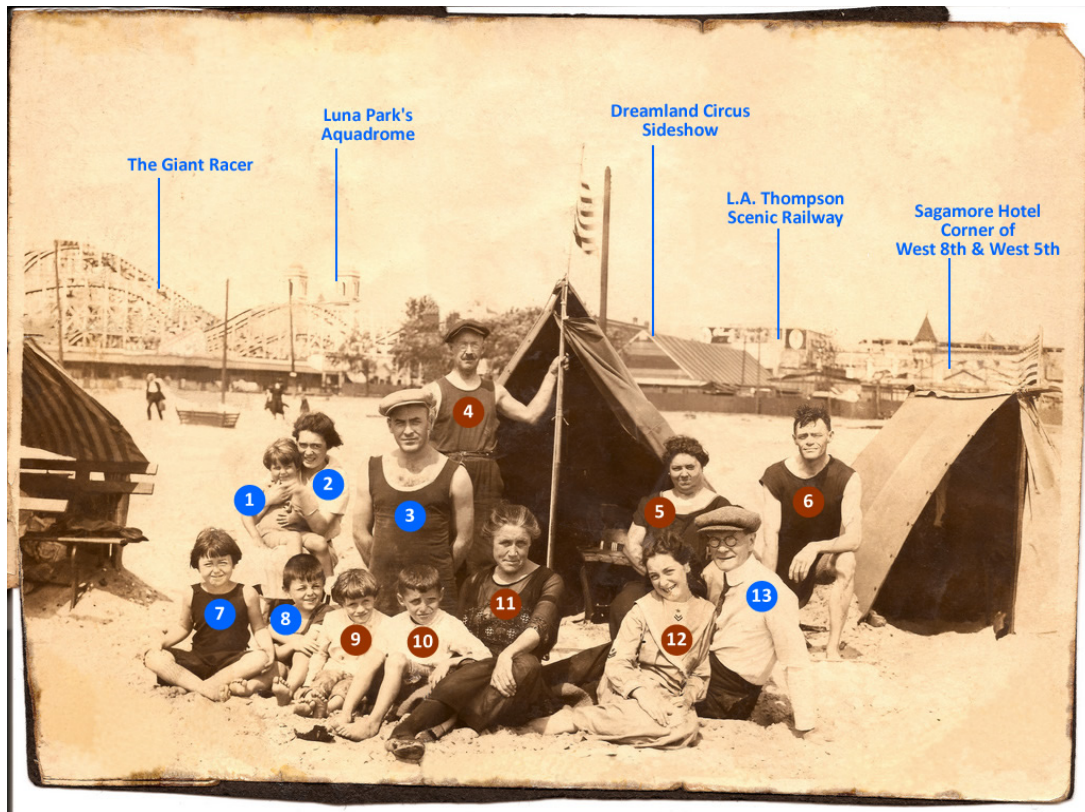


## Coney Island Photo Background Information



|    |   |
|----|---|
| 1  | Sabina Tierney (born 1918) is sitting on step-mother May Egan Tierney's lap.                    |
| 2  | Mary (May) Egan Tierney (born 1892, Creggan, Ferbane, Offaly, Ireland.)                         |
| 3  | John Joseph Tierney (born 1892)   |
| 4  | Unknown - Perhaps: John's youngest brother Michael Edward or a Tierney uncle?                   |
| 5  | Margaret (Maud) Tierney Gleason (born about 1889), sister of John.                              |
| 6  | John Gleason, husband of Maud.  |
| 7  | Annie Tierney (born 1913)   |
| 8  | John Tierney (born 1916)  |
| 9  | Child of John & Maud Gleason  |
| 10 | Child of John & Maud Gleason  |
| 11 | Anne McDonald Tierney (born about 1861), mother of John.  |
| 12 | Possibly May's daughter Elizabeth Egan (born about 1904.)                                       |
| 13 | James Farrell (born about 1865, Endrim, Ferbane, Offaly, Ireland.) He was May's maternal uncle. |

### Table Legend

**Blue** Background: Known person

**Red** Background: Person is an educated guess

This is a repaired version of the photo – [the original photo](#) has some fairly severe damage. Besides being torn in several locations, it is also glued to old album black paper backing. I hope to remove it from the backing in the future to see if any writing is there.

## Coney Island Photo Background Information

### General Information & Notes<sup>1</sup>

As I mention in the table legend above, those lines marked in red contain educated guesses of who those people might be. Also, if some of this is written a little formally by naming full names, etc. it is to provide enough information for family to do their own research later<sup>1</sup>. Finally, I have not provided too much detail on the direct ancestors since that will require quite a bit more work with all of the information we now possess.

From the age of the Tierney children this photo is likely from the time period 1920 – 1922.

When researching the likely photo location for background information, I [Asked Mr. Coney](#) at the Coney Island History Project about the photo and he provided the following information:

The photograph was taken between West 8th Street and West 5th on the public beach, former site of Dreamland. The turreted building on the right is the Sagamore Hotel, on the corner of West 8th and Surf Avenue. The coaster is [the Giant Racer](#), and the twin towers behind it belong to [Luna's Aquadrome](#) entrance at West 10th Street. The tent-like structure behind the tent in foreground houses the Dreamland Circus Sideshow and the billboard just behind the tent was located above the L.A. Thompson Scenic Railway.”

People **Number 1, and 3** are Mary (May) Egan Tierney and John Joseph Tierney. May & John were married on 01 Jun 1919 at [Holy Cross Church](#), 329 West 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, New York.

Children **Number 1, 7 and 8** are Sabina, Annie and John, children of John Tierney and his first wife.<sup>2</sup>

Mr. **Number 4** is a mystery, but one guess might be John's brother Michael Edward Tierney. However, Michael Edward was born a year after John and this man looks like he may be older, so perhaps he is an uncle. (More information is obviously needed.)

I think the difference in dress and time can make determining people's ages difficult, as does people squinting in the sun. One should keep in mind that both May & John Tierney in this photo are only about 28 years old.

**Numbers 5,6,9,10 and possibly 12:** A guess is that they are the Gleason family based on the likely ages of the children around that time. If my current records are correct, John's sister Margaret would have had 3 or 4 children by this time: Marie, John, Edmund, Thomas. (Later children are: Margaret, Anna and Virginia<sup>3</sup>.) Of course, a few are missing in this photo.

John's other sister Annie Tierney O'Malley had two children that were born about 1916 and 1920, which seems to discount that family for this photo.

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<sup>1</sup> Underlined links in this document are clickable in the electronic version.

<sup>2</sup> John's first wife was Sabina Gilroy (born about 1887 in Ireland) and they had 4 children: Annie, Winifred, John and Sabina. Sabina and 3 year old daughter Winifred died a few months apart in the 1918 Spanish Influenza epidemic.

<sup>3</sup> Many of these names are pulled from likely census records and may need confirmation.

## Coney Island Photo Background Information

**Number 11:** While there is no hard evidence for the guess, this being a family group photo and the way people are situated, I believe there is a very strong chance that she is John Tierney's mother Anna (Anne) McDonald Tierney. Anne was married to Michael Tierney, a New York City Policeman. Both had emigrated from Ireland about 1880, likely independently. They married about 1887 in New York, according to later censuses.

**Number 12:** There is the possibility that this girl is May Tierney's daughter Elizabeth recently arrived from Ireland. When comparing this image to some other known photos of her in Ireland she seems to be the same girl. However, there are discrepancies. I believe Elizabeth emigrated from Ireland in 1924 along with May's sister Bridget, which is later than this photo. I have been unable to find her traveling earlier than that.

There is also the possibility that I have the birth years of the Gleason or O'Malley children wrong and she could be one of them. I think it will take a cousin that is familiar with photos from those families to help determine if that is the case.

**Number 13:** James Farrell was May Tierney's maternal uncle who emigrated from Ireland about 1883. In the 1920 census May & John Tierney & family were living with him at 403 West 48th Street, NY. In the 1920's he bought a house at 108-37 Liverpool St, Jamaica NY, added onto it and two smaller bungalows and the Tierneys lived here with him as well. He later left the property to his niece May when he died about 1938.

John J. Tierney

Huntington, NY 11743

Blog: <http://currach.johnjtierney.com>

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<sup>i</sup> These notes are based on information known and discovered to date, but keep in mind genealogy is an ongoing project and any guesses made are certainly not written in stone. Most deductions were made after discussing this and other photos with my sister Susan Tierney and cousin-in-law Anne Steen Tierney. All errors in this document are, of course, mine and my opinion might differ from those of other folks. Also, I can run really, really fast.