

## The Mystery of Patrick G. Morgan in St. Louis, MO - Solved

Link to Morgan Family History at [www.foxcooper.org](http://www.foxcooper.org)

Ed Morgan of NYC explains the Patrick G Morgan Missouri Connection in 2012

I think I have an explanation for the "Missouri" connection that you first discovered in the 1880 U.S. Census for Patrick G. Morgan (b: abt 1848/49; d: 07/09/1911). At that time, he was living in Fall River with his wife (Katherine Bowen Morgan), three children (John, Ella, Margaret) and his mother ("our" Ellen) and brother (Edward).

In the 1900 U.S. Census, "Ireland" replaced "Missouri" as Patrick G. Morgan's birthplace. Also, the U.S. immigration record that I previously brought to your attention confirmed Patrick's 1860 NYC arrival and "Ireland" as his place of birth.

Over the years, I have (and, perhaps, you have, as well) come across examples of missing persons notices that were published in a nationally distributed 19th century newspaper known as the "**Boston Pilot**." Irish immigrants as well as folks back in Ireland advertised for lost relatives and friends in this newspaper. Since so many Irish were unable to read, I always questioned the usefulness of this technique. Nevertheless, I came across the following notice that appeared in the **March 10th, 1866** edition of the newspaper:

### "PATRICK MORGAN

**Of Patrick Morgan, who left Limerick the 19th of April, 1852, and when last heard from, about eight years ago, was in St. Louis, Mo. He was a tailor by trade. Any information from him will be thankfully received by his wife and children. Address Mrs. Ellen Morgan, Pawtucket, R.I., in care of Richard Francis McCourt."**

It is my guess that the 1880 Census taker got a bit confused dealing with two women (i.e. Katherine Bowen Morgan and Ellen Morgan) who both had husbands named Patrick, could not read and write, and undoubtedly had peculiar accents. We now know that the Morgans had a connection to Limerick (City and/or County) in 1852 and that Patrick was in Missouri around 1858 ("about eight years ago"). I am puzzled how he was able to communicate this fact in 1858 to Ellen, presumably still living in Limerick. Maybe he never knew she left for the States in 1860.

[As an Enumerator in the last two US Censuses, I fully agree with his analysis. Ellen, now 68 was keeping house and the Enumerator probably got the information from her ... St. Louis came up in the conversation concerning her husband, Patrick, and was incorrectly listed as the birth place for Patrick G.]

Regarding the **Blake Family**, I have someone checking records at three cemeteries (one in Charlestown and two in nearby Malden). Our Blake cousins in Aiken, Georgia pointed me in that

direction. I suspect that "our" Mary Blake, whose 1861 accidental death occurred in Charlestown, where she was then living, was buried nearby (not in Pawtucket). In 1860, she lost a newborn, unnamed, male child that was probably buried in the same place. I am also communicating with a librarian at the Braintree, MA complex where the Archdiocese of Boston stores its church records (marriages, baptisms) for Charlestown's three 19th century churches.

The investigation continues. Hope all goes well for you.

Regards, ED