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# THE PATERNAL ANCESTORS OF XXXXXXXX XXXXXX SULLIVAN

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The History of the Sullivan Family



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## Client Brief

The client, XXXXXX SULLIVAN, has requested in-depth genealogical research focusing on his 'SULLIVAN' ancestors. The researcher has utilised several online databases, namely the following:

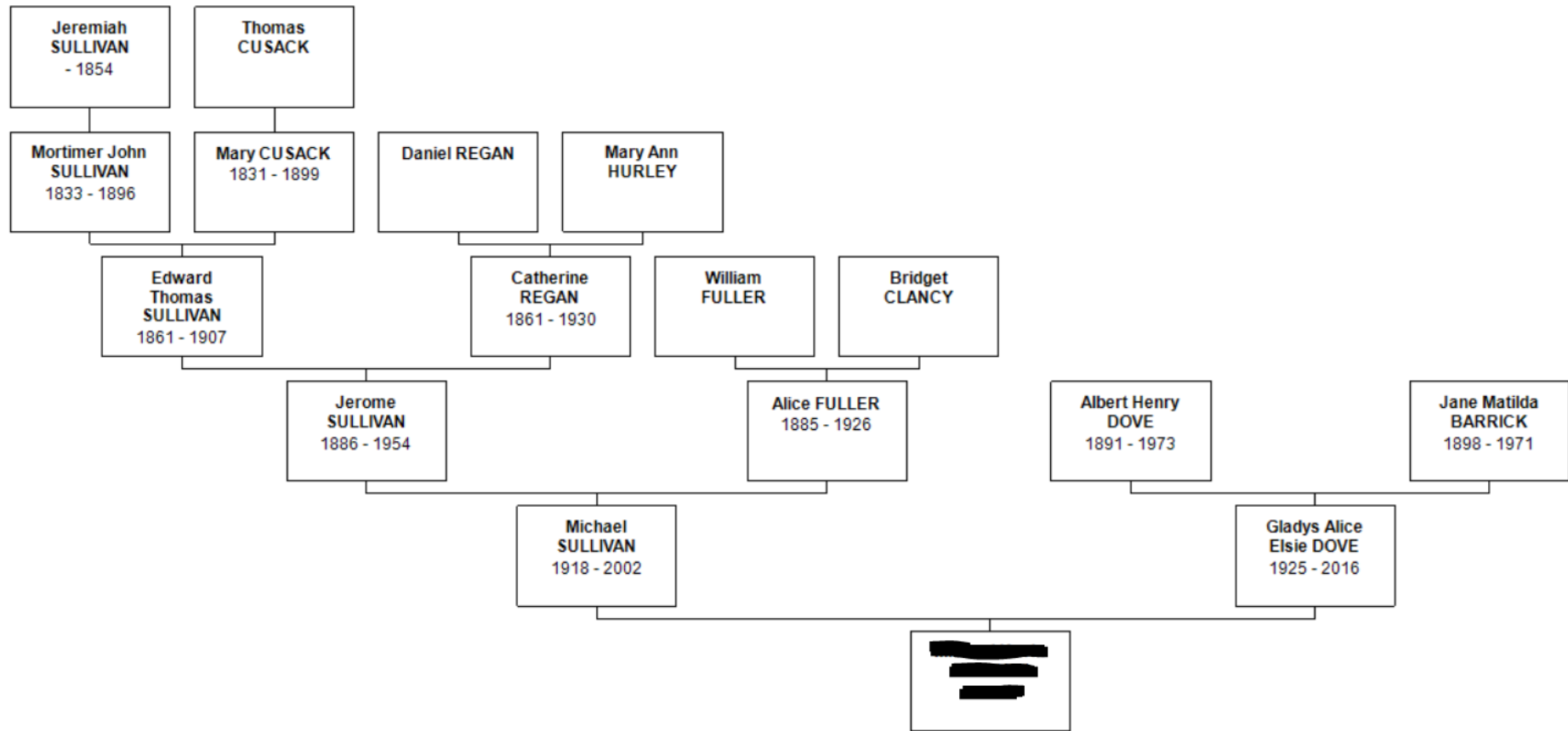
- *Ancestry*
- *FindMyPast*
- *British Newspaper Archive*
- *RootsIreland*
- *IrishGenealogy.ie*
- Other miscellaneous resources

The references can all be found in the endnotes at the close of this report.

This report includes details of the SULLIVANs' lives traced back to c.1833, when the client's 2x great-grandfather, Mortimer John SULLIVAN, was born. The client was especially interested in tracing his Irish-born ancestors. The father of Mortimer John SULLIVAN has been identified as Jeremiah SULLIVAN, a merchants' clerk, but searches on *RootsIreland* and *IrishGenealogy.ie* yielded a negative result for Mortimer's baptism record. The client has the option to wait for more records to appear online, or he can hire a Cork-based genealogist who may be able to identify the baptism record.

There is a possibility that there may be records related to Mortimer's career in the merchant navy, although these records were mostly created for master mariners, and there is no evidence to suggest that Mortimer was ever a master mariner. To find out if any such records exist, a researcher will have to search for Mortimer's full name on the Mercantile Navy List at the National Maritime Museum. If any records do exist, there is no guarantee that they will provide information about Mortimer's life before he migrated to England, but they could contain other interesting details.

Family Tree



1. The ancestors of XXXXXX XXXXX SULLIVAN

## Michael SULLIVAN (1918-2002) & Gladys Alice Elsie DOVE (1925-2016)

Michael SULLIVAN was born on 23 June 1918 at the workhouse hospital on Raine Street, Saint George in the East, London, England.<sup>1</sup> He was the third of four children born to Jerome SULLIVAN, a waterside labourer, and Alice FULLER, a cigar maker, who at this time lived at 4 Pearl Street in Tower Hamlets. The family were Roman Catholics of Irish descent on the paternal line.

Michael was born during the Great War, which had been ongoing between the Allied Powers (including the British Empire) and the Central Powers (including the German Empire) since 28 July 1914. The Great War ended on 11 November 1918, when Michael was four months old.

As a result of the Great War, England saw accelerated social unrest, and nowhere was this more apparent than in London, where the divide between rich and poor was so stark. Tower Hamlets was one of the poorest districts in London, enduring poverty, starvation and unemployment, and the government taxed the people excessively, leading to the Poplar Rates Rebellion of 1921. This protest took place less than two miles from where the SULLIVAN family lived and involved a procession of 2,000 supporters (perhaps including the SULLIVANs) who marched from Bow to the High Court. They would likely have passed through Wapping on their route. Thirty councillors were sent to prison for contempt of court, but they were eventually released, leading to great celebrations in Poplar. This protest led to the Local Government Act 1929, which eased the burden of heavy taxation away from Poplar Poor Law Union.

Premature death was rampant in these impoverished areas of London, and Michael lost his mother when he was less than three weeks away from his eighth birthday. Alice FULLER died on 17 June 1926 at the age of 41.<sup>2</sup> At the time that his mother died, Michael and his father Jerome SULLIVAN still lived at 4 Pearl Street in Tower Hamlets, where the family had lived for over eight years.

### **At this point in history...**

In 1904, so that children would not be burdened with the stigma of being born in a workhouse, it was decided that registrars should use a fictitious address when recording these places of birth instead of the actual name of the workhouse. The euphemistic address for the Saint George in the East workhouse was '3 Raine Street', and this can be seen on the 1918 birth record of Michael SULLIVAN as well as on the death records of his mother, Alice FULLER and his grandmother, Catherine REGAN.

After the death of his mother, Michael SULLIVAN was raised by his aunt Catherine Mary SULLIVAN and her husband Timothy DRISCOLL, who had no children of their own. He would remain living with them for over thirty years.

Early in 1939, the British government became concerned about the rise of Nazism in Germany, and so on 27 April 1939 the British Prime Minister, Neville CHAMBERLAIN, introduced a limited form of conscription which meant that single men aged 20 to 22 years were called-up for service. Michael SULLIVAN, who was twenty years of age and working as a dock stevedore, was one of these men. He enlisted in the Royal Navy on 29 July 1939, but he was not deployed immediately.

On 01 September 1939, the Second World War broke out between Britain and Germany, and then later that month, on 29 September 1939, a register was taken of the civilian population of England and Wales, to assist with the production of identity cards and the issuing of ration books. Michael SULLIVAN was recorded at his home address, 34 Turners Road in Stepney, London,<sup>3</sup> along with his aunt Catherine Mary SULLIVAN and his uncle Timothy DRISCOLL. They also shared this address with three other people.

Address	Name	Birth Date	Marital Status	Personal Occupation
34 Turners Road	Driscoll, Timothy	06 October 1893	Married	Scavenger
	Driscoll, Catherine	02 February 1895	Married	Unpaid domestic duties
	Sullivan, Michael	23 June 1918	Single	Dock stevedore

*2. Michael SULLIVAN recorded on the 1939 Register. The client's ancestor is highlighted in green.*

Michael SULLIVAN was deployed on 10 October 1939, when he was sent to a reserve depot in Portsmouth for training. His conduct throughout the War was consistently “very good”, and he was considered to be satisfactorily efficient.<sup>4</sup>

The Second World War ended on 02 September 1945, and Michael SULLIVAN was released from service on 19 October that year.

Michael SULLIVAN married Gladys Alice Elsie DOVE on 13 March 1948 in Stepney, London. Their parish church was St Paul's, but as this had been destroyed in the Blitz, they had to hold the ceremony at St Luke's Church instead.<sup>5</sup>

Despite his Catholic heritage, Michael married Gladys according to the rites and ceremonies of the Church of England. At the time of their marriage, Michael was 29 and still lived at 34 Turners Road with his aunt and uncle. Gladys was 22 years old and lived at 43 Thomas Road. Her parents were Albert Henry DOVE, a licensee (also referred to as a 'publican') and Jane Matilda BARRICK. The witnesses to their marriage were B. LUDFORD and J. HERBERT.

**At this point in history...**

From 29 July – 14 August 1948 the Olympic Games were being hosted in London. Great Britain and Northern Ireland won 3 gold, 14 silver and 6 bronze medals, and the entire event was televised by the BBC.

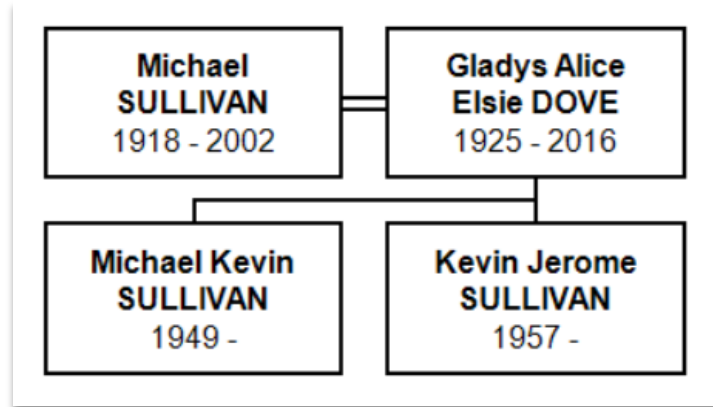
The marriage of Michael SULLIVAN and Gladys Alice Elsie DOVE produced two children:

- 1- XXXXXX XXXXX SULLIVAN (born X X X in Stepney, London)
- 2- XXXXX XXXXXX SULLIVAN (born X X X in Stepney, London)

Michael's father, Jerome SULLIVAN, died on 15 March 1954.<sup>6</sup> Michael was present at his father's death and was the informant on his death record, at which time he was still resident at 34 Turner's Road, where he had lived for at least fifteen years. He moved away from the home of his aunt and uncle in about 1961.

Michael's uncle, Timothy DRISCOLL, died in 1972 in Stepney, aged 78 years.<sup>7</sup> His aunt, Catherine Mary SULLIVAN, died c.1981 in Stepney, aged 85 years.<sup>8</sup>

Michael SULLIVAN died on 08 August 2002 at his home, Heatherbrook 80 Como Street, Romford, London. He was 84 years old.<sup>9</sup> Gladys Alice Elsie DOVE died on 12 January 2016 at St Bartholomew's Hospital in London, aged ninety years.



3. *The children of Michael SULLIVAN and Gladys Alice Elsie DOVE*



## Jerome SULLIVAN (1886-1954) & Alice FULLER (1885-1926)

Jerome SULLIVAN was born on 08 April 1886 at his parents' home at 90 Prusom Street, Saint George in the East, Middlesex, England. He was the son of Edward Thomas SULLIVAN, a labourer, and Catherine REGAN, also known as 'Kate', a charwoman.<sup>10</sup>

The family were Roman Catholics of Irish descent, and Jerome was baptised on 02 May 1886 at St Patrick's Church in Wapping. His godfather was his mother's brother Denis REGAN and his godmother was Helena CRAMMER.<sup>11</sup>

On 05 April 1891, Jerome SULLIVAN was recorded on the 1891 England Census. He then lived at 76 Prusom Street in St George in the East with his parents and his two younger brothers, Daniel and Edward.<sup>12</sup> He was four years old, but his parents recorded that he was five years old, possibly because he was three days away from his fifth birthday.

### At this point in history...

1886 saw terrible riots and clashes between Catholics and Protestants in Belfast. Discrimination against Irish Catholics was already prolific in England, but these stories from Ireland worsened the hostilities. The SULLIVAN family, with their Irish-Catholic heritage and surname, may have been impacted by this increase in prejudiced attitudes.

Address	Name	Relation to Head of Family	Marital Status	Age	Occupation	Where Born
76 Prusom St	Edward Sullivan	Head	Married	31	Stevedore	Wapping, London
	Catherine Sullivan	Wife	Married	29	Charwoman	Wapping, London
	Jerome Sullivan	Son	Single	5	-	St George's, London
	Daniel Sullivan	Son	Single	3	-	St George's, London
	Edward Sullivan	Son	Single	9 mo[nths]	-	St George's, London

#### 4. The SULLIVAN family on the 1891 England Census. The client's ancestors are highlighted in green.

The SULLIVANs shared their home with another family, the HARLEYs, who had five children of their own and occupied most of the house. The SULLIVAN family only had one room to themselves, between the two adults and the three young boys.

This was the year that the British government effectively abolished primary school fees, which meant that the SULLIVANs did not have to make sacrifices in order to educate their young children. Jerome and his siblings would have attended school for free from the very beginning. This was representative of a great societal change in the United Kingdom which meant that children had better access to educational and career opportunities regardless of their parents' circumstances. Jerome attended Catholic school from the age of five.

In 1893 the family lived at 16 Rygate Street in Saint George in the East, when they were recorded on the Westminster Roman Catholic Census.<sup>13</sup>

Address	Name	Age	Occupation	Whether Attended Mass	Easter Duties	Confirmation	Married	Does Child attend Catholic or Non-Catholic Day School	Is Child's Faith in Danger?	Is Child in Imminent Danger of Joining the Criminal Classes?
16 Rygate [Street]	Sullivan, Edward	-	Labourer	O	O	X	X	-	-	-
	Sullivan, Catherine	-	Housewife	X	X	X	X	-	-	-
	Sullivan, Jerome	5	-	-	-	-	-	Catholic	No	No
	Sullivan, Dan	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	No	No
	Sullivan, John	1 ½	-	-	-	-	-	-	No	No

*5. The SULLIVAN family on the 1893 Westminster Roman Catholic Census. The client's ancestors are highlighted in green.*

Jerome's younger brother, Edward SULLIVAN, had died in infancy and by 1893 the SULLIVANs had a younger son named John. Jerome was in fact six or seven years old, but he is recorded here as being younger. They shared their home with the CHRISTMAS family, who had six older children, and the TILLEY family, who did not have any children.

Queen Victoria died on 22 January 1901 after a reign of nearly 64 years. This marked the end of the Victorian era, and the advent of the Edwardian era. The SULLIVAN family were next recorded on the census on 31 March 1901, still living in Saint George in the East, but now at 2 Lowder Street.<sup>14</sup>

Address	Name	Relation to Head of Family	Marital Status	Age	Occupation	Where Born
2 Lowder Street	Edward Sullivan	Head	Married	37	Labourer Dock	St George's, London
	Kate Sullivan	Wife	Married	38	-	St George's, London
	Jerome Sullivan	Son	Single	14	Office Boy	St George's, London
	Daniel Sullivan	Son	Single	12	-	St George's, London
	Michael Sullivan	Son	Single	7	-	St George's, London
	Kate Sullivan	Daughter	Single	6	-	St George's, London
	Ellen Sullivan	Daughter	Single	4	-	St George's, London

*6. The SULLIVAN family on the 1901 England Census. The client's ancestors are highlighted in green.*

Edward still worked at the docks as a labourer, but Catherine was not working at this time, suggesting either that the family were able to survive on a single income, or that they were unable to find anyone to help them with their children, who now numbered five. Jerome SULLIVAN, at fourteen, was working as an office boy, which would have involved running errands and perhaps some clerk work. The younger children are not recorded as attending school, but in 1901 school was mandatory until a child reached the age of thirteen, so it is likely that they were still in education.

Jerome's father, Edward SULLIVAN, was found dead at his home on 12 September 1907,<sup>15</sup> leaving Jerome's mother and his younger siblings dependent on the older siblings. Edward's youngest child, Jane, was only three years old at the time of his death.

By 02 April 1911, Catherine had moved to 8 Rygate Street in Saint George in the East and was employed again as a charwoman, but she would have struggled to survive on the wages she received for this difficult work. Fortunately, all her adult children were employed and living with her. Jerome, who was now 24 years old, followed in his father's footsteps by working as a waterside labourer, as did his brother Daniel. Their younger siblings, Michael and Catherine, worked running errands in a grocers' and tailors' respectively. Ellen and Margaret were still at school, and six-year-old Jane was not yet old enough for school.<sup>16</sup>

Address	Name	Relation to Head of Family	Age	Marital Status	Completed Years the Present Marriage has Lasted	Total Children Born Alive	Children Still Living	Children Who Have Died	Occupation	Where Born
8 Rygate St. St George's. E[ast]	Catherine Sullivan	Head	49	Widow	25	11	7	4	Charwoman	St George's East, London
	Jerome Sullivan	Son	24	Single	-	-	-	-	Waterside Labourer	St George's East, London
	Daniel Sullivan	Son	22	Single	-	-	-	-	Waterside Labourer	St George's East, London
	Michael Sullivan	Son	17	Single	-	-	-	-	Errand Boy	St George's East, London
	Catherine Sullivan	Daughter	16	Single	-	-	-	-	Errand Girl	St George's East, London
	Ellen Sullivan	Daughter	14	-	-	-	-	-	School	St George's East, London
	Margaret Sullivan	Daughter	10	-	-	-	-	-	School	St George's East, London
	Jane Sullivan	Daughter	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	St George's East, London

*7. The SULLIVAN family on the 1911 England Census. The client's ancestors are highlighted in green.*

Jerome SULLIVAN married Alice FULLER, a cigar maker, on Christmas Eve 1911 at St Patrick's Church in Wapping – the same church where Jerome was baptised, and the same church where his parents had married 26 years earlier.<sup>17</sup> Jerome was 25 and Alice was 26 years old. Alice was the daughter of William FULLER, a general labourer, and Bridget CLANCY, and she lived at 80 Prusom Street, a few doors down from where the SULLIVANs had lived in the 1890s. Jerome's brother Daniel signed as one of the two witnesses. The couple may have chosen this date for their wedding because they were guaranteed to have the following two days off work, which would have allowed them to extend their marital celebrations over a longer period.

**At this point in history...**

Six months prior to the wedding of Jerome SULLIVAN and Alice FULLER was the coronation of King George V and Queen Mary at Westminster Abbey in London. George V was known to speak out in defence of his Catholic subjects, which was significant during this time of tension between Catholics and Protestants in the U.K.



8. *The interior of St Patrick's Catholic Church, where the SULLIVAN family worshipped for generations.* © Mazur/www.catholicchurch.org.uk

The marriage between Jerome SULLIVAN and Alice FULLER produced at least four children:

- 1- Edward SULLIVAN (born 26 August 1913 in Saint George in the East, London)<sup>18</sup>
- 2- William SULLIVAN (born 03 September 1915 in Saint George in the East, London)<sup>19</sup>
- 3- Michael SULLIVAN (born 23 June 1918 in Saint George in the East, London)<sup>20</sup>
- 4- Jerome SULLIVAN (born 28 December 1922 in Saint George in the East, London)<sup>21</sup>

In 1912 Jerome was recorded on the electoral register, still living at 8 Rygate Street, presumably together with his wife Alice and his mother Catherine. According to the register they inhabited three unfurnished rooms in the house.<sup>22</sup> By the time Edward was born on 26 August 1913, the family had moved to 4 Pearl Street, Saint George in the East.<sup>23</sup>

Not long after the birth of Jerome and Alice's first child, the Great War broke out between England and Germany. The date was 28 July 1914, and Jerome SULLIVAN was 28 years of age, making him eligible to be conscripted into the military. Fortunately for the family, it appears that Jerome did not serve, possibly either for health reasons or because he was deemed to be more useful at home.

Jerome and Alice's second child, William SULLIVAN, contracted pneumococcal meningitis when he was eighteen months old. Unlike most cases of meningitis, pneumococcal meningitis is bacterial and spreads when someone carrying the infection coughs or sneezes. William was admitted to the East London Hospital in Shadwell but died on 17 March 1917.<sup>24</sup>

The War ended on 11 November 1918, shortly after the birth of Jerome and Alice's third child. The SULLIVAN family did not endure any losses as a result of the conflict.

In 1918, the campaign for universal suffrage began to see some major successes. Whereas previously, only men who owned a certain amount of property were allowed to vote, the 'Representation of the People Act' which was brought into effect that year extended the franchise to all men aged 21 and over and all women aged thirty and over. The general election in December that year is the first in which Alice FULLER was entitled to vote. Jerome's mother, Catherine REGAN, would also have been able to vote for the first time in this election.

The 1920s were a difficult time for Irish people in the United Kingdom. Ireland's ongoing conflict resulted in frequent and tense negotiations with the British government. The Anglo-Irish Treaty, which stated that Great Britain recognised the Irish Free State, later known as the Republic of Ireland, was signed in London on 06 December 1921. County Cork, where Jerome SULLIVAN's grandparents were born, was amongst those counties which joined the Republic of Ireland.

Alice FULLER suffered from a heart condition called mitral stenosis, which is often caused by rheumatic fever. She may have contracted rheumatic fever as a result of the poor conditions in which the family was living – conditions typical for so many East London families in the 1920s. This heart condition led to a cerebral embolism; a variety of stroke caused by a clot preventing blood from reaching the brain. She died at the age of 41 on 17 June 1926 at the workhouse infirmary on Raine Street.<sup>25</sup> Jerome was then left alone with the three remaining children, the youngest of whom was only three years old. His seven-year-old son, Michael SULLIVAN, was taken in by Jerome's sister Catherine Mary SULLIVAN and her husband Timothy DRISCOLL. Three-year-old Jerome SULLIVAN was sent to live with his mother's FULLER relatives. It is unclear what happened to his eldest living son, Edward SULLIVAN, who was twelve years old at this time.

Jerome's mother, Catherine REGAN, died about four years later, on 22 February 1930 at the same workhouse infirmary. Jerome signed as the informant on her death record and gave his address as 4 Pearl Street in Tower Hamlets, where he had lived for nearly seventeen years.<sup>26</sup>

In September 1939, the Second World War broke out between England, Germany and their respective allies. At this time Jerome SULLIVAN was living alone at 14 Old Tower Buildings in Stepney.<sup>27</sup> At 53 years of age he was still performing heavy manual labour as a stevedore,

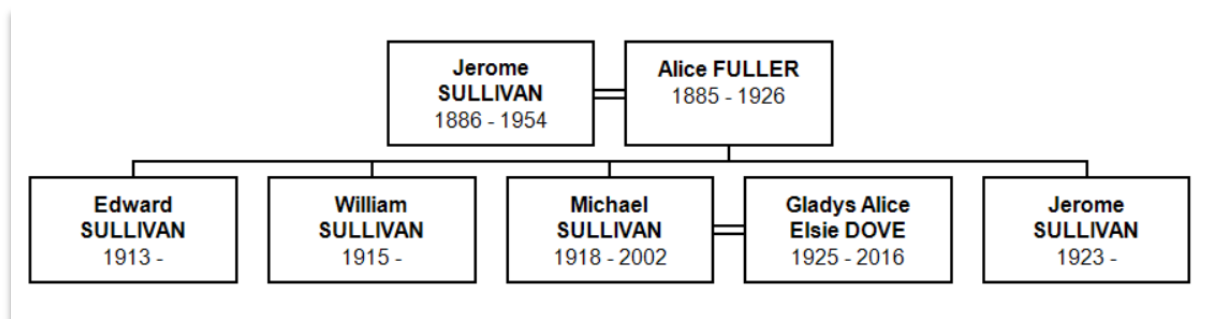
but he was too old to be called-up for military service. His three sons, however, were all eligible to be conscripted. His son Michael SULLIVAN served in the Royal Navy, and his son Jerome SULLIVAN served in the army. It is not clear whether or not Edward SULLIVAN served.

Address	Name	Birth Date	Marital Status	Personal Occupation
14 Old Tower Buildings	Sullivan, Jerome	8 April 1886	Widowed	Stevedore Heavy Worker

*9. Jerome SULLIVAN recorded on the 1939 Register*

Between 07 October 1940 and 06 June 1941, a total of 93 bombs were dropped on Stepney, often very close to where the SULLIVANs lived. The Second World War ended on 02 September 1945, and though much of East London was destroyed in the Blitz, the SULLIVAN family survived to see Britain's victory.

Jerome SULLIVAN eventually retired from his job as a stevedore. His last address was 1 Sladebrook Road, Kidbrooke, London. He died on 15 March 1954 at the Memorial Hospital in Woolwich, from complications following a partial gastrectomy, including cachexia (weakness of the body following a chronic illness), a faecal fistula (a stomach condition caused by miscommunication between the bowels and the skin) and a burst abdomen. He was 67 years old.<sup>28</sup> His son Michael was present at the time of his death and signed as the informant on his death record.



*10. The children of Jerome SULLIVAN and Alice FULLER*

## Edward Thomas SULLIVAN (1861-1908) &amp; Catherine REGAN (1861-1930)

Edward Thomas SULLIVAN was born on 02 February 1861 at his parents' home at 12 Smith's Place, Saint George in the East, Middlesex, England.<sup>29</sup> His parents were Irish-Catholic, and he was baptised on 28 February 1862 at the Roman Catholic Church of St Mary and St Michael in Stepney. His godparents were Thomas MULQUEENEY and Ellena LILY.<sup>30</sup>

**At this point in history...**

The first ever colour photograph was taken in 1861 by Thomas Sutton and James Clerk Maxwell. The subject of the photograph was a tartan ribbon, which Maxwell revealed to the world during a lecture at the Royal Institution.

Edward's father, Mortimer John SULLIVAN (also known as 'Morty') worked as a mariner for the merchant navy, and his mother, Mary CUSACK, was a housewife. At the time that Edward was born, his parents used the surnames 'O'SULLIVAN' and 'SULLIVAN' interchangeably, and it was Edward himself who first dropped the 'O' from his surname altogether.

Edward Thomas SULLIVAN was first recorded on the census on 07 April 1861, when he was two months old, living at 12 Smith's Place, Saint George in the East.<sup>31</sup>

Address	Name	Relation to Head of Family	Marital Status	Age	Occupation	Where Born
12 Smith Place	Mortimer O'Sullivan	Head	Married	28	Mariner	Ireland
	Mary O'Sullivan	Wife	Married	30	-	Ireland
	Jeremiah O'Sullivan	Son	-	4	Scholar	Middlesex, St Georges East
	Eliza Jane O'Sullivan	Daughter	-	3	-	Middlesex, St Georges East
	Edward T. O'Sullivan	Son	-	2 months	-	Middlesex, St Georges East
	Ellen Cussack	Sister in law	Unmarried	17	General Servant	Middlesex, St Georges East

*11. The SULLIVAN family on the 1861 England Census. The client's ancestors are highlighted in green.*

Edward lived there with his parents, his two older siblings and his maternal aunt Ellen CUSACK who had come to England from Ireland with her sister. The family shared this address with two other families: the ASHLINs, who had two children, and the DENNELLYs, who did not have any children with them.

On 02 April 1871 the SULLIVAN family were still at Smith's Place, but now they lived at number 18.<sup>32</sup>



Address	Name	Relation to Head of Family	Marital Status	Age	Occupation	Where Born
18 Smiths Pl[ace]	Morty Sullivan	Head	Married	38	Mariner	Cork, Ireland
	Mary Sullivan	Wife	Married	40	-	Cork, Ireland
	Jeremiah Sullivan	Son	-	14	Scholar	Middlesex, St George E
	Ellen Sullivan	Daughter	-	12	Scholar	Middlesex, St George E
	Edward T. Sullivan	Son	-	10	Scholar	Middlesex, St George E
	Ellen Cussak	Wife's Sis[ter]	Unmarried	28	None	Ireland

12. The SULLIVAN family on the 1871 England Census. The client's ancestors are highlighted in green.

Edward and his siblings were all attending school, as in 1870 it became compulsory to remain in education until the age of fifteen. At this time the SULLIVANs had their home to themselves – an unusual situation for a working-class family in East London.

On 03 April 1881, Edward was still living with his parents, this time at 1 Red Lion Street in Wapping, London.<sup>33</sup>

Address	Name	Relation to Head of Family	Marital Status	Age	Occupation	Where Born
1 Red Lion Street	Mortimer J. Sullivan	Head	Married	50	Mariner	Ireland, Cork
	Mary Sullivan	Wife	Married	52	Wife	Ireland, Cork
	Edw[ar]d Tho[ma]s Sullivan	Son	Unmarried	24	Wharf Labourer	Midd[le]sex, Wapping

13. The SULLIVAN family on the 1881 England Census. The client's ancestors are highlighted in green.

In contrast to their situation in 1871, the SULLIVANs now shared their home with several families, including Edward's married sister, Ellen Jane SULLIVAN, her two young children, and Edward's aunt Ellen CUSACK. Altogether there were 25 people resident in this property on census night.

Edward Thomas SULLIVAN married Catherine REGAN on 12 April 1885, at St Patrick's Church in Wapping. Catherine (also known as 'Kate') was the daughter of Daniel REGAN, a labourer, and Mary Ann HURLEY. At the time of their marriage, Edward was 24 years old, working as a stevedore's labourer and living at 7 Queen's Head Place in Wapping. Catherine was 23 years old and lived at 8 White Thorn Place in Saint George in the East. Their witnesses were Catherine's brother Denis REGAN, and Ellen CRAMER.<sup>34</sup>

#### At this point in history...

On 24 January 1885, the Fenian dynamite campaign saw Irish terrorists attack Westminster Hall and the Tower of London with dynamite. They were fighting against the British Empire and campaigning for an independent Irish Republic.

The marriage between Edward Thomas SULLIVAN and Catherine REGAN produced eleven children:



- 1- Jerome SULLIVAN (born 08 April 1886 in Saint George in the East, London)<sup>35</sup>
- 2- Daniel Thomas SULLIVAN (born 11 April 1888 in Saint George in the East, London)<sup>36</sup>
- 3- Edward SULLIVAN (born 15 August 1890 in Saint George in the East, London)<sup>37</sup>
- 4- John Mickael SULLIVAN (born 29 December 1891 in Saint George in the East, London)<sup>38</sup>
- 5- Michael SULLIVAN (born 06 November 1893 in Saint George in the East, London)<sup>39</sup>
- 6- Catherine Mary SULLIVAN (born 02 February 1895 in Saint George in the East, London)<sup>40</sup>
- 7- Ellen Jane SULLIVAN (born 16 September 1896 in Saint George in the East, London)<sup>41</sup>
- 8- Unknown SULLIVAN (died in infancy; probably born c.1898)
- 9- Margaret SULLIVAN (born 29 July 1900 in Saint George in the East, London)<sup>42</sup>
- 10- Elizabeth Ann SULLIVAN (born 09 December 1902 in Saint George in the East, London)<sup>43</sup>
- 11- Jane SULLIVAN (born 04 July 1904 in Saint George in the East, London)<sup>44</sup>

Stevedore labourers like Edward Thomas SULLIVAN endured difficult and dangerous conditions at work. Accidents were common and pay was poor, although conditions were better for stevedores than they were for standard labourers. The London Dock Strike broke out on 14 August 1889, and it is possible that Edward was one of the 100,000 strikers campaigning for better working conditions. With two young children to support, this would have been a difficult time for Edward to go on strike, but the strike was eventually victorious, resulting in the establishment of trade unions and better pay for the workers. This strike was important to the development of the British labour movement and helped to raise public awareness about the poverty suffered by so many in Victorian Britain.

On 05 April 1891 the family were recorded on the 1891 England Census living at 76 Prusom Street, where they had lived since the birth of their first child. Edward was working as a stevedore and Catherine worked as a charwoman.<sup>45</sup> With a

**A Protest Song (London Dockworkers, 1889)**

Sing a song of sixpence

Dockers on the Strike.

Guinea Pigs are hungry

As the greedy pike.

'Till the docks are opened

Burns for you will speak.

Courage lads and you'll win

Well within the week.

fast-growing family, it would have been difficult for the SULLIVANs to survive on one income, so even with three young children at home all day, Catherine had to look for paid work.



14. *The Ship and Bell Pub at 74 Prusom Street. It is possible that the house visible to the right of the pub is 76 Prusom Street, where the SULLIVAN family lived in 1891.*

Edward and Catherine's son Edward died in infancy, and then their fourth child, John Mickael SULLIVAN, was born shortly afterwards. By 27 January 1892, the date of John Mickael's baptism, the SULLIVANs had moved to 16 Rygate Street in Saint George in the East.<sup>46</sup>

In 1893, the 'Westminster Roman Catholic Census' was instated by Archbishop of Westminster Herbert VAUGHAN, who wanted to know how many of the people living in his diocese were practising Catholics. The SULLIVAN family were amongst those living in the diocese of Westminster at this time.

Father Andrew DOOLEY, the local priest from St Patrick's, was responsible for recording the Catholics in his parish. He visited Edward and Kate SULLIVAN at their home, 16 Rygate Street, and asked questions about their religious practice. There, Father DOOLEY learned that the SULLIVANs' eldest son, Jerome, attended Catholic school, and that both Edward and Kate were married and had been confirmed.

Kate was evidently more pious than Edward – she had received communion during the most recent Easter period and she regularly attended mass. Edward had neither performed his Easter duties, nor did he regularly attend mass. In spite of this lapse in religiosity on Edward's part, Father DOOLEY was unconcerned, stating that he did not believe that the SULLIVAN children were in imminent danger of becoming criminals, and that he did not believe that their faith was in danger. He had no criticisms to make about this family – although he made many critical comments about their neighbours.<sup>47</sup> Edward and Kate's son John Mickael died soon after this census was taken, in about 1894.

The family moved to 2 Lowder Street, Saint George in the East, later that year.<sup>48</sup> This is where they were living when the census was taken on 31 March 1901.<sup>49</sup> Their eldest son, fourteen-year-old Jerome, worked as an office boy. Legally, Jerome should have stayed in school until he was fifteen years old, but many young people from poor families left school early, and Jerome's income would have helped his parents to provide for their growing family. This extra money may have been the reason that Catherine was able to give up her charring work.

**At this point in history...**

On 05 August 1901, Britain's first commercial cinema opened in Islington, London.

Unfortunately, in 1904, Edward and Catherine lost a fourth child – their one-year-old daughter, Elizabeth Ann.

On 12 September 1907, Edward Thomas SULLIVAN was found dead at his home at 2 Lowder Street. He had been suffering from pneumonia, but his death was still somewhat unexpected and led to an inquest. The inquest found that he had died as a result of heart failure. He was 46 years old.<sup>50</sup>

His widow, Catherine REGAN, was left alone with several children, the youngest of whom was three years old when Edward died. When the census was taken on 02 April 1911, Catherine still had many of her adult children living with her at 8 Rygate Street. Her four eldest children were working, and she was charring again.<sup>51</sup>

Catherine had endured a great deal in her life. She had given birth to eleven children, of whom four had died prematurely. The loss of her husband whilst some of her children were still young meant that she was dependent on her older children, and she had to work even though her youngest daughter was not yet at school. She lived through the Great War, which lasted from 28 July 1914 until 11 November 1918. She saw her son, Jerome, widowed while

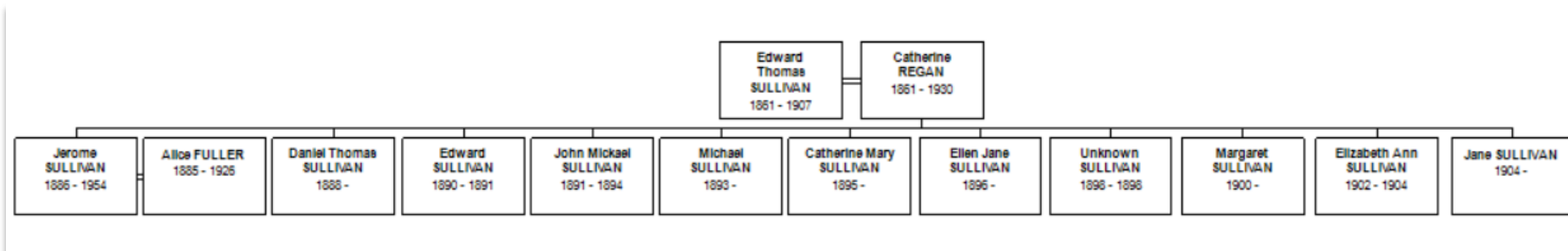
his children were still very little, but she did live long enough to know some of her many grandchildren.

Catherine REGAN's last address was 31 Frobisher House, Raymond Street, Stepney. Frobisher House was part of the Wapping Housing Estate, which would later sustain terrible damage during the Blitz. Catherine REGAN died on 22 February 1930 at the workhouse infirmary on Raine Street, as the result of a cerebral haemorrhage (a bleed on the brain). She was 68 years old. Her son, Jerome SULLIVAN, signed as the informant on her death record.<sup>52</sup>



*15. The workhouse on Raine Street*

Edward Thomas SULLIVAN & Catherine REGAN



16. The children of Edward Thomas SULLIVAN and Catherine REGAN

## Mortimer John SULLIVAN (c.1833-1896) & Mary CUSACK (c.1831-1899)

Mortimer John SULLIVAN, also known as 'Morty', was born c.1833 in Cork, Ireland to Jeremiah SULLIVAN, a merchant's clerk, and a mother whose identity is currently unknown.<sup>53</sup> Mortimer was born during the 'Tithe War', and his adolescence was overshadowed by the Great Famine in Ireland, which began in 1845 as the result of a potato blight, when he was about twelve years old. A total of 1 million people died because of starvation and the British government's refusal to intervene. The famine ended in 1849, by which time Mortimer was about sixteen years old. Like so many other Irish people during this period, he migrated from Ireland to England between 1851-

1854, during which time he settled in Saint George in the East, Middlesex. He was later joined by at least one sister, Jane SULLIVAN, who also married and settled down in Saint George in the East.<sup>54</sup>

Mortimer John SULLIVAN married Mary CUSACK on 17 December 1854 at the Catholic Chapel on Johnson Street, Saint George in the East.<sup>55</sup> This chapel was a temporary instalment in the newly built schools of St Patrick and St Austin, while the local congregation waited for the completion of a new church on Commercial Road. Whereas previously Catholics in Saint George in the East had been forced to worship in private, this new church represented a change in attitudes which meant that they could now practise their faith openly.

Mary CUSACK, who was also born in Cork, was the daughter of Thomas CUSACK, who was a cooper by trade. At the time of their marriage Mortimer was 21 years old, worked as a mariner, and lived at 4 Smith's Place, Saint George in the East. Mary was 23 years old and lived at 2 Smith's Place. Their witnesses were Thomas GROGAN, who lived with Mortimer, and Mary STEWARD.

The marriage of Mortimer John SULLIVAN and Mary CUSACK produced at least four children:

- 1- Jeremiah SULLIVAN (born 10 May 1857 in Saint George in the East, Middlesex)<sup>56</sup>

### **At this point in history...**

The 'Tithe War' was a conflict between the British government and Catholic protesters in Ireland who were angry that their community was being taxed for the upkeep of the Protestant Church of Ireland. On 18 December 1834, armed Constabulary reinforced by the British Army killed nine protesters in Gortroe, County Cork. This event came to be known as the 'Rathcormac Massacre'.

- 2- Ellen Jane SULLIVAN (born 19 September 1858 in Saint George in the East, Middlesex)<sup>57</sup>
- 3- Edward Thomas SULLIVAN (born 02 February 1861 in Saint George in the East, Middlesex)<sup>58</sup>
- 4- Daniel SULLIVAN (born 12 September 1862 in Saint George in the East, Middlesex)<sup>59</sup>

The SULLIVAN children were amongst the first to be baptised at the newly built St Mary and St Michael's Catholic Church in Stepney.



*17. The interior of St Mary & St Michael's Catholic Church*

Mortimer and Mary were first recorded on the England and Wales Census on 07 April 1861, living at 12 Smith's Place, Saint George in the East. At this time, the couple had three young children and Mortimer worked as a mariner for the merchant navy, which would have meant that he was away from home often. Mary's seventeen-year-old sister, Ellen CUSACK, lived with them and worked as a general servant.<sup>60</sup> Conditions were crowded in East London and Middlesex houses at this time, and the SULLIVANs shared their home with two other families.

Infant mortality rates were high during the 1860s, especially in these impoverished sections of the East End, and Mortimer and Mary lost their youngest son, Daniel SULLIVAN, sometime between 1864-1866.



By 02 April 1871, the SULLIVAN family had moved to 18 Smith's Place, where it appears that they lived alone with their three surviving children and Ellen CUSACK, who was no longer working. All three children were attending school.<sup>61</sup>

On 03 April 1881, Mortimer John SULLIVAN and Mary CUSACK were living at 1 Red Lion Street in Wapping, London. Mary's sister, Ellen CUSACK, still lived at the same address, along with Mortimer and Mary's daughter, Ellen Jane SULLIVAN, who had married and had chosen to remain at their home while starting her family. Mortimer and Mary's son Edward was still part of their household and worked as a wharf labourer.<sup>62</sup>

**At this point in history...**

Just over two weeks after this census was taken, on the 18 April 1881, the Natural History Museum in London was opened to the public for the first time.

Ellen Jane's husband was a sailor, so like Mortimer he would have been away from home often, and on this night, he happened to be away. Ellen Jane's older daughter was three years of age and her younger daughter had only recently been born, but with her parents, her brother and her aunt nearby, Ellen Jane was not left alone to struggle. With four other families also sharing this house, she would rarely ever have been alone.

By the time of the census on 05 April 1891, the SULLIVAN family's circumstances had severely deteriorated.<sup>63</sup>

Address	Name	Relation to Head of Family	Marital Status	Age	Occupation	Where Born	If Dead-and-Dumb, Blind, Lunatic, Imbecile or Idiot
5 Up[per] Well Alley	Morty Sullivan	Head	Married	59	-	Ireland, Cork	Deaf, blind, partly deformed
	Mary Sullivan	Wife	Married	60	-	Ireland, Cork	-
	Ellen Cusack	Wife's Sister	Single	53	-	Ireland, Cork	Blind
	Julia Moriarty	Visitor	Single	60	Cook (Domestic)	Ireland, Cork	-

*18. The SULLIVAN family on the 1891 England Census. The client's ancestors are highlighted in green.*

Mortimer John SULLIVAN had evidently suffered a terrible accident or disease, as he had become deaf, blind and partly deformed. Mary's sister, Ellen CUSACK, was also blind. Mortimer was no longer working, and the SULLIVANs shared their home at 5 Upper Well Alley, Wapping, with six other families comprising ten adults and ten children. They were being visited on census night by Julia MORIARTY, a local woman who, like them, was also born in Cork.

Mary CUSACK was recorded soon after on the 1893 'Westminster Roman Catholic Census', living at 2 Upper Well Alley with her sister Ellen. Mortimer John SULLIVAN was away from home at this time. The census-taker noted that Ellen was 'almost blind' and, while Mary had



no occupation, Ellen's occupation was 'knitting'. They shared their home with at least two other families.<sup>64</sup>

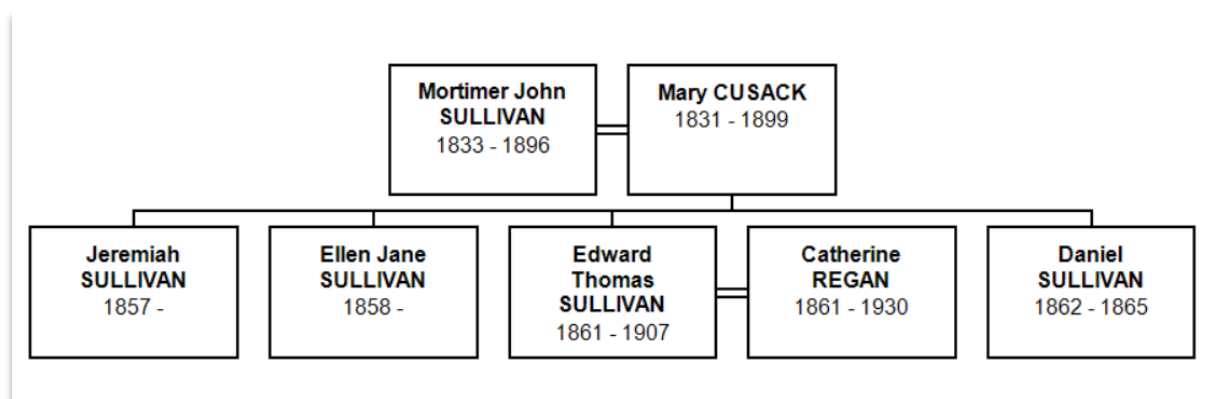
Address	Name	Occupation	Whether Attended Mass	Easter Duties	Confirmation	Married	Remarks
2 Upper Well Alley	Ellen Cusack	Knitting	Yes	Yes	Yes	-	Almost blind
	Mary Sullivan	-	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Husband away

19. *Mary and her sister, Ellen CUSACK, recorded on the 1893 Westminster Roman Catholic Census. The client's ancestor is highlighted in green.*

It was observed that the two sisters were faithful Catholics; both had been confirmed and had performed their Easter duties, and both regularly attended mass. Mortimer must have been outside the jurisdiction of the census on this night, but his whereabouts are unknown.

Mortimer retired officially from the merchant navy and did at some point begin receiving his naval pension. On 18 April 1896, Mortimer John SULLIVAN was found dead at 22a. Juniper Street in Shadwell, Stepney.<sup>65</sup> An inquest found that he died from syncope from heart failure, which means that a heart attack caused him to lose consciousness. It is unclear whether Mortimer was living on Juniper Street at this time.

Mary CUSACK died on 07 December 1899 at 12 Dundee Street, Wapping. She was 67 years old and died from 'morbus cordis' – a medical phrase meaning 'unspecified heart disease'. Her daughter, Ellen Jane SULLIVAN, was with her when she died and signed as the informant on her death record.<sup>66</sup>



20. *The children of Mortimer John SULLIVAN and Mary CUSACK*

## Potential Siblings for Mortimer John SULLIVAN

When Mortimer John SULLIVAN migrated from Ireland to England, it seems that he travelled with, or was later joined by, some of his relatives. His younger sister, Jane SULLIVAN, arrived in Saint George in the East within ten years of Mortimer's arrival. She is recorded on the 1871 England and Wales Census with her husband Phillip HOOPER, living on the same street as Mortimer and his family.<sup>67</sup>

Other potential relatives include the godparents to Mortimer and Mary's children. Daniel SULLIVAN's godparents are James SULLIVAN and Mary Ann SULLIVAN, who may be siblings or a brother and a sister-in-law to Mortimer.<sup>68</sup> Jeremiah SULLIVAN's godfather is Daniel SULLIVAN, who may be another brother to Mortimer.<sup>69</sup> Additionally there are several neighbours on the 1861 and 1871 Census with the surname 'SULLIVAN', and this can be investigated further by ordering the marriage records of these potential relatives to identify their paternity.

## DNA Evidence

The client's DNA matches have been organised so that those matches descended from the SULLIVANs can be identified. The following matches share SULLIVAN ancestors with the client:

- Andrew Maynard (117cM): Andrew Maynard is likely to be descended from Edward Thomas SULLIVAN and Catherine REGAN. The client should contact this match if he wishes to confirm this relationship.
- TerryMann67 (66cM): TerryMann67 is descended from Mortimer John SULLIVAN and Mary CUSACK via their daughter Ellen Jane SULLIVAN. He has misidentified Ellen Jane's parentage on his family tree, so this match is currently unaware that he is descended from Mortimer and Mary.
- Bhibbert1947 (32cM): Bhibbert1947 is descended from Jeremiah SULLIVAN via his daughter, Jane SULLIVAN. Bhibbert1947 has misidentified Jeremiah's wife, so the client is advised to avoid copying information from this match's family tree.

The DNA match with Bhibbert1947 led to the discovery of the younger sister of Mortimer John SULLIVAN, namely Jane SULLIVAN, born c.1842 in Cork, Ireland. Refer to the previous chapter for more information about Jane SULLIVAN.

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