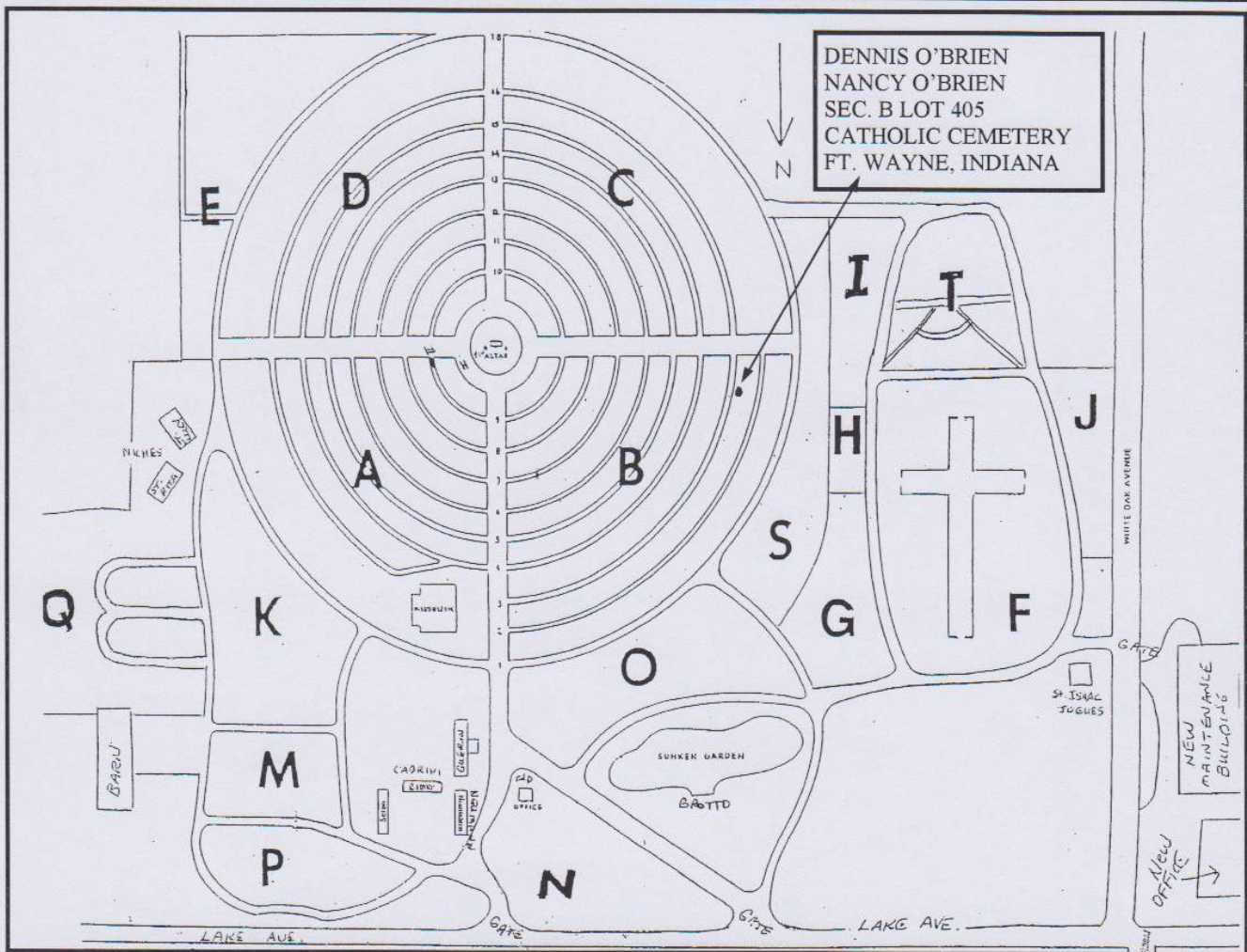
Dennis O'Brien	3-25-1834	Ireland	1852	3-20-1892	Ft. Wayne, IN	Catholic Cemetery B405
Nancy Sheridan married 1872	12-??-1847	Indiana		6-30-1927	Ft. Wayne, IN	Catholic Cemetery B405
John D.	5-??-1875	Indiana		10-08-1900	Ft. Wayne, IN	Catholic Cemetery B405
Wm. P.	8-??-1876	Indiana		3-30-1906	Ft. Wayne, IN	Catholic Cemetery B405
Infant girl	1878	Indiana		5-06-1878		
Robert E.	5-??-1879	Indiana		10-24-1902	Ft. Wayne, IN	Catholic Cemetery B405
Helen M. (Pequignot)	3-22-1881	Indiana		4-17-1965	Ft. Wayne, IN	Catholic Cemetery O170
Francis (Frank B/G)	6-18-1882	Indiana		4-02-1968	Ft. Wayne, IN	Catholic Cemetery B405
Anna	6-??-1886	Indiana				
Albert B	3-??-1888	Indiana		7-13-1909	Waterloo, IN	Catholic Cemetery B405



The birthdate of Dennis O'Brien on this stone is incorrect. All other sources including his obituary correspond to the 1834 date of birth.



Dennis O'Brien 1842-1892, Nancy His Wife 1847- 1927, Sec. B Lot 405 Catholic Cemetery, Ft. Wayne, Indiana Photos BobSchmidt



Sources:
 Allen County, Indiana Death Index, 1870s-1920s.
 Fort Wayne and Allen County, IN Area Obituary Index, 1841-1899.
 Fort Wayne Catholic Cemetery through 1983.
 History of Huntington County, Indiana. Chicago, IL: Brant & Fuller, 1887.

O'Brien. Ft. Wayne News-Sentinel. July 2, 11927.
 United States Federal Census 1860, 1880, 1900.
 Valley of the Upper Maumee River. Madison, Wis: Brant & Fuller, 1889.