

HUGH O'CONNER FAMILY HISTORY.

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PREFACE

Hugh O'Conner was the keeper of Lock No. 53, at Hancock, from Feb. 1, 1840, through Dec. 31, 1847; after which Sarah Connor was the keeper of Lock No. 53 through Dec. 31, 1850. We also want to show, from other records, that activity on the canal kept both lock keepers busy.

Text within (parentheses) was found in the original document. Text within [brackets] is something I added for clarity or because it was missing from the original, e.g., census report.

I have added some additional family information to help other researchers. My interest stops with their departure from the canal.

New information on the families would be most welcome.

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Hugh O'Conner Family History

Hugh O'Conner was born in Stoke stone, Ross Common, Ireland, in 1779. He emigrated through the Port of Baltimore, date unknown.

Hugh O'Conner, age 25, married Sarah C. Fox, age 19, in Berkeley, West Virginia, on March 5, 1804.

The 1810 census listed a Hugh O'Conner as living in Lower Antietam Hundred, Washington County, Md.¹ Hugh O'Conner would have been 32 years old; he was the free white male 26 through 44. Sarah would have been 26 years old; she would have been the free white female, 16 through 25. Their sons would have been the two free white males under 10 years old, except a record of their having sons has not been found. No slaves.

Their daughter, Mary, was born in 1814 in Baltimore, Maryland.

The 1820 census reported Hugh O'Conner as living in Election District 1, Washington County, Md.² Hugh O'Conner would have been 42 years old; he was the free white male 26 through 44. Sarah would have been 35 years old; she would have been the free white female, 26 thru 44. Their son would have been the free white male under 10; their daughters, the four free white females under 10; except that no such record of their children has been found. No slaves.

Their daughter, Ann V., was born in 1822 in Washington County, Maryland.

On Sept. 8, 1823, Jacob Schnebly and Hugh O'Conner advertised that they had experienced considerable damage by persons crossing their fields, meadows, and orchard by throwing down the fences, etc.³ They cautioned persons against a repetition of these offences, in the future, as they were determined to enforce the law in its utmost rigor, from that day forward.

Their daughter, Eveline, was born in 1825 in Washington County, Maryland.

The 1830 census included Hugh O'Conner as living in Election District 6, Washington County, Md.⁴ Hugh O'Conner would have been 51 years old; he was the free white male 50 thru 59. Sarah does not appear to have been listed. The household did include one male 10 through 14, one female 5 through 9, two females 10 through 14, and one female 15 through 19. All five children were under 20. No slaves listed.

Mary O'Conner, age 19, married Francis Jacob Pretzman, age 29, on Dec. 23, 1833, in Loudoun County, Virginia. Their first son, William Hugh, was born on September 12, 1834, in Hagerstown, Washington County, Maryland, where the family had moved. Their daughter, Indiana Eliza, was born on Nov. 16, 1836, in Washington County, probably in Hagerstown. Their daughter, Sarah Malvina "Sallie," was born on January 30, 1839, also in Hagerstown, Maryland.

¹ 1810 census, Maryland, Washington County, Lower Antietam Hundred.

² 1820 census, Maryland, Washington County, Election District 1, enumerated 8/7/1820.

³ *The Torch Light & Public Advertiser*, Hagers-Town, Md., Tuesday, 9/23/1828, p. 1.

⁴ 1830 census, Maryland, Washington County, District 6.

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The 1840 census reported Hugh Connor as living in Hancock, Washington County, Md.; he was employed in Manufacture and Trade [Lock Keeper at Lock 53].⁵ Hugh O'Conner would have been 61 years old; he was the free white male 70 through 79. Sarah, at age 56, would have been the free white female, 50-59. One daughter, Eveline, at age 15, would have been the free white female 10 through 14; the other daughter would have been the free white female 20 through 29. No slaves were listed.

The 1840 census reports the Pretzman family lived in Cavetown, Washington County, Maryland, which is located due East of Hagerstown, near Smithburg. But then their daughter, Lydis, was born in June 1842, in Hagerstown, as was their daughter, Lydia, born on March 15, 1843; their son, Hiram Washington, born on November 23, 1843; their daughter, Eveline "Eva" Hugh, born on April 29, 1846; their daughter Anna Olivia, born on May 18, 1848; and their son Franklin M. "Frank," born on May 29, 1850.

Starting on Feb. 1, 1840, H. Connor, age 61, was paid \$150 per annum for tending Lock 53 on the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal.⁶ He was paid the same amount on June 1, 1841; May 31, 1842; May 31, 1845; Dec. 31, 1845; Dec. 31, 1846; Dec. 31, 1847. Sarah Connor was paid \$150 per annum for tending Lock 53 on Dec. 31, 1848, and Dec. 31, 1850.

Hugh O'Conner, age 67, died on Jan. 20th, 1846, near Hancock, formerly of Pleasant Valley.⁷ That suggests that Sarah Connor was the lock tender during 1846 and 1847, and probably during 1849 as well.

The 1850 census lists Sarah C. O'Conner, age 66, as the head of the household, living in District 2, Washington County, Maryland.⁸ Living with her were Eveline, age 30 [*sic.* 25], and Ann V., age 28, her daughters. No occupation was listed; they were still tending Lock 53, as mentioned above.

The 1850 census lists Francis Protzman, age 45, as the head of household living in Hagerstown, Maryland.⁹ Living with him were Mary, age 32, his wife; Indiana, age 13, his daughter; Sarah, age 11, his daughter; Eveline, age 9 [*sic.* 4], his daughter; Ann O, age 6 [*sic.* 2], his daughter; and Francis [*sic.* Franklin], age 4/12, his son. No occupation was given for any family member. Their children, Lydia E., had died on March 15, 1843, and Hiram Washington, had died on April 12, 1849.

Sarah C. O'Conner died in August 1854, in Washington County, Maryland. An obituary has not been found.

Mary O'Conner died on Feb. 20, 1855, in Washington County, Maryland. An obituary has not been found.

Francis Jacob Pretzman died on December 28, 1859, in Hagerstown, Maryland. His obituary reads: "**A Fatal Accident** – Mr. Francis Protzman, a well-known citizen of this town, lost his life on Wednesday last, in the alley adjoining the Hagerstown Hotel, in consequence of having been knocked down and run over by a four-horse team loaded with wood. The Wagoner was driving into the alley as Mr. P., who was

⁵ 1840 census, Maryland, Washington County, Hancock.

⁶ PAYROLL RECORDS FROM CHESAPEAKE AND OHIO CANAL COMPANY – 1839, 1840, 1841, 1842, 1845 (2), 1846, 184, 1848 & 1850, available at <https://candocanal.org/payroll/>

⁷ *Herald and Torch Light*, Hagerstown, Md., Wednesday, 2/4/1846, p. 3.

⁸ 1850 census, Maryland, Washington County, District 2, enumerated 8/9/1850, p. 105.

⁹ 1850 census, Maryland, Washington County, Hagerstown, enumerated 7/24/1850, p. 90.

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somewhat under the influence of liquor, was passing out, and it is supposed that he was knocked down by the horses and thrown under the wheels of the wagon. He was dragged a considerable distance before the wheels passed over him, and when found, his shoulder-blade and arm were broken, and he was also suffering from internal injuries. Prompt surgical aid was rendered by Drs. F. Dorsey and C. E. S. McKee, but the unfortunate man expired some six or eight hours after the accident. Mr. P., although addicted to dissipation, was generally esteemed as a good-hearted, inoffensive man, and his melancholy end is sincerely regretted.”

By the 1860 census, Eveline had moved to District 3, Morgan County, West Virginia; the Post Office was Sir John's Run, located right across the Potomac River at Mile Post 130.70, the same as Lock 53.

Eveline O'Conner died in July 1873 and was buried in Springfield, Clark County, Ohio. An obituary has not been found.

Ann V. O'Conner also died in July 1873; the location and obituary have not been found.

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VITAL STATISTICS OF HUGH O'CONNER FAMILY

Name	Rel.	Born	Married	Died	Birth State
Hugh O'Conner	hus	1779	3/5/1804	1/20/1846	Ireland
Sarah C. Fox	wife	6/6/1784		8/1854	Virginia
<i>Mary O'Conner</i> (Pretzman)	dau	1814	12/23/1833	2/20/1855	Maryland
<i>Ann V. O'Conner</i>	dau	1822	never	8/1854	Maryland
<i>Eveline O'Conner</i>	dau	1815	never	7/1873	Maryland
End of 1st Generation					
Francis Jacob Pretzman	hus	1804	12/23/1833	12/28/1859	Maryland
Mary O'Conner	wife	1814		2/20/1855	Maryland
<i>William Hugh Pretzman</i>	son	9/12/1834	11/9/1859	2/8/1913	Maryland
<i>Indiana Eliza Pretzman</i>	dau	11/16/1836		5/25/1905	Maryland
<i>Sarah Malvina "Sallie" Pretzman</i>	dau	1/30/1839		1920	Maryland
<i>Lydia E. Pretzman</i>	dau	6/1841		3/15/1843	Maryland
<i>Hiram Washington Pretzman</i>	son	11/23/1843		4/12/1849	Maryland
<i>Eveline "Eva" Hugh Pretzman</i>	dau	4/29/1846		1922	Maryland
<i>Anna Olivia Pretzman</i>	dau	5/18/1848		1921	Maryland
<i>Franklin M. "Frank" Pretzman</i>	son	5/29/1850		4/3/1900	Maryland
<i>Dent Uberta Pretzman</i>	son	1/9/1854		1936	Maryland