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Front Row.—Maurice O'Connor, Patrick O'Connor, John O'Connor.*

THE O'CONNOR CLAN

From The Observer, Saturday March 6, 1909

IN APPRECIATION

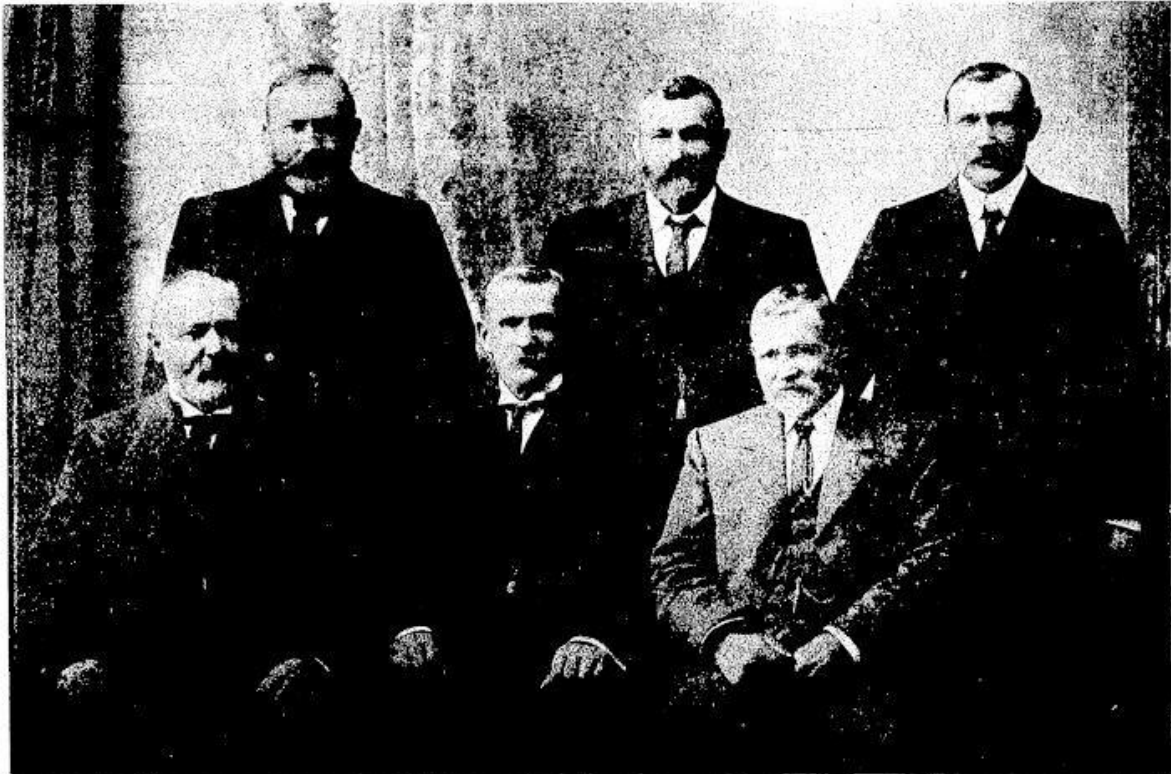
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Document prepared by: Seamus Fleming

"The O'Connor Clan."

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Sons of Daniel Paddy O'Connor & Mary Behane

*Back Row.—Dan O'Connor, J. D. O'Connor, T. B. O'Connor.
Front Row.—Maurice O'Connor, Patrick O'Connor, John O'Connor.*

The six exceedingly stalwart sons of Erin shown in the photo below represent the six surviving male members of the O'Connor clan. The family is strong numerically as well as physically, for in addition to "the big six" there are also five of their sisters still living, while one other brother is dead, so that the family originally consisted of a round dozen.

Probably, the two best known to the present generation of Aucklanders are Maurice, who relinquishes the occupancy of

the Waverley Hotel on March 10, on which date he will have been proprietor of that popular hostelry for exactly 10 years, and Timothy B., better known as "Tim," will reign in his stead.

After leaving Home, Maurice spent a couple of years in the United States, after which he came to this colony and joined the Armed Constabulary in 1873. Six years later he was drafted to the detective force, in which he rose rapidly until he couldn't rise any higher. In other words, he was appointed chief detective in Christchurch, holding that position until 1895, in which year he was transferred to Dunedin to act in a similar capacity. He remained in Otago until 1897, when virulent attacks of insomnia forced him to resign and he went to Australia to recruit his health. On his return to Auckland some ten years ago he took over the Waverley Hotel from "Joe" McRae, the former proprietor, and has run it with conspicuous success ever since. Maurice is a pretty considerable landed proprietor, and only a few months ago, purchased a block of buildings in Queen-St for the tidy sum of £20,000. He leaves shortly for a trip to the Old Country and bears with him the good wishes of all who know him.

"Tim" has been actively identified with athletic sport ever since he has been in Auckland. In 1893 he was a member of the New Zealand athletic team that went to Australia, and he personally won the shot putting and hammer throwing events. As a footballer, Tim was long a tower of strength to New Zealand in general and Auckland in particular. He was a member of the first N.Z. team that toured Australia in 1884, was captain of the Auckland team that beat Stoddart's English combination in 1888, besides playing in other matches

innumerable. He has also been prominent in rowing circles, and is still a member of the Waitemata Rowing Club. In business, Tim was for many years contractor to the Auckland Harbour Board. In addition to doing a lot of dredging work, he did the first section of reclamation at what is now Victoria Park. Subsequently he took over the Victoria Hotel in about 1897, remaining there for some 10 years. A keen sport and one of the best of good fellows, Tim is bound to be popular in his new role as host of the Waverley Hotel.

Dan O'Connor was for a great many years an official in the railway service, first at Christchurch, and again in Auckland. Some eight years ago he left the Government service and took over the Shakespeare Hotel, of which he acted as host for three or four years. City life palling on him, he went on the land and is now the happy possessor of a highly delectable farm at Clevedon in the Waikato.

"Pat" and "Jack" O'Connor have always been together, and are known in the Waikato (where, like Dan, they are now farming) as the O'Connor Brothers. Some 40 years ago, they followed the goldmining pursuits on the West Coast, after which they went to Australia and took up contracting work in the Darling Downs district. Subsequently returning to New Zealand, they purchased the property at Te Awamutu where they now reside. In the early days, Pat was well known on the West Coast as an invincible wrestler, and judging from his appearance, he would be a formidable gentleman to tackle even now.

Jeremiah O'Connor, better known as "Jerry" was also a might wrestler and a terrific combat which he had with Sam Carlisle at Coromandel about 20 years ago is still remembered. Jerry

began his business career as a contractor in Queensland. At the time of the boom he came to New Zealand and the Golconda Hotel at Coromandel from which he retired to take up farming some six years ago. Truly it may be said that the O'Connor family's business career has been one of brilliant success.



Daniel 'Paddy' Charles O'Connor and his wife Mary Behane from
Abbeydorney North Kerry.

PARS ABOUT PEOPLE

Observer, Volume XXIII, Issue 51, 5 September 1903,

During the past week or so, there has been a re-union in Auckland of six stalwart brothers, who are all well known to old residents. They came here in the early seventies from the Emerald Isle, with their parents, but since then they have been widely scattered over many colonies, each in pursuit of those twin-sirens, wealth and happiness, which have deluded so many of the sons of Adam. They have not been, on the whole, unsuccessful, but they have worked hard, and were never content to sit down and wait. The O'Connor family is a weighty one physically, whatever it may be in other respects, and those six brothers are calculated to test the stability of the footpaths.

Two of the brothers are engaged in farming on a large scale at Te Awa-mutu, where Patrick, the eldest, occupies a very prominent position in local politics, and is known far and wide as a generous patron of sport and an all-round fine fellow. His brother John worthily seconds him. Maurice, now the popular host of the Waverley Hotel, Auckland, was for many years in the detective force of the colony, and occupied the rank of chief detective at Dunedin and Christchurch. Had he remained in the force until now he would, in the usual course of affairs, have attained the rank of inspector. Unfortunately, his health would not admit of this, though he has now fairly recovered. Daniel is the well-known boniface of the Shakespeare, Jeremiah kept the Golconda at Coromandel, and the youngest, Tim, has also joined the ranks of the licensed victuallers, and makes a success of that old and popular house, the Victoria. Tim is best known as

one of the champion footballers of the province half a generation ago, and not to know genial Tim O'Connor is to argue oneself unknown.

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The occasion which drew the family together as related was a sad one, the recent death of their excellent mother, a lady who had endeared herself to all who knew her, and was as well known for her deep piety as for her charity. It was characteristic of her that she should have died while on her way to attend to the duties of her religion. By her death, the Roman Catholic Church loses a staunch and ungrudging helper in many good causes, and a circle far larger than that of her family will have cause to lament her loss.

"The O'Connor Clan."

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This article
has been

*NAILING HIS COLOURS TO THE MAST.
A Sketch at the Thistle Hotel.*

*Maurice O'Connor : Bedad! that's the kind of national flag I'd like to see
hanging everywhere. Ain't it a beauty?*

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The Maurice O'Connor in this picture was a son of Daniel and Mary nee Behane. He remained unmarried and became quite wealthy through owning and running some very good hotels in Auckland. In 1898 Daniel Sr had died on the large farm owned by two of their sons and Mary came back to Auckland to live with Maurice (lots of other family members around). She actually died in 1903 on the way to Mass at the local cathedral having just left the Waverley hotel which Maurice was running at the time, before taking a trip back to Ireland then buying the Thistle Hotel. Information courtesy of Paddy Franklin, Auckland NZ.