

Christopher Roach of Rawdon / Ste-Julienne

Prepared with advice from Kathleen Kali Baker kalib48@hotmail.com of California and Michelle McClure mcclurefamily@centurylink.net of Iowa who are descendants of Christopher Roach and Margaret Carney.

Christopher Roach and his children received only scattered mention in the text of *UP TO RAWDON* but as one of the earliest settlers in the Township, they should have had an outline in *Some Irish-Catholic Settlers*. It was initially not clear (to me) that he was Irish because his name was often rendered as Roche and he could have been Quebecois. We have learned that he lived at Collinstown, County Westmeath, Ireland in 1822. Nonetheless, he was recorded as born in Scotland as Christopher Reach on the 1861 Ste-Julienne Census.

The birth and death of a daughter Catherine (see below) dates the family's immigration as the summer of 1822 or spring of 1823. We know that Christy Roach was a labourer in the Montreal parish of Notre Dame until July 1824 and lived at Rawdon in December 1824. The chronology after then:

1824 December - Christoph [sic] Roach is located at 4th Range Lot 12 on the *Statistical Statement of Rawdon, (LAC C-2502, page 13058)* and has 9 acres of clearing and 3 in culture, a house but no barn, he was head of family, with a wife and 3 children.

1825, 25 October - Christopher Roche is named on the census [Rawdon Township, Leinster County Census](#) page 11, 5 in family, 2 under 6, 1 inmate 6-14, 1 male 25-40, 2 females under 14, 1 female 14-45.

1826, 10 April - Christopher Roche: Tickets of Location issued for SW 12 of 4th Range; 28 August 1826 for SE 12 of 5th Range. The SW half of 12 / 5 was granted to Sergeant Major Edward Gillespie in 1834.

1827 – 1835 – five children were recorded as born at Rawdon , see list below

1828 – He is signed on a Settlers Petition as Christopher Roache. It protested the proposed raising of the settlement fees “necessary for obtaining the Grant of their Lands” from £1:6:8 to £3, to be effective 1st January 1829. The petition referred to a failure of crops and “how impossible it is for us to meet the payment”. (C-2535, pages 54511-54513).

1831 - Christ'r Roach on [Rawdon Township, L'Assomption County Census](#) (page 8): The Roach home address, in church records after 1852, was in the newly formed parish of Ste-Julienne, where they now attended church. He is proprietor of 300 acres and heads a family 8.

1835, 22 January - Christopher Roche: Letters Patent issued, applied for in 1831 (Microfilm C-2557, Volume 168, 1835, RG 1 L3L).

1840s - Holtby Township map indicates that Roach had 100 acres, south to north, on west [sic] side of 4. It is not clear who held the other ½ lot or who was on 5/12.

Margaret Carney - Church records are confusing concerning Christopher's wife's name and they seem to suggest, wrongly, that he had two wives with similar surnames, both named Margaret. I have used her name as recorded in various registrations but believe he had but one wife. She died 10 May and was buried 12 May 1857 in Ste-Julienne parish cemetery, recorded as Marguerite Carly [sic], in Drouin. She was 65 years of age or born c.1792.

Christopher Roach was buried 29 October 1865 in Ste-Julienne parish cemetery, aged 80 born c.1785 and is recorded as Rouch [sic], in Drouin; spouse of Marguerite Carney.

Children of Christopher Roach and Margaret Carney:

(Her name as in church registers, mainly Drouin Index; priesst used French spelling of Margaret)

Mary Roach was born c.1818 in Ireland (died aged 39) and was buried 30 June 1857 “in the church yard of [St. Patrick's] parish” church. It is possible that she was born after Patrick because she was under 6 on 1825 census. She married **Patrick Jennings** (Michael Jennings / Brigitte Donovan) at age of majority on 18 January 1842 at St. Patrick's Church, Rawdon. Patrick was located at Lot 11 N of Fourth Range on the 1840s Township map.

Patrick Roach was born c.1819 in Ireland (1861 Census, as Reach) was of legal age when he married 3 November 1840, St. Patrick's Church, Rawdon. His mother: **Margaret** (illegible, but interpreted by Thomas A. Doyle, junior, father of Kathleen Kali Baker of Morro Bay, California as **Kilamegan / Kilmegan**). He names him a half-brother to John Roach. Patrick Roach held lot 7 north on the Third and Fourth Ranges, on the 1840s Township map.

north odied 6 February 1887, aged 70 and buried on the tenth at Ste-Julienne. In 1881, he was recorded as 60 years old and born Ireland. Patrick was first married to Ann Gannon and later to Catherine Pierce.

A few remarks on some of the Patrick Roach family in the 1904 photograph

<https://uptorawdon.com/photo-updates/#p1123> **Rose Miller Quinn** was a first cousin, once removed, to James C. Roach and the adopted daughter of **Margaret Roach Reid**, who was the daughter of Patrick Roach and his first wife Ann Guinan / Gannon. She was born c.1852 (1852 Montreal Census). I believe there are two marriages for Margaret Roach; the first to William Shaw, a bachelor, in 1871 at St. John the Evangelist Anglican Church; the second in St. Gabriel R. C. Church, Montreal, to John Reid formalized on 1 February 1886, despite the discovery of an impediment. Eva Gannon was a witness to the second.

There are connections between the Patrick Quinn and Patrick Roach family but I cannot say if Rose Miller Quinn, was related to the Patrick Quinn family or in some additional way to her adopted mother. The information below about the Quinns may be relevant to understanding more about Rose. Margaret had two sisters named **Mary Ellen Roach**. The first was born 15 August 1841 and was her full sister, both daughters of Ann Gannon. She may be on the 1871 census as *Maily*, 22 years. Margaret's name below hers, has been stroked out. The second **Mary Ellen Roach** was born 1 February 1873 and was a half-sister from Catherine Pierce, Patrick's second wife. Mary Ellen married Patrick son of Patrick Quinn.

In 1891, Irish born Patrick Quinn, a clothing trader, lived in Montreal with his wife Ellen Redmond and children Patrick 19, Robert 16, Mary 2. On 3 October 1893, Patrick Quinn, son of Patrick Quinn and Ellen Redmond (both of Ste-Julienne parish) married Mary Ellen Roach (daughter of Patrick and Catherine) at Ste-Julienne. In 1901, Patrick Quinn senior, farmed at Ste-Julienne with his wife Ellen and children Robert 26 and Mary 11.

In 1891, Irish-born Patrick Quinn, a clothing trader, lived in Montreal with his wife Ellen Redmond (daughter of James Redmond and Jane Skelly of Ste-Julienne) and children Patrick 19, Robert 16, Mary 2. On 3 October 1893, Patrick Quinn, son of Patrick Quinn and Ellen Redmond (both now of Ste-Julienne parish) married Mary Ellen Roach (daughter of Patrick and Catherine) at Ste-Julienne. In 1901, Patrick Quinn senior, lived on a farm at Ste-Julienne with his wife Ellen and their children **Robert** 26 and **Mary** 11.

When the group photo was taken in 1904, the Roach families lived near one another and their close connections are evidenced by the mix of the two on this occasion. In the photo was Willie (**Patrick William André Roach**) who was baptized at Ste-Julienne on 7 December 1901, the son of **Patrick Roach** (son of Patrick Roach and Catherine Pierce) and **Catherine (Kate) Sullivan**.

Catharine Roach was baptized on 10 March 1822 at Collinstown, Westmeath, Ireland, daughter of **Margaret Kill-arney**. Witnessed by Christo. Roach and Mary Brown. (Ancestry source). Her burial was recorded at Notre Dame, Montreal 5 August 1823, aged 15 months, daughter of Christy Roach and **Marguerite Karney**.

Catherine Roach daughter of Christy Roach and **Margaret Karny** was baptized 3 July 1824 with sponsors Andrew Butler and Elizabeth O'Connor. She died and was buried at Rawdon, recorded as Rocher in the register at St-Jacques, on 26 July 1835; mother was **Marguerite Carney** witnesses James Murray and Thomas McCarty [sic].

Margaret Roach was baptized at St-Jacques, aged ten days, 22 February 1827 January 1829,

indexed as Marguerite Roache; **Edward Power** who signed for the father and for the marraine Brigitte Ryan (“who could not sign” indicating they were either illiterate or embarrassed to write in the register), mother was **Marguerite Kerney**.

She married William Smith of St-Ambroise de Kildare at St. Patrick’s Rawdon, 29 February 1848. His parents Henry Smith and Bridget Kelly. Margaret Smith may have married Michael Welsh 21 October 1855, at Wayne, Indiana, (Ancestry).

Mary Anne Roach was born 14 January and baptized at St-Jacques 15 January 1829, indexed as Marie Aurore [sic] Roch; her mother was **Marguerite Karney**. Parrain James Murray and marraine H  l  ne Gannon. **James Murray** was parrain for other children of Christopher and was a relative of Ellen Murray (Mrs. Cornelius Gannon) and her daughter Anne was later Mrs. Patrick Roach. James Murray had the same address (4th Range, lot 12) on 1831 census as the Roaches. He lived adjacent to them at Lot 12 North half of Third Range and Christopher was at 4 / S 12.

She married **John Pierce** of Rawdon, at St. Patrick’s on 18 February 1858, son of Daniel Pierce.

John Roach was baptized at St-Jacques 3 March 1831 indexed as Roche, mother **Marguerite Kerny**. At his 1857 marriage, in Ste-Julienne, his mother was name **Marguerite Carney**. John first married **Julia McCarthy**. She is probably **Julie Armeline McCarty** [sic], daughter of **James McCarty** [sic] and **Catherine Connor** of Rawdon, baptized at St-Esprit on the day after 12 April 1831. Thomas and James and Patrick **McCarthy** had land at Lots 4, 5, 6 on Second and Third Ranges. John Roach, in 1859, wed **Ann Daly**, who was born at Rawdon 1834, a daughter of Rawdon pioneers **Hugh Daly** and **Mary Catherine Guinan** [sic]. Hugh was a prominent man at Rawdon and is frequently mentioned in UP TO RAWDON.

John Roach and Ann Daly were parents of **James Cornelius Roach**, (born at Rawdon 1874, died Springfield, Massachusetts 1946). James married Mary Almina Root (formerly Racine, her father was from Quebec) at Springfield. They had four daughters, one being **Mary Therese Roach**, wife of Thomas A. Doyle, junior, and mother of **Kathleen Kali (Doyle) Baker**.

Photographs of John Roach and Ann Daly and of the Roach farm house are at <https://uptorawdon.com/photo-updates/#p1123>. Their son, James Cornelius Roach, grandfather of Kathleen Kali Baker was recorded as living at Ste-Julienne in 1901 but it seems he was permanently in the USA before then. The child in the photo is her aunt, his eldest daughter. In 1921, his unmarried siblings Julia and Christy, cared for their mother, who was 88, at 33 Rue Bourget, St-Henri District, Montreal.

Jane Roach was baptized at St-Jacques, 2 February 1833 mother **Marguerite Carney**. She died 25 March and was buried 27 March 1845 in St, Patrick Parish Cemetery, Rawdon, aged 12 years; mother **Marguerite Kerney**. Witnessed by Christopher and Patrick Roach.

Julia Roach was baptized 3 Feb 1835 at St-Jacques, indexed as daughter of Christopher Roche, mother **Marguerite Carney**.