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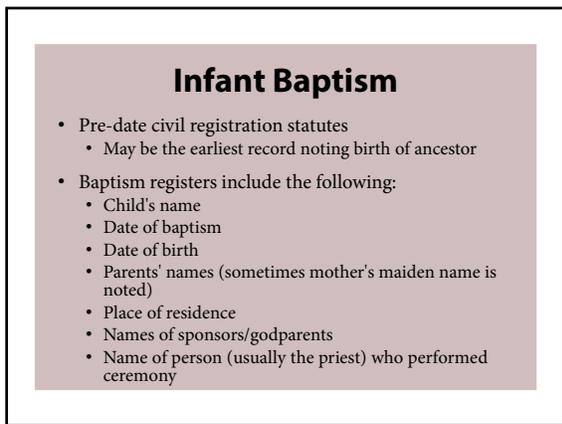
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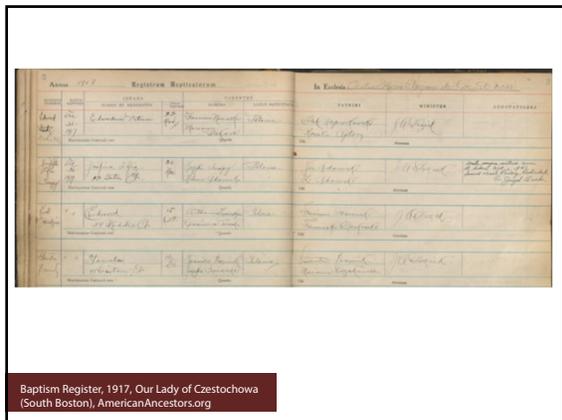
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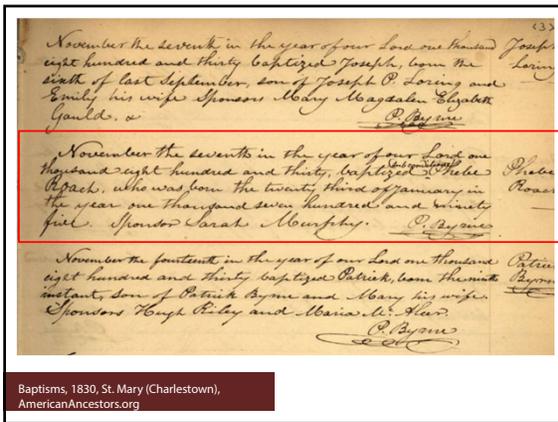


6

Adult Baptisms

- Abbreviated baptism entries
- May be required by local parish in order to marry in Catholic church
- Do not typically include parents' names
- Records will usually note birth date or age
- May only include one sponsor

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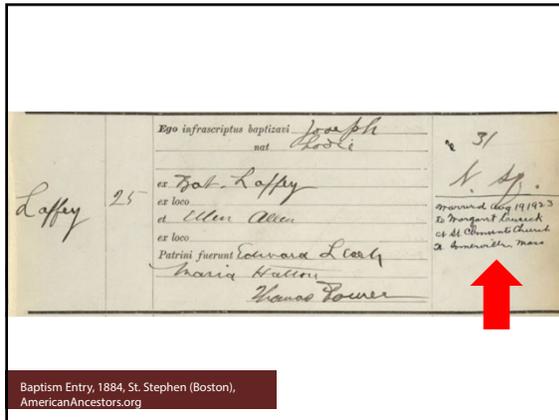


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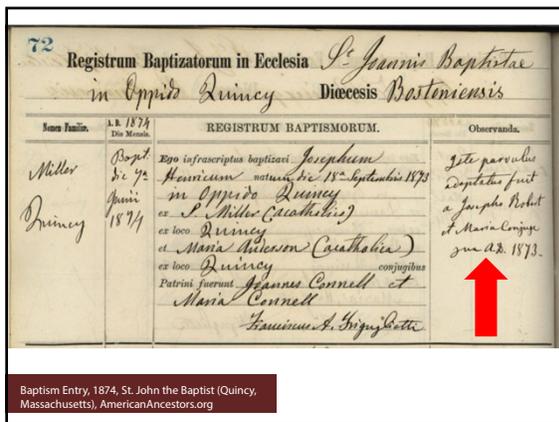
Baptismal Certificates

- Formal document given after a baptism that includes their name, date baptized, and where baptized.
- Sometimes the sponsors/godparents are noted.
- Does NOT usually include any notes left by the clergy
- Immigrants may have brought these over from the "old country" as a birth certificate substitute.
- These certificates may be included with marriage records if priests were verifying baptism status.

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Reconciliation/Penance

- Received before First Holy Communion
- A list of children may be noted and included in communion records
- Also recorded in sick calls
 - The sick parishioner would confess their sins to the priest who came to their home

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Eucharist/Holy Communion

- Usually received at 7 or 8 years old
 - Adults may be included if they converted to Catholicism
 - Prefixes often used with women to denote marital status
- Date and name were recorded
- Separate lists for boys, girls, adult men, and adult women

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1883. Names of Girls who made their First Communion

1	Buligan, Lizzie
2	Cullon, Mary
3	Cunningham, Maggie
4	Quade, Mary
5	Cowan, Julia
6	Cowan, Alice
7	Dunbar, Carrie
8	Dunwood, Nellie
9	Boan, Mary
10	Boyer, Sophie
11	Boyer, Annie

First Communion, Girls, 1883, Gate of Heaven (South Boston), AmericanAncestors.org

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Total No. Boys & Girls 205.

First Communion, Adult Women, 1887, All Saints (Roxbury) AmericanAncestors.org

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Confirmation

- Usually received between 12 and 16 years old
- Details can include:
 - Date
 - Name (including Confirmation Name)
 - Age
 - Sponsor

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Confirmation Register, 1897, St. Mary of the Annunciation (Melrose)

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"Speak Now or Forever Hold Your Peace"

- Banns were a public notice of an intended marriage. It was a common requirement during the colonial era.
- Typically given over 3 consecutive Sundays in church or in a public place
 - Dispensations may be issued to remove the banns requirement

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"Speak Now or Forever Hold Your Peace" Cont'd

- By the 19th and 20th Century, the practice faded when marriage licenses were used instead.
 - The Catholic church removed the banns requirement in 1983.
- Allows anyone who has an objection to the marriage to state their case
 - One or both parties were too young
 - One or both parties were already married
 - Close cousins

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Matrimony

- Weddings would traditionally take place at the bride's parish church
- Details included:
 - Name of couple
 - Date
 - Names of witnesses
 - Priest's name (usually signed on the marriage record)
 - Parents' names
 - Date and place of baptism
 - Dispensation of banns

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Pre-Nuptial Investigations

- Some immigrants carried their baptismal certificates with them.
- When there was no baptismal record, priests would often send a letter to the home parish of the person to verify they were baptized Catholic.
- By the early 20th century, many priests would record in the marginal notes for the baptism register the details of the marriage taking place outside of the parish, especially if overseas.

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No.	CONTRACTING PARTIES	RESIDENCE	PARENTS	Date of Marriage	WITNESSES	PRIEST	Date and Place of Baptism	Banns Dispensations Remarks
	John J. Sullivan Catherine Spence	111 South St. Boston Boston	Joseph J. Sullivan Mary M. Sullivan Charles Spence Mary Spence	June 25 1871	James D. Hayes Mary Spence	Wm. A. Dacey	St. Ann's Church Boston	
	John J. Sullivan James M. Fitzpatrick	111 South St. Boston Boston	Joseph J. Sullivan Mary M. Sullivan James M. Fitzpatrick Elizabeth Fitzpatrick	June 25 1871	James D. Hayes Mary Spence	Wm. A. Dacey	St. Ann's Church Boston	
	Charles P. Mabry Elizabeth M. Beach	111 South St. Boston Boston	Charles P. Mabry Elizabeth M. Beach	June 25 1871	James D. Hayes Mary Spence	Wm. A. Dacey	St. Ann's Church Boston	

Marriage Register, Holy Cross (Boston), 1916, AmericanAncestors.org

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Date of Marriage	WITNESSES	PRIEST	Date and Place of Baptism	Banns Dispensations Remarks
June 25 1871	James D. Hayes Mary Spence	Wm. A. Dacey	St. Ann's Church Boston June 27 1871	
June 25 1871	Daniel Mabry Elizabeth Fitzpatrick	Wm. A. Dacey	St. Ann's Church Boston June 27 1871	
June 25 1871	Charles P. Mabry Elizabeth M. Beach	Wm. A. Dacey	St. Ann's Church Boston June 27 1871	

Marriage Register, 1916 Cont'd

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Tip

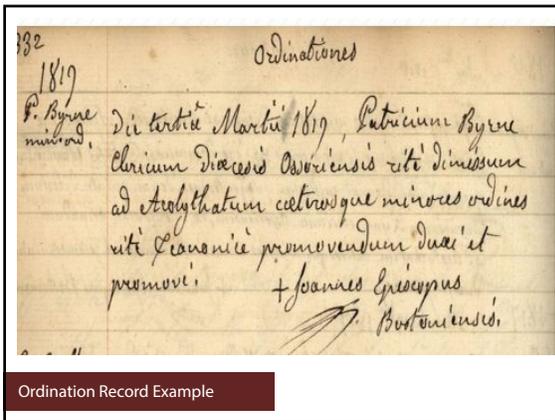
Marriage witnesses may be close relatives (siblings, cousins, or in-laws of the couple)

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Holy Orders/Ordinations

- Priests' records located in archdiocese where ordained or the church they served
- For specific orders of priests and nuns, records kept in provincial or national houses of the order
- Class 5 will discuss this in more detail

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Ordination Record Example

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Where to Find Sacramental Records

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Published Records

- American-Canadian Genealogical Society (<https://acgs.org>)
 - Compiled over 150 volumes of parish vital records (repertoires)
 - Cover New England, Northern and Hudson River Valley New York, Quebec, Maritimes, and Acadian records
 - Index on AmericanAncestors.org

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Local Archdiocese

- Look up the local archdiocese on the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops web site
- The sacramental record inventory should be consulted (if available) to see what records survived and if there were any church merges that occurred
- Contact the Archdiocese archives for access to their records – some of the records may still be held at the parish church

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Bishops and Dioceses by State

Alabama back to top

<p>Archdiocese of Mobile 450 Government Street Mobile, AL 36602 http://imob.arch.org</p>	<p>Archbishop Thomas J. Rodi Archbishop of Mobile</p>
<p>Diocese of Birmingham 2121 3rd Avenue North P.O. Box 12047 Birmingham, AL 35202-2047 http://www.bimdiocese.org/</p>	<p>Bishop Steven J. Raica Bishop of Birmingham</p> <p>Bishop Robert J. Baker Bishop Emeritus of Birmingham</p>

<https://www.usccb.org/about/bishops-and-dioceses/all-dioceses>

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BostonCatholic.org
Archdiocese of Boston

Offices & Services » Back to Offices/Services/Directory

Address: 66 Brooks Drive, Braintree, MA 02154-3030
Telephone: 781-863-0333

- Archives
- Make a Payment or Donate
- Submit a Research Request
- Make a Research Appointment
- Collection Overview
- Sacramental Records - Overview
- Cemetery Records
- Ethnic Parishes
- Parish Establishment Dates - Parish Register
- Parish Establishment Dates - By Location
- External Resources
- FAQs
- Current Exhibitions

Archives

Thank you for visiting the website of the Boston Catholic Archdiocese of Boston Archives!

If you would like to request a record, or make an appointment to visit the research library, please use the menu on the left side of the page.

Mission Statement:
It is the mission of the archive to collect, preserve, and provide access to records of the parishes and administration of the Archdiocese of Boston. Furthermore, to assist researchers in their scholarly, genealogical, and other work, in an effort to cultivate a better understanding and appreciation of the history of the Archdiocese and the Boston Catholic community.

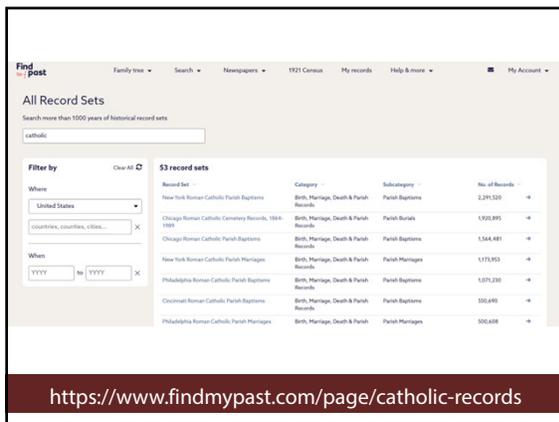
Location:
The archive is currently located at the Pastoral Center, 66 Brooks Drive, Braintree, MA, 02154. You can view directions to the Pastoral Center by clicking [here](#).

www.bostoncatholic.org

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FamilySearch

- In the catalogue, search under the town where the church was located
- If available, the records will be located in the "Church Records" category
- Search by keywords in catalogue with "Catholic" to identify all collections available, which includes records as well as published materials.

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7		Baptismal				Register				7		
NL	NAME OF PERSON BAPTIZED Parent's Name	PLACE AND DATE OF BAPTISM Date of Baptism Parish	DATE OF BIRTH Date of Birth Place of Birth	CATECHIST'S NAME Name of Catechist Parish	CATECHIST'S SIGNATURE Signature of Catechist	OFFICIARY Name of Officiary	PARISH Name of Parish	LIST OF WITNESSES Names of Witnesses	LIST OF GODPARENTS Names of Godparents	REMARKS Remarks	SIGNATURE OF PRIEST Signature of Priest	REMARKS Remarks
11	Michael Bannon	(Cordova &) June 29, 1874 St. Joseph	March 17, 1870 St. Joseph	St. Joseph St. Joseph	St. Joseph	St. Joseph	St. Joseph	St. Joseph	St. Joseph	St. Joseph	St. Joseph	
12	John Bannon	(Cordova &) June 29, 1874 St. Joseph	March 17, 1870 St. Joseph	St. Joseph St. Joseph	St. Joseph	St. Joseph	St. Joseph	St. Joseph	St. Joseph	St. Joseph	St. Joseph	
13	John Bannon	(Cordova &) June 29, 1874 St. Joseph	March 17, 1870 St. Joseph	St. Joseph St. Joseph	St. Joseph	St. Joseph	St. Joseph	St. Joseph	St. Joseph	St. Joseph	St. Joseph	
14	John Bannon	(Cordova &) June 29, 1874 St. Joseph	March 17, 1870 St. Joseph	St. Joseph St. Joseph	St. Joseph	St. Joseph	St. Joseph	St. Joseph	St. Joseph	St. Joseph	St. Joseph	

Baptismal Register, St. Joseph (Cordova, Maryland)
Diocese of Wilmington

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The screenshot shows the FamilySearch.org search interface. The search term 'Catholic' is entered in the search box. The search results page displays a list of records related to Catholicism, including 'The Bulletin (Canadian Catholic Historical Association)', 'Catholic Ancestor', 'The Catholic Church in New York', 'Records of the English Catholics of 1775', 'Roman Catholic Diocese of Boise', and 'Western Montana Catholic Directory'. A red arrow points to the search box, and another red arrow points to the 'Catholic' keyword in the search filters.

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A dark graphic with the text 'Archdiocese of Boston Databases on AmericanAncestors.org' in white. The text is centered and uses a serif font for 'Archdiocese of Boston' and a sans-serif font for 'Databases on AmericanAncestors.org'.

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AmericanAncestors.org

- The Boston Roman Catholic Archdiocese records are being digitized by volunteers and staff
- Types of records:
 - Baptisms and marriages
 - First communions, confirmations, ordinations, sick calls, deaths
 - Church admissions, accounting records
- Records are from 1789 through 1920
- Languages:
 - Latin, English, French, German, Italian

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AmericanAncestors.org

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AmericanAncestors.org

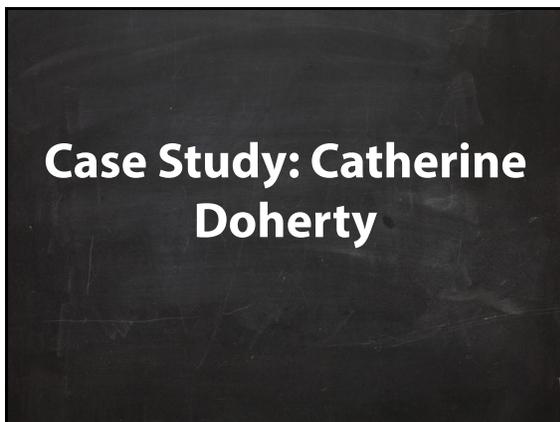
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Background

- Catherine Doherty
 - b. 23 Oct. 1863 Prince Edward Island to parents Michael Doherty and Bridget Mullen
 - m. Peter Chaisson (informant on death record)
 - d. 16 Apr. 1907 Quincy, Massachusetts
 - bur. Mount Benedict Cemetery in Boston, Massachusetts

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Goals

- Locate the marriage record between Catherine Doherty and Peter Chaisson
- Identify any relatives of Catherine Doherty who may have emigrated to the United States from Prince Edward Island

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Search Results
 1 - 19 of 19 records for Name: Peter Chaisson, Location: Boston, Massachusetts, Record Type: Marriage (exact), Years: 0 - 1907 for All databases

Refine | New Search | Results per page: 20 50 100 | Print | Save Search

SEARCH FILTERS	Name	Events	Relationship
Peter Chaisson Boston, Massachusetts Marriage SORT BY: Relevance	Peter CHAISSON Massachusetts: Vital Records, 1841-1910 Vital Records (incl. Bible, Cemetery, Church and SSDI) View Image	MARRIAGE: 1886 LOCATION: Boston, Suffolk, Massachusetts, United States AMENDED: N VOLUME: 172 PAGE: 203	

AmericanAncestors.org

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MARRIAGES REGISTERED in the Parish of St. Thomas Aquinas for the Year eighteen hundred and eighty-

Kate Doherty's parents were listed as John and Mary, which doesn't match her death record and baptism record

Officiant = John F. Cummins of Boston

Marriage of Peter Chaisson and Kate Doherty, 1886, Boston, AmericanAncestors.org

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Volume St. Thomas Aquinas (Jamaica Plain) Page 56 of 1390

Print Print Range Save Record New Search Report Error

Name Petrum, Peter CHAISSON
 Marriage 10/31/1886
 Location Boston, Suffolk, Massachusetts, United States

Original Text

Spouse Catharinam, Catharine Doherty

Witness1 David Chaisson
 Witness2 Rosa E. Carney

Volume Name St. Thomas Aquinas (Jamaica Plain) Marriages, 1869-1900
 Page 56

AmericanAncestors.org

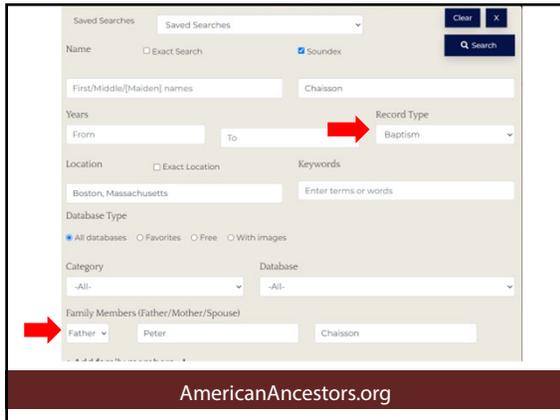
68

Petru Chaisson
 Catharina Doherty

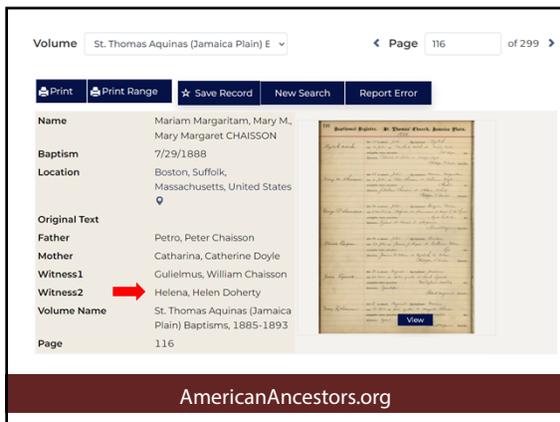
1886. Die 31. mensis Octobris. Litteris nuptiarum conjunxit
 Petrus Chaisson et Catharina Doherty.
 Testes: Rosa Carney et Rosa E. Carney. Joannes F. Cummins

Marriage Record, 1886, St. Thomas Aquinas (Jamaica Plain), AmericanAncestors.org

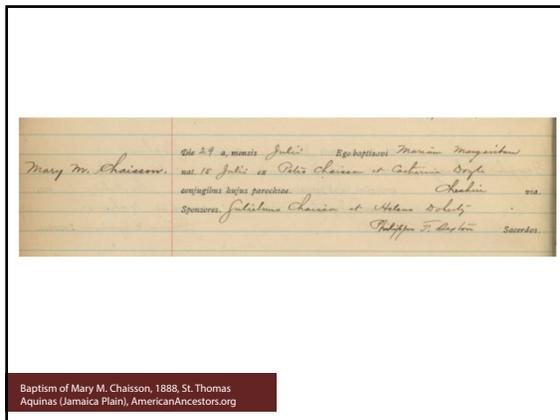
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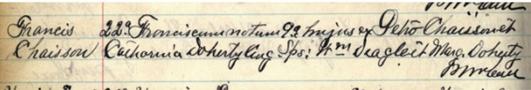
Volume Patronage of St. Joseph (Somerville) | Page 538 of 667

Print Print Range Save Record New Search Report Error

Name	Franciscum, Francis CHAISSON
Baptism	11/22/1891
Location	Somerville, Middlesex, Massachusetts, United States
Original Text	
Father	Petro, Peter Chaisson
Mother	Catharina, Catherine Doherty
Witness1	Wm, William Deagle
Witness2	Marg, Margaret Doherty
Volume Name	Patronage of St. Joseph (Somerville) Baptisms, 1869- 1895
Page	538

AmericanAncestors.org

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Baptism Record, Francis Chaisson, 1891, St. Joseph (Somerville), AmericanAncestors.org

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Saved Searches Saved Searches Clear X

Name Exact Search Soundex Search

Margaret Doherty

Years 1891 1907 Record Type Marriage

Location Exact Location Keywords Enter terms or words

Database Type All databases Favorites Free With images

Category Database

Family Members (Father/Mother/Spouse)

Father First and Middle Names Last Name

+ Add family members +

AmericanAncestors.org

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Conclusion

- We can conclude from the marriage register of Catherine "Kate" Doherty and Peter Chaisson that her parents' names were incorrectly recorded.
- We found evidence of two sisters who emigrated who had the correct parents' names listed on their civil marriage records.

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Review

1. Researching the sponsors/godparents, and witnesses can lead you to relatives of your ancestor.
2. Search for all of the relevant sacramental records of your ancestors, including their siblings.
3. Many sacramental records are not digitized and may be held locally.

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THANK YOU!
AmericanAncestors.org/Education

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