

Richard O'Flynn (1829-1905)
Thomas F. O'Flynn (1862-1932)
George B. O'Flynn (1889-1952)

Richard O'Flynn (1829-1905) was a major figure among early historians of the city, and was known as *the* historian of its Irish population. He was also a collector and seller of rare books and a wide variety of antique objects, including an extensive collection of Native American artifacts.

Thomas F. O'Flynn (1862-1932), a son of Richard, was a teacher and principal in Worcester Public Schools for many years, and author of a book on Worcester history for students: *The Story of Worcester, Massachusetts*, 1910. It is now available in the form of re-prints by several firms.

George B. O'Flynn (1889-1952), a son of Thomas, was also a teacher in the Worcester Public Schools for many years. In 1934 he and Albert Farnsworth, of the faculty at Worcester Academy, published a revised edition of the 1910 book by George's father, with substantial additions, under the same title.



Founders of the Worcester Society of Antiquity, now the Worcester Historical Museum. Richard O'Flynn is seated second from the right. The others are, from the left, Samuel Staples, Franklin P. Rice, and John G. Smith.

Below are the biographies in Nutt, followed by obituary notices for all three men.

Charles Nutt, *History of Worcester and Its People*, v. IV, p. 706

Richard O'Flynn was born in County Waterford, Ireland, February 27, 1829, died in Worcester, Massachusetts, December 24, 1905, son of Thomas and Margaret (Powers) O'Flynn. He came to Worcester in 1865, and for many years kept a book store at No. 244 Front street. He was also long an agent for steamship lines and was known in all parts of Ireland. He was a lover of books, an antiquarian in the best sense of the term. He was an authority on American Indian relics, old coins and stamps. His collection of Indian relics, valued as one of the finest private collections in Worcester county, is now the property of The Worcester Society of Antiquity, an organization founded in January, 1875, by Samuel E. Staples, John G. Smith, Franklin P. Rice and Richard O'Flynn. In 1895 Richard O'Flynn visited Ireland and was most cordially entertained in many of the large cities, while in Ireland his antiquarian proclivities led to his discovery of a very old stone in the Abby Yard at Waterford. This stone, exquisitely carved, is evidently of great antiquity, but the secret of its inscription is yet unsolved. It is now carefully placed in the British Museum at London, Mr. O'Flynn having a linen rubbing of the stone made which he presented to the Worcester Society of Antiquity.

While he collected and sold many books, there were some of the choicest of which were never offered for sale but retained for his own private library. These he finally presented to the Worcester Public Library, his gift comprising eight hundred valuable volumes. Many of these were volumes bearing upon the story of Ireland, and only to be found in few private libraries, also a considerable part were printed in Gaelic. He copied and presented to the Society of Antiquity the inscriptions on all the tombstones in the old Catholic Cemetery in Tatnuck, and also copied the inscription on the old part of St. John's Cemetery. Richard O'Flynn was the Irish historian of Worcester. He wrote the history of the Emet Guards, and left four large volumes of clippings and records which but for his love of the work would have been lost. He wrote sketches of all the Catholic parishes which existed in Worcester up to the time of his death, and fully justified in his life and work the title bestowed upon him, "Worcester's Irish Old Mortality." He was one of the founders of the Father Mathew Total Abstinence Society in Worcester, was its secretary-treasurer for twenty-five years, and for a long time its honored president. In politics he was a Democrat, represented his ward on the city school committee in 1884 and 1885, and for a number of years was an assessor of his ward.

Richard O'Flynn married, April 21, 1861, Anna O'Neil, who died in Worcester, June 2, 1875, daughter of Charles O'Neil, a veteran of the British Army, who fought Wellington at Waterloo. While stationed at Gibraltar he was ordered to attend the Church of England service, but taking the ground that being a Catholic he should have the privilege of worshipping after the manner of his own faith, he refused to obey. This was deemed insubordination, and according to the manner of punishment then sanctioned in the British Army he received three hundred lashes as

Nutt, p.706

punishment. Later he wrote to the Duke of York, who ascended the English throne subsequently as William IV., stated his grievance and lived to have the satisfaction of knowing he set in motion the sentiment which resulted in British soldiers worshipping, each according to the dictates of his own conscience. Charles O'Neil was the author of "Military Adventure," published in 1851. His brother, Arthur O'Neil, was killed on the ship "Terrible" in a battle with the French off the coast of Holland in 1807. Another brother fell at Talavera de la Reina in New Castile, Spain, Wellington there defeating the French, July 27-28, 1809. Charles O'Neil had five sons, all of whom enlisted in the Union Army at the outbreak of the War between the States. One of the sons, Captain Thomas O'Neil, commander of the Emmet Guards, was killed at the battle of Cold Harbor, June 3, 1864. Another son, Lieutenant James O'Neil, served in the same regiment (Twenty-fifth Mass.) and later was an aide on the staff of General Marshall, of New York, ranking as colonel. Richard and Anna (O'Neil) O'Flynn were the parents of four sons and a daughter: Thomas Francis, of further mention; Charles, deceased; Mary, deceased; William and Richard I. deceased.

Thomas Francis O'Flynn, eldest son of Richard and Anna (O'Neil) O'Flynn, was born in Worcester, August 28, 1862, and there yet resides, a highly-esteemed educator and school principal. He is a graduate of Worcester Polytechnic Institute, class of 1882, and of Worcester State Normal School. He chose pedagogy as his profession, and won his way to high position in the Worcester schools, holding successively the principalship of the Thomas street, Providence street and Ledge street public schools of the city. He is highly-regarded among educators, and is president of the Worcester County Teachers' Association. He is the author of "The Story of

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Worcester," and has otherwise enriched the literature of his profession. He is a Democrat in politics, and in religious faith a Roman Catholic. He married Julia M. Crowley.

George Bernard O'Flynn, son of Thomas Francis and Julia M. (Crowley) O'Flynn, was born in Worcester, Massachusetts, October 27, 1889. He began his education in Worcester schools, and in 1908 was graduated from the English High School. He then entered Massachusetts Agricultural College, completing courses there with graduation, class of 1912, and the degree of B. S. He continued his studies at Clark University, there receiving the degree of A. M., class of 1913. He chose the profession of pedagogy, and in the fall of 1913 began as a teacher of biology at North High School, Worcester, and in the fall of 1914 became head of the biological department in Classical High School and teacher of the same study. During 1913-14-15, he was supervisor of playground garden work in Worcester.

Mr. O'Flynn is a member of the Alumni Council, and of the college fraternities, Kappa, Gamma Phi (Massachusetts Agricultural College); Sigma Fraternity (Clark University); Alhambra Council, No. 88, Knights of Columbus; Bishop O'Reilly Assembly, Fourth Degree, Knights of Columbus; member of the National Security League; Worcester Red Cross; director of Worcester High School Masters' Club; Worcester County Teachers' Association; Massachusetts School Masters' Club; is a Democrat in politics, and a member of Blessed Sacrament Roman Catholic Church.

RICHARD O'FLYNN GOES TO LONG HOME

Death of Eminent Gaelic Scholar and Temperance Apostle of Heart Disease After Year's Illness.

After a long illness extending over fully a year, Richard O'Flynn passed peacefully away yesterday afternoon, between 4 and 5 o'clock, at his home, 21 Grosvenor street. In the chamber were only the weeping members of his family. Dr. John J. Cummings, his family physician, had been with him only a few hours, and when he bid his patient adieu he knew it was for the last time.

Mr. O'Flynn died from heart disease, with which he has been incapacitated for a year.

Several times death has been hourly expected, but the beginning of the end came Wednesday when he fell into unconsciousness. He remained in a state of coma until his death, with the exception of one or two transitory periods. Thursday morning when the famous Gaelic scholar, Dr. Douglas Hyde, called on Mr. Flynn, the latter was able to say a word or two in that tongue. With the exception of calls for his daughter, Mary, those were the last words he ever spoke.

He suffered no pain. In fact during his entire sickness he did not complain once of pain. It was simply a case of nature being exhausted by a life of hard work. His wonderful vitality held death at bay for many months. He had lain in bed since last February in as full possession of his mental faculties as ever. He simply lacked physical strength.

The funeral will be Wednesday morning with a solemn high mass of requiem in St. Johns church.

Mr. O'Flynn, who was a native of Ireland, was probably the most widely known Irishman in Worcester. He was identified with every movement of a Celtic nature. He was also one of the original Catholic total abstinence men of Worcester. He became a member of Father Mathew's total abstinence society in 1856, and until his death never drank intoxicating liquors.

He is survived by five children, Thomas F. O'Flynn, principal of the Grafton-street school; Charles, Richard and William O'Flynn, and Mrs. Mary, wife of Adam Gouch. He was married twice, all the children being by his first wife. His first wife was Annie O'Neill, who died in June, 1875. Three years later he married Ellen Foran, who died in July, 1901.

Richard O'Flynn was born in the townland of Grenane, parish of Newton, county of Waterford, Feb. 27, 1823. His parents were farmers, and were fairly well to do earlier in their history.

The name under which he lived through life, and the one he has handed down to his family. The baptismal record, as copied by him in the diary, says: "Extract from the baptismal register of the united parishes of Kill and Newton, county of Waterford - Ireland, Richard Flynn, legitimate son of Thomas Flynn and Margaret Power, baptised Feb. 27, 1823. Present Michael Foran and Leoma Bryan, W. Burke, P. P. Newton."

The reason which Mr. O'Flynn often assigned for putting the "O" to his name, was that it was restoring the original form and making it more truly Celtic.

In his autobiography he says: "Should any of my descendants feel any interest in their ancestors, this brief sketch may assist them, and let me say to them that no Scotch or English blood flows in their veins. Although my mother is of the Norman-French family of De La Poer, who landed in my native county of Waterford, in 1169, on their (my children's side), they are Celts, pure and unalloyed, their mother being descended from the noble and warlike O'Neills of Ulster. They can point with pride to the history of their grandfather, Charles O'Neill, who served in

The Peninsular Campaign

and was imprisoned, put in irons, and whipped, because as a Catholic he refused to go to the Church of England service. For this he wrote to the war department, and his letter was the cause of an order by the department, releasing the soldiers from attending services. Charles O'Neill served with Wellington at Waterloo, and later came to Worcester, where he died. Five of his sons went to fight for the flag in the war of the Rebellion.

At the age of eight years he was sent to a school teacher named Michael Power, almost two years. To this meager schooling he added six months in a national school when he was 12 years old. He says in his record of his schooling that the cardinal principles of arithmetic, spelling and reading and the catechism were the things then taught. His whole ambition in his youth was to know the Irish language, but he was not able to gratify that ambition till he came to America. While aboard a steamer for South Carolina he took his first lesson.

At 12 years of age he left school and went to herd cows. He was hired by Thomas Power and received 75 cents every three months. He slept on straw, went to bed at 9 o'clock, got up at 4, and lived on potatoes and milk every day in the year except Christmas, when the herders were allowed meat and cabbage.

Mr. O'Flynn worked two years for Thomas Power. Then he went to his godfather, Michael Foran, at Ballyleen, where he received a little more than twice as much a quarter, getting about \$2, measured in money of today, which was regarded as high wages.

In 1849 he went to live

With Michael Broderick.

a tradesman at Portlaw, who kept a grocery and bakery. His wages increased to \$1.50 a week, with board. Shortly after he took his position he was promoted and his salary made \$1.75 a week. His new conditions made the responsibility greater. By this time he had formed an ambition to come to America, and he says while the proprietor was cross and scolded him often, he was bound under the law to remain with him, for he could get no other place to work, and so, in order to gratify his wish and come to America, he endured much he would otherwise not have.

He tells how when he quit Broderick's employ he packed all his belongings into a small box and went back home to bid farewell to his parents, before starting for America. He bade his father goodby at the old home, but his mother accompanied him to Waterford, and there said goodby, as he was going on board ship.

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He sailed for America in the ship Ann Kenny, in charge of Capt. Hayes. The ship cleared for passage Sept. 21, 1851, and Oct. 29 he landed at Castle garden, New York. It took 47 days to make the trip. He says there were about 400 passengers aboard, and three adults and one baby died.

Mr. O'Flynn did not sit idly and wait for work to hunt him up when he arrived in a strange land. Winter was coming on, and he knew he must prepare to meet it. So the next day he walked down to the wharf and got a job shoveling corn in the hold of a vessel. At this he earned \$2.50 a day.

He came to Worcester shortly after his

Arrival in New York.

but he did not note the day of the month. He says he arrived in Worcester about 5 o'clock one Sunday morning and got lodging that day. The next day he went to board with Michael McGrath, father of Michael P. McGrath, a contractor who then lived on Mechanic street.

His first work in Worcester was on the Worcester & Holden railroad which was just then being built. In the story of his life he says: "I went, with several other men, to where the work was in progress at North Worcester. I waited some minutes to see the boss, but failed, and finally picked up a shovel and went to work without orders from any one. Directly the boss came round and asked me who told me to work. I told him no one and shoveled away. He said a good many things, blasphemous and otherwise, but I worked on and remained on the work several days. I received 65 cents a day and paid \$2.50 a week for board. The food was poor."

In March, 1852, the boss, Mr. Chaffee, gave notice that the pay for help would be cut to 55 cents a day and Mr. O'Flynn gave notice that he would quit. Mr. Chaffee had come to like him because he worked hard enough to earn all he was receiving and he wanted O'Flynn to remain, but he would not. He says that as a result he worked at odd things as he could get to do.

Work was

Remarkably Dull During

the summer of 1852. Scarcely anything could be found to do, and because of the sad outlook for better conditions, Mr. O'Flynn decided to tramp to surrounding places to see if he might not get work. There is evidence in his record of the times that it was a crucial time with him, and he started out tramping across the country with much reluctance, but a conviction that it was about the only thing left for him to do except beg or starve. He still had a little more than a dollar, and started toward Webster. From Webster he went to Central Village. The Providence, Hartford & Fishkill railroad was then being built, and he directed his steps that way, hoping to find work.

From 1852 to the fall of 1854, he found odd jobs to employ his time. Then he apprenticed himself to Allen & Olds, founders of Danielsonville, Ct., and served his time. He says he received for the first year \$50 and board, for the second \$75 and board, and for the third year \$100 and board. He sent some money to his parents in Ireland at that wage. Jan. 1, 1855, he settled with Allen & Olds and came to Worcester, and went to board with Allen McGrath, an uncle by marriage.

When he settled with the

Allen & Olds' Co.

for the term of his apprenticeship, Jan. 1, 1854, Mr. O'Flynn looked about for a position, and Feb. 13 took one in Wheeler's foundry on Thomas street. He was then living with Patrick Ferguson on Union street. He had determined to make Worcester his permanent home, and began to take more than a passing interest in the social life of the city, among the people of his race.

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He joined the Father Mathew temperance society Feb. 17, 1856, and till his death remained a faithful member. It was his good fortune to be honored with the highest office in the society, and almost from the time he became a member he was given official responsibility in various positions. Among the many books which are included in his collection is one which he made himself, showing how the Irish societies of Worcester have celebrated St. Patrick's day from the early part of the '50s to the present time.

He became a member of the Catholic library debating society July 6, 1856, which was formed for the advancement of knowledge among its members. One of the more important events in his religious work was transacted July 20, 1856. That day he rented a pew in St. Johns Catholic church, which he never gave up. He changed his boarding place Sept. 10, 1856, and began

Boarding With Mrs. Brophy.

the mother of William Brophy, a widely known engineer. Among the boarders at Mrs. Brophy's, was William Hickey, now a sergeant on the Worcester police force, and a man by the name of John Duggan, a native of Ireland, with whom he later took a tramp through the South.

Another of those boarders was Capt. John J. O'Gorman, for many years a merchant tailor, and who died not long ago.

The Independent sons of Erin, an organization intended to cultivate closer relations among the natives of the Emerald Isle, was organized Feb. 11, 1856, through the efforts of Mr. O'Flynn, and Hugh Doherty was its first president.

The early part of the fall of 1856, Mr. O'Flynn decided to leave Wheeler's foundry, and quit Sept. 18. Work was scarce and he concluded he would go to New York. He left Worcester Sept. 21 and from New York went to Norfolk, Va., and then to Baltimore. From Baltimore he went to Philadelphia and then returned to New York, coming on an emigrant train.

But he was not yet satisfied to come back to Worcester, and took passage for Charleston, S. C. His friend, John Duggan, was with him on the trip, and they took steerage transportation.

When the men got to Charleston, they got work in the Washington foundry, but work was slack, and they were soon laid off. Duggan and he started out to see the country. Among other things they witnessed was the sale of slaves on the auction block, and in the notes he says he prayed that he might live to see the slaves made free. He became convinced the abolition of slavery was the thing, and whatever might have been his convictions on political lines as to other matters, he was then aligned by what he saw with the abolition party on that principle.

O'Flynn and

Duggan Left Charleston

for Columbia, Feb. 16, 1858, and arrived there Washington's birthday. They found no work in Columbia and continued on their way north afoot, visiting a number of places as they came.

While stopping at a negro's house, March 13, 1858, he was discovered by some white men, who made him leave with the threat of arrest. They told him it was contrary to law for a white man to shelter in a negro's hut, and if he did not leave at once he would be taken before the magistrate.

He went thence to Danville, Va., and visited the foundries there, but got no work, and took a steamer, Jamestown, under Capt. Pauch, for Norfolk, arriving there St. Patrick's day, 1858. He was sick most of the trip, mostly for the want of wholesome food.

From Norfolk he started St. Patrick's day for New York, and got there March 18. He came at once to Worcester, and from the time of his arrival Worcester was his home. This time he stopped at Edward Quinlan's home.

In Horticultural hall, Feb. 9, 1859, the first Iron molders union ever organized in Worcester, was formed, and Richard O'Flynn was a charter member. The meeting named a committee of three consisting of George Davis, George Frost and Richard O'Flynn, to draft a constitution and bylaws.

And It Was at a Meeting

In Mr. O'Flynn's home on Goddard street these were drawn.

It was Sept. 1, 1860, Mr. O'Flynn took the oath of American citizenship.

The pledge taken for total abstinence Feb. 17, 1856, expired in February, 1861, and on the date of its expiration Mr. O'Flynn went to Rev. F. T. O'Reilly and took the pledge for life, and according to his statement, that pledge was kept inviolate.

Mr. O'Flynn was one of the organizers of the Tom Moore club of Worcester. The first meeting was Feb. 21, 1861, and these officers were elected. President, Henry McConville, killed with Capt. Tom O'Neill at Cold Harbor; vice president, John F. Murray; secretary, John Foley; treasurer, Richard O'Flynn. The avowed purpose of the club was to promote Irish music and song.

Mr. O'Flynn became a member of the Emmet guards, March 2, 1861, joining with Sergt. William Hickey of the police force.

The first vote Mr. O'Flynn cast in ward 3 was cast with the democratic party, Nov. 5, 1861.

It was Richard O'Flynn who undertook and carried to a successful termination the raising of funds to procure a painting of Patrick Quirk, father of Jerry Quirk, who is famous among Irish people as being the oldest Irishman ever in America, living to be 106 years old. The picture was presented to Father Mathew society and today hangs in the hall.

Important in the history of Worcester is the date June 1, 1863. It was that day that Crompton's loom works opened, and he got work there. He started working for \$1.75 a day.

The first real estate deal

Mr. O'Flynn Undertook

was transacted July 15, 1863, and by it he became the owner of the house and lot at 3 Goddard street, sold at auction for \$1025. He says he had but \$60 on hand, but he soon managed to procure the remainder and closed the deal. He kept the house till Aug. 31, and sold it for \$2990 to James McFarland. He made no more purchases till he bought the property he lived in, at 31 Grosvenor street, at the time of his death.

**Richard O'Flynn
Telegram**

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Associated with Hugh Doherty, he organized the American society of Hibernians, Nov. 23, 1863, the organization being perfected in the Emmet guards armory, with 50 members, but he says he withdrew later because he did not wish to carry two societies and believed the Father Mathew society to be more to his interests.

Strikes never had sympathy from Mr. O'Flynn after his first experience with them in the Crompton strike in 1864. There was a grievance among the men, and a committee was appointed, including Mr. O'Flynn, who decided to order a strike. They did so and the Crompton people immediately discharged the members of the committee. When Mr. Crompton discharged Mr. O'Flynn, he says Mr. Crompton told him he would rue the day he promoted such a movement, and in bold hand he wrote in the same paragraph, "And I did." He urges his children to avoid strikes at all times.

He was out of work but a short while, going to work for Earle & Jones at what

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was then known as the Junction foundry, at \$1.50 a day.

The business which Mr. O'Flynn built to such successful extent at 244 Front street, was started in May, 1877. The business was started largely through the kindness of his friend, Hon. E. B. Stoddard. It was first primarily a book store. That was prior to the days of free textbooks, and there was some show for a man to make profit, selling the books for school use. When he opened his business he did not fall into

A Lucrative Trade at Once.

His first sale, was made to Hon. Clark Jilson, afterward mayor, June 13, 1877. The sale was "Bollean's Lutrin," a mock heroic poem, 1708.

The only public office Mr. O'Flynn ever held was that of a member of the school committee. He was elected to the school committee for a three-year term, in 1882, from ward 5.

The free textbook law went into force in 1884, and he got the contract for distributing the books to the children. A clipping from the Boston Daily Globe of July 27, 1884, says the contract called for \$11,865.11 worth of books, which would have cost the city under the old law, \$18,145.20, thus saving the city \$7189.09, or approximately 38 per cent of the former cost. For the work involved, Mr. O'Flynn received \$250.

After the free textbook law went into effect, Mr. O'Flynn, looking for some suitable line to add to his business, fell upon the idea of selling drafts, and added that to his line, becoming steamship agent at that time. As another feature of his business he early took to the work of collecting rare specimens of books, manuscripts and quaint old things of every character, the quaint the better, for Mr. O'Flynn. Following this carefully it was not long till his business place of books, drafts and tickets was as much a curio shop as a book store. Visitors to Worcester from all parts of the United States sought it to see the curious things they heard of. Worcester people found in it a museum worth going to see.

Among those from a distance to visit the store for its curio interest was Prof. Hitchcock of Amherst college, who came to see.

The Excellent Indian Relic
collection Mr. O'Flynn possessed at that time. Prof. Hitchcock was liberal in his praise of the collection, commending it for excellence and rareness. This collection is now the property of the Worcester society of antiquity, of which he was a founder.

Among the curios in the store possessed by Mr. O'Flynn was a garnet necklace, supposed to have come down from a Saxon chief in Lincolnshire, England.

Mr. O'Flynn was also a numismatist, and at one time possessed a collection of coins not equalled by many. He also possessed the best and most complete set of revenue stamps ever collected.

Among the things he saved dilligently were clippings from the press on subjects in which he was deeply interested.

To Richard O'Flynn, the children of Worcester owe great tribute for his work in their behalf. To him is it due that Worcester had public playgrounds as early as it did. He called the first meeting ever had to discuss that subject. The meeting was in the engine house at the corner of Lamartine and Grosvenor streets, now police-station 2. The object of the meeting did not then find a warm place in the public mind and some even laughed at it. Clippings now possessed by the family give the credit of the movement to Mr. O'Flynn. It is further supported by the fact that during the term of Mayor Col. E. B. Stoddard, Mr. O'Flynn petitioned the city council to pass a bill which was drawn in accordance with the things he had advocated.

To him also belonged the honor of having begun the beautifying of public school grounds in Worcester, by planting trees. For the first time since he left his home in 1851. Mr. O'Flynn went to Ireland on a visit in 1894. With him went his daughter, Mary, and Miss Alice Hyland, daughter of William Hyland, a Main street mattressmaker.

He wrote the story
Of His Trip After the
return, and, there are many touching paragraphs in his description of scenes in the old land. He dwells specially on the way the girls at the convent school received him on his visit there. He says that as he and the people with him entered, the girls arose and sang "Come back to Erin," and it was wholly impossible for him to hide his emotion.

On this trip he carried letters of commendation from the mayor of Worcester, Hon. Henry Marsh, which bore the seal of Worcester, and he still has the letter.

One of the things he took due pride in was his gift to his native town of Waterford, of Michael Cavanaugh's memoirs of Gen. Thomas Francis Meagher. The general, the writer, and the donor were all natives of Waterford, and the book printed from the manuscript was set by a printer from there. The manuscript is said to have been perfect, as it came from the pen of the writer, there being no corrections or blots on it.

The writer, Mr. Cavanaugh, was secretary to John O'Mahoney, head center of the Fenian brotherhood. He later wrote a poem which he dedicated to Richard O'Flynn. It is entitled "A day in Ireland," and is a translation of Craolbhin Aolbhuim.

While Mr. O'Flynn was visiting in Ireland in 1894, he chanced one day to walk in the

Old Abbey in Waterford,

and while strolling along he peccular stone, which attracted his notice specially. He got permission to investigate the stone, and on taking it from where it was, it proved to be a stone slab about 14 inches wide and 10 feet long, and on the face were some sort of hieroglyphics, the Gaelic cross and other figures, which to this day have not been deciphered. The forms have been damaged by age and can only be approximated. It is believed by some it belongs as far back as the second century, while others place it in the eighth. It has since been placed in the British museum at London, and still holds mutely its secret of the dead ages. Mr. O'Flynn secured a fine rubbing of the stone.

The public library of Worcester was enriched in 1898 by a gift of 584 volumes and 61 pamphlets relating to Irish history, from Mr. O'Flynn. The records of the board show that Aug. 2, 1898, a vote of thanks was tendered him by the board, and the following day Hon. Rufus B. Dodge, then mayor, sent him a personal letter, thanking him for the gift.

He also sent a gift of some Indian relics to Belfast, Ireland, and there is a letter from Col. Francis J. Vigors, thanking him for the collection.

March 14, 1898, as a reward for the many things Mr. O'Flynn had done to help promote its interests, the Worcester society of antiquity made him an honorary member.

The following year

He Was Made a Member

of the American flag and Betsy Ross memorial association.

It was he who gave the sash worn by Capt. Tom O'Neill, when he was killed at Cold Harbor, to Capt. Tom O'Neill court, C. F. of A. With the sash he also presented the commission which Gov. Gardner had given Capt. O'Neill before the war.

He gave the Worcester society of antiquity an antiq scale, or tuning box, a wooden affair for measuring sound, a thing rare indeed, if there are others in existence.

**Richard O'Flynn
Telegram**

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**In the library of the Society
Of Antiquity Building**

will be found 10 volumes, dated from 1643 to 1666, "An exposition on the first three chapters of Job." These are the gift of Richard O'Flynn.

The A. O. H. has the plan of the battle of Aughrim by the historian of the O'Keiley of Galway, in two parts, framed and glazed. With this is a genealogical chart plan of the battle, the only one known to be in existence, which are his gifts to the order.

He made a history of the Emmet guards organization, from its first meeting to a few months ago, when he was taken ill and had to give up work of that kind. The record includes

Practically Every Item

that ever appeared about the company, and beside he has added many a note of his own knowledge of the events. The record contains a full history of the disbanding of the guards by Gov. Gardner, just before the war.

It goes further back than when the company was known as Emmets. It starts with the old Sarsfield guards and follows them through the transformation into the Emmets organization. It is such a complete history, it is certain that no other so complete story of the organization is in existence. It has been so well kept so long that his son, Thomas O'Flynn, principal of the Thomas-street school, proposes to carry on the work. He is now in possession of the volume and has it up to date.

Mr. O'Flynn became secretary of Father Mathew temperance society, Feb. 6, 1876, on motion of John Clark. He served 26 years, when he resigned the office because he did not feel equal to the task it imposed on him. But the 26 years he served he made a record so complete that if it were printed it would make volumes, and would leave little untold which was worth telling. It gives in full every list of subscribers to the Irish distress fund for the entire time.

The first volume of the history of the United Irish societies begins with his service as secretary and ends with April 17, 1833. The second carries the record to Jan. 1, 1832, and the last to his resignation. Beside the writing in detail of all the happenings the clippings from Worcester papers on all the things relating to the

Society Are Pasted In.

His historical work of things relating to Worcester included three large volumes of the United Irish societies, seven volumes of history and clippings of Fr. Mathew temperance society; two volumes devoted specially to the history of the building of the new Fr. Mathew hall on Trumbull street; political history of St. Johns parish, showing history of every person in the parish and incidents of the life of the individual; political history of

(continues)

Richard O'Flynn

Telegram

Dec-25-1905

Part 4 of 4

Sacred Heart parish; history of the Irish societies of Worcester 25 years ago, when many now defunct were the flourishing and leading ones of the time, among them the Highland associates, Carroltons, and St. Johns cadets; history of St. Stephens parish; history of Immaculate Conception parish; history of St. Annes parish; pamphlet history of the Irish saints, calling attention to each one and specially to the only Irish saint ever canonized, St. Lawrence O'Toole.

These are all done in his own handwriting, and are on neat and well-written pages. Beside these, he has histo-

ries of St. Johns cemetery, Tatnuck cemetery, and old St. Annes cemetery. Each of these contains every epitaph in the cemeteries named in 1876.

His collection at his Grovenor street home included countless other historical sketches.

Mr. O'Flynn was married to Anne O'Neill, April 21, 1861. The day following, five of Mrs. O'Flynn's brothers, Capt. Tom O'Neill, killed at Cold Harbor, and John, James, Arthur and Charles went to the front to fight for the flag. Charles went to the navy. The others were in the army.

The banns of marriage of Mr. O'Flynn and Miss O'Neill were first published at St. Johns church, April 7. The marriage was celebrated quietly at the church by Rev. P. T. O'Reilly and Mr. and Mrs. O'Flynn

Began Housekeeping

at 21 Salem street.

Word was received in Worcester the following July that Lieut. James O'Neill was in a hospital at Chesapeake, near Fortress Monroe, Va., seriously injured. July 7, Mr. O'Flynn and his sister-in-law, Kate O'Neill, started for Fortress Monroe, to see the injured man. He tells of going by way of Washington and calling on Hon. John D. Baldwin, proprietor of the Spy, and then a member of congress from the Worcester district, and getting a passport to the hospital. He tells of the visit to the injured man, and of the return. On the return they came by way of Baltimore, and were delayed several hours by the rebel, Harry Gilmore, who burned two trains near Gunpowder bridge.

He notes the fact that July 11, the body of Capt. Tom O'Neill was brought to Worcester for burial, July 14 the body of Adj. Henry McConville and July 26 Lieut. William Daly. These men were all of his race, and they had been close friends before the war. They are referred to as his "comrades in life," now in death.

Organizations with which Mr. O'Flynn was connected will have meetings to take action on his death.

O'Flynn Funeral Service Friday

Former Principal of Ledge Street School Dies at 69

Thomas F. O'Flynn, 69, former principal of Ledge Street School, and one of the leading educators in this section, died in his home, 7 Fiske Street, shortly before 3 o'clock this morning. He was born in Worcester Aug. 28, 1862, a son of Richard and Anna (O'Neill) O'Flynn, both of distinguished ancestry.

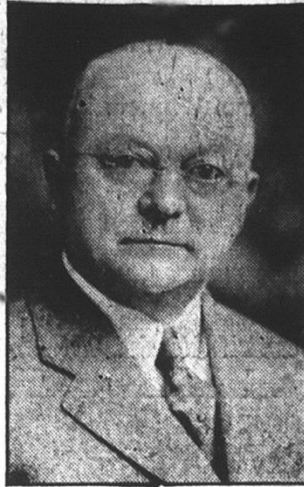
Mr. O'Flynn was graduated from the old Worcester High School in 1878 and Worcester Polytechnic Institute, with the class of 1882. He later studied for a year at the Worcester Normal School in order to pursue an educational career. In 1899 he was appointed a teacher in the public schools of the city and rose rapidly as an educator, holding successively the principalships of the Thomas Street, Providence Street and Ledge Street Schools.

He inherited from his father a taste for antiquarian research and was a prolific writer on educational and historical subjects. His best known work, "The Story of Worcester," had wide circulation and was used as a text book in the local schools. He was an ideal example for the younger teachers of his day, who closely followed his methods of teaching procedure. He had an unwavering respect for his associates and quickly gained the confidence of those with whom he came in contact.

Mr. O'Flynn was a past president of both the Worcester County Teachers' Association and Schoolmasters' Club. He was also a member of the Worcester Historical Society and the Worcester Economic Club.

The ancestry of Mr. O'Flynn can be traced back many generations. His father, who was born in Waterford, Ireland, in 1829, kept a bookstore for many years in 244 Front Street, that was a resort for lovers of rare books and other antiques. He was also an authority on American Indian relics, old coins and stamps. His collections of Indian relics was presented to the Worcester Historical Society, of which he was one of the founders.

Death Claims Noted Educator



(Photo by Oliver-Plante)
THOMAS F. O'FLYNN

On his mother's side, Mr. O'Flynn was the grandson of Charles O'Neill, a veteran of the British army, who fought at Waterloo.

Mr. O'Flynn was married in April, 1888, to Julia Mary Crowley of this city. They had two children, George Bernard, a graduate of the Massachusetts State College and Clark University, and at present the assistant principal of the Providence Street Junior High School, and Genevieve, who died in 1894. He also leaves a brother, William E. of New York, and two granddaughters, the Misses Genevieve and Ruth O'Flynn.

The funeral will be held from the family home, 7 Fiske Street, Friday. The home and funeral will be strictly private. Relatives and friends are invited to attend a high mass of requiem in the Church of the Blessed Sacrament at 9 a. m. Burial, in charge of James A. Athy & Son, will be in St. John's Cemetery.

Thomas F. O'Flynn

Evening Post

Feb-17-1932



SUCCUMBS

George B. O'Flynn, principal of Providence Street Junior High School, who died last night in St. Vincent Hospital.

G. B. O'Flynn, Junior H. S. Head, Dies

George B. O'Flynn, principal of the Providence Street Junior High School for eight years, died last night in St. Vincent Hospital where he was admitted Sept. 19, 1951.

He was widely known in educational and historical circles.

He was born in Worcester, son of the late Thomas F. and Julia M. (Crowley) O'Flynn, graduated from English High School in 1908, and from Massachusetts Agricultural College (now the University of Massachusetts) in 1912. The following year he was awarded a master of arts degree by Clark University.

Mr. O'Flynn entered the Wor-

Turn to O'FLYNN, Page Twenty-eight

George B. O'Flynn

Telegram

May-02-1952

Continued from Page One

chester public school system as a teacher at North High School in 1914, transferring the following year to Classical High School where he taught until 1931.

In September, 1931, he was made assistant principal of Providence Street Junior High School, a position he held until April 7, 1944 when he was promoted to principal.

In 1914 he organized the Children's Garden Project of the Worcester Playgrounds.

In 1934, collaborating with Dr. Albert Farnsworth, he wrote the "Story of Worcester."

Organizations

He was a member of the Worcester Teachers' Association; the Worcester County Teachers' Association, of which he was president in 1926 and 1927; a member of the Massachusetts Junior High School Principals' Association; a member of the Worcester Principals' Club of which he was president from 1939 to 1941.

Mr. Flynn also held membership in the Public School Art League, the Orleans Historical Society, the Worcester Historical Society, Worcester Economic Club, Alpha Pi Zeta Fraternity, Kappa Gamma Phi (national education society) and was a former member of Alhambra Council, K. of C. and the University Club.

Funeral Tomorrow

He leaves his wife, Mrs. Clare (McNamara) O'Flynn; three daughters, Genevieve M., wife of Paul E. Benoit of Worcester, Ruth E., wife of David R. Lennan of Natick, and Clare-Ahn O'Flynn of Worcester, and three grandchildren.

Private funeral services will be held from the family home, 7 Fiske street, Saturday morning. Burial will be in St. John's Cemetery. Other arrangements are incomplete.

End