[In September of 1945 Uncle Jack McMahon (John Jr.) wrote a letter from Washington to his dad in Hartford about his intention to put together a family tree. He said he remembered a lot of it but would appreciate a refresher of some of his memories.

This is what JJMcM sent back to Uncle Jack in a letter dated October 6, 1945. I had to rewrite it because the original was very delicate and did not reproduce well on first try...**Joe McMahon-Hartford CT 2013**]

"... In regard to the genealogical chart of the McMahon Family, it is a good idea as the newer generation will not know anything about their ancestors unless some record is left behind.

On the McMahon side, my father, named John without any middle initial, was born July 2, 1849 in the little hamlet of Caheruduff (Caher-u-duff) which is a part of the village of Ennistymon and a part of the Capital City of Ennis in County Clare. His father was named Patrick McMahon and his mother was named Mary Clancy, both born in Caheruduff. Beyond them I never heard my father mention, so you will have to begin with my father's mother and father.

It is my recollection that the children of Patrick McMahon and Mary Clancy were Mary, Patrick, Murtagh, Margaret, John and Dennis.

Mary and Murtagh went to Austrailia to live and my father used to write to them back and forth at frequent intervals. We had a picture of them and their children in the old family album on Wadsworth Street but they were lost sight of. Patrick and Margaret remained in Caheruduff and most of Patrick's children came to this country. My father helped to bring out John P. the old boy, Delia next, then Mary and then Dennis, who went back to Ireland and stayed there. I never heard of what became of my father's sister Margaret. Father's brother Dennis came over to this country after my father and during the smallpox epidemic of 1876 (?), Dennis was stricken and died in the City Pest House and is suspected of being buried in the piece of ground reputed to have been the burying ground for the small pox victims at the time and is now known as Sigourney Park at Sigourney, Collins, Ashley and May Streets.

At the time the City line was at Sigourney St and the burying ground was outside the City limits, although within the lines of the Town of Hartford. You can tell how central that site is now when you consider that St Francis Hospital is about 4 or 5 blocks further out to the west. Of the McMahons in Caheruduff, only my father and his brother Dennis came out here. However, the children of brother Patrick came out here almost entirely at different times. These were John P., Delia (married to John Hood), Mary (who married Patrick Conway), Dennis, who went back, Michael, Thomas and Margaret. Mary's daughter is Sister Ursula of the Order of the Sisters of St Joseph and at one time taught at St Augustine School. Michael's son, James Michael McMahon, was ordained in the LaSalette Order a couple of years ago. He adds the letters M.S. to his name.

On my mother's side not so much is known. My mother's name was Hougher, as near as I ever could spell it, pronounced like 'how-er' . It must have sounded like "how-er" because they put her name on her marriage certificate as Mary Howard. (Neither my father or my mother could read or write at that time.)

My mother had a brother Michael and a sister Margaret and both of these had the name "Hoar". Neither could spell or write and the way they pronounced "How-er" made it sound like "Hoar" which latter name they always used.

My mother's father's name was Michael Hougher (I believe pronounciation is "How-Her") and her mother's name was Mary Rowine. Annie Rowen, who lived at my mother's house on Wadsworth St was a cousin but always referred to my mother as "Aunt Mary". She called herself "Rowen" although the real Irish of it is Rowine (pronounced "Ro-wine) and there may be a lot of "gh's" left out at that, same as in McMahon. As near as I can trace back the name is Magh-a-ghowan, reduced to Ma-hown-an and then to Mahon. The meaning is "Maker-of-Weapons" Spears Knives etc.

I have read several small sketch histories of various branches of the McMahon family in different counties, some of whom had been so-called Kings, but were merely heads of Clans. In the various sketches I have read

there was no agreement as to which of the County Clare McMahons were the originals or the most important. In the various histories of Ireland or as it was known in the time of the Roman Conquests of the British Isles, Scotia, it is generally conceded that the earliest of the so-called Irish settled in what is now called Ullster. Looking through maps of family locations I find many McMahon Clans in the north of Ireland.

In my immediate family, or rather my father and mother's family, there were five children. My birthday is April 22, 1875. Next to me is Michael Francis born Aug. 23, 1876., next are twins, born in 1882, their names being Murtagh Joseph and Dennis Patrick and both died in 1882, Dennis at two months and Murty at four months. Youngest is Joseph Lawrence b. September 25, 1884 Died 1915 leaving two daughters.

That brings it up to my generation so we can go to the Duffys. The first Duffy was James Duffy, born in West Meath, County Mayo, but Soph does not know the date of birth. Before coming to this country, which must have been around 1844, he married a neighboring girl whose name was Catherine Duffy, for whom your mother was named. A girl Mary was born before they came to this country, she became Mrs. Heavren and lived in New Haven. The next, born in the USA, in fact in Hartford, was Rose, known to us as Aunt Rosie, who married a man named Moriarty and she later moved to New Haven with her daughter Rose who became a teacher in New Haven. Next after Rose came Andrew, who enlisted for the Civil War, and remained in the South after the War, but Soph says they have not heard from him or his family in several years although he married and had a family. For some reason, The Boss, as we called him, never had any use for his brother Andy, claiming that he was a bounty jumper, that is one who accepted a bounty to enlist and then jumped out and got another bounty elsewhere and then several times repeated.

Next came James Francis Duffy, your mother's father. We have the original "Citizen's Papers" of James Duffy, which shows that he applied for Citizenship in 1844 and was made a Citizen in 1848. This paper was folded up and put away somewhere so that it was torn in the folds and so your grandfather Duffy had it mounted on heavy cardboard and we have

it here on the kitchen shelf in my office quarters. The papers show that he was admitted to citizenship in the name of James Duffie, but that was because he could not spell and the Judge spelled it his own way. On the grandmother's side, her name being also Duffy, there are some connections that bring you and your children into kinship with Tom Spellacy's wife and son. Grandmother Catherine Duffy- Duffy had a brother Thomas, who acquired a sizable fortune in business and real estate in Hartford and had several daughters, one of who married Dr. M. H. Gill, who is an old-time Eye, Ear, Nose Throat Specialist, still in practice, wife is dead I believe, and Dr. Gill's daughter married Tom Spellacy and they have one son whose name is Bourke Spellacy. This is the original Irish way to spell Burke, although the name is not Irish, but French, "Bourque" and was started at the same time a lot of other names from the French who came with William the Conqueror. Butler is another one , the original French being "Boutillier" and which meant that he was the keeper of the Kings bottles.

James F Duffy, your grandfather, was born in Hartford on July 4, 1851. He married Sophia McBride, who was born in Donegal Ireland Jan 6 1854. By the way my mother was born in 1851 but did not know the date. My mother and grandfather Duffy were born in the same year 1851 and both died in the same year, 1930, both at the age of 79.

Sophia McBride's father was James or as he was called by everyone in his neighborhood in Donegal, "Shamus" McBride. Sophia McBride's mother Mrs. Shamus McBride was Ellen Curran. Sophia McBride had a sister here named Mary McBride who married a man named Patrick Daley and you probably remember all the Daley cousins of you mother. One of them , Charlie Daley,recently retired as Asst Chief of the Hartford Fire Dept. The oldest Daley girl, Mary, married John L Foley, an Architect who worked with me in F. R. Comstock's office and later went into business for himself. John is in The State Highway Dept as an Architect on Bridge design and various other things.He is about two years younger than I am. Mary, his wife, died a couple of years after your mother. Your mother and Mary were very close, much as your mother and Cousin Rosie was.

On the Duffy side, the children of James Francis and Sophia McBride Duffy were Katherine (your mother) born Aug 7 1878, James Aloysius born in 1879, Timothey 1880; William Benedict 1882; Joseph Michael 1883; Francis Ligouri 1885; Sophia Bernadette 1886; Charles 1888; Edward Broderick 1889 (named for Father Edward Broderick in charge of St Peter's School at the time of his birth); Robert Emmett 1890. Two other children were born after Robert, one was Rose who died in infancy.

In our family we could call your John the Fourth John in the Family in this country. In the Duffy family they have got down to the fifth James.

Had to stop this for a while to listen to the World Series. I can see a possibility of the City of Detroit changing their name to "D.Trout", the "D" of course meaning "Diz". [JPM Note: Dizzy Trout was winning pitcher for the Tigers in that game.] He certainly had the Cubs licking out of his hand like Passau had the Tigers on Friday.

I rather think that I should shut this off and save some for another occasion and so love to all at 6414 Eight from all at 187 Barker; 62 Hillcrest and 65 White.

Dad