

Redmond Family



John Redmond II with brothers James and Barry

Ann Devon was born June 9, 1838, near the first Irish settlement in West Deerfield Township, known as Everett. She is considered to be the first Caucasian child born in Deerfield. She lived on a farm at 1825 Telegraph Road. This was the area (or perhaps road) known as “Corduroy.” (Log roads were known as “corduroy” roads in the 1840s.) Ann attended the first St. Patrick’s Church, a log structure at Waukegan and Route 60.

Ann Devon was the niece of James Fagan, who also lived in West Deerfield. He was the same James Fagan whose grand-daughter married Peter Baker. James traded an acre of land with Michael Yore for a higher piece of ground, which he donated for St. Patrick’s Cemetery. The Devons and Redmonds who later lived in the area were loyal parishioners of St. Patrick’s, even donating windows to the church.

Ann Devon married James Redmond in the Jesuit Church of the Holy Family, Chicago, on June 16, 1861. They moved to St. Joseph, Michigan, where they had four of their five children: Michael D. Redmond, John Joseph, Nicholas, and Laurence. Their daughter, Anne Redmond, was born in Deerfield after the family returned to the Devon farm. Laurence Redmond served as caretaker of the West Lake Forest public grade school from 1936 to 1944. He was so beloved in the city that Laurence Avenue near Everett School was named after him.

Laurence’s brother John Joseph Redmond worked as the Superintendent of the City of Lake Forest. He married Dora Carpenter in 1900 and had nine children: James, Francis, Thomas Barry, Leo, Margaret, Louis, twins Mary and Ann, and John Joseph Redmond, Jr. John Redmond Jr. lived in Lake Forest his entire life, in the area known as Codfish Town. His wife, Daisy Redmond, worked as a dietician for Lake Forest Academy for over 50 years.

Louis Redmond was an active force in historic preservation in Lake Forest. He played a very important role in saving Gorton School from destruction, and overseeing its conversion into a senior center, and finally the community center. Louis was also a charter member and lifetime member of the Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Historical Society. Louis and his wife Mary Lanzl Redmond have five children. Their granddaughter, Charlotte Noyer, is the 6th generation of the family to live in Lake Forest.

Louis' sister Mary married Adolph Bertucci and had three children, Joan, Jimmy, and Mary Rita. Mary Rita has fond memories of the growing up on the Devon farm, including playing on old farm equipment from the 1800s, marveling at Model T trucks stored in the barns, and attending barn dances and parties with all her friends and neighbors. The farm has always been active; in recent years it has been tended by Billy Glader, and it has produced soybeans, corn and hay. The fondest memory that Mary Rita and her mother Mary have of their early days on the farm on Telegraph Road was the closeness of the community and the parish of St. Mary's. Mary Redmond Bertucci still lives at the Devon/Redmond family farm at 1825 Telegraph Road.

John L. Redmond, son of John Redmond, Jr., has always been, and continues to be, a Lake Forest resident. He attended the School of the Church of St. Mary and St. George, the boys' Catholic high school in Evanston. In 1948, he began work as a plumber at Stiles and Horn on Western Avenue. In the 1950s he was drafted for the service, serving in the US Army Engineering and Aviation Corp, "SCARWAF," from 1952 to 1954. After returning home, he worked for James DiPietro Plumbing in Deerfield. His wife is Judith Redmond, and he has four children, John Patrick, Rosemary, Patricia, and Renee.