



## Sarah Josephine (Sallie) O'Dea

1857–1927

great-grandmother



When Sara Josephine (Sallie) O'Dea was born on October 19, 1857, in Galway, Ireland, her father, Patrick, was 22, and her mother, Katharine, was 23.

According to family history related by Mary Catherine (Sister St. Rita) Clarkson, Sarah's daughter, to Jim Barclay, husband of Carol Clarkson, in October 1977, Sarah came to the United States with her family. They arrived in Philadelphia in 1865, the year Lincoln was assassinated. The family witnessed Lincoln's funeral train passing through the city on its way to Illinois.

Sarah was the oldest of her siblings, Lawrence, Mary, Katie, and Anna. The last two were born after the family moved to the United States. After a year in Philadelphia, the family moved to Sugar Run, near Littleton, WV, then later to Wheeling, WV.

The family drilled oils wells on their farm in Sugar Run. After drilling seven dry holes, Sarah's mother Catherine threw a Miraculous Medal into the eighth one, which was a gusher, still producing for the South Penn Oil Co. in 1977. Lawrence's daughter Genevieve ("Gen") O'Dea was still living on the farm in Littleton, WV, in the 1970s.

Sarah married Thomas Michael Clarkson on October 9, 1879, in Wheeling, West Virginia. They had eight children in 18 years. In later years, according to Sister St. Rita, Sarah would confide "I didn't marry the man of my choice."

Her husband, Thomas, died of "stone mason's consumption" in Littleton, West Virginia, in 1905 after 25 years of marriage, while they still had minor children at home. After Thomas died, Sarah's sisters, Katie and Mary, neither of whom ever married, moved in with her. Katie moved to Duncan, OK, with Sarah in 1922.

Sarah died on January 13, 1927, in Ardmore, Oklahoma, at the age of 69, and was buried there.

1857 Birth

Sarah Josephine (Sallie) O'Dea was born on October 19, 1857, in Galway, Ireland, to Katharine Rafferty, age 23, and Patrick J O'Dea, age 24.

Family history indicates Sarah was the oldest child in the family, making this the more likely date of birth.

19 Oct 1857 • Melick, Galway, Ireland

1865 Arrival

The 1900 and 1920 census records show 1865 as Sara's date of arrival in the United States.

1865

1866 Arrival

1920 census records show Sara's date of arrival in the U.S. as 1866.

1866

1879 Marriage certificate fot Thomas Clarkson and Sallie O'Dea..

