General Information & Notesi

This is the only photograph we have of Michael Tierney, who was born on August 3, 1858 in Ireland and immigrated to New York City around 1880.

According to the census his wife Anna (Anne) McDonald Tierney emigrated around the same year, but their marriage is listed as occurring about 1888, so I assume they arrived independently.

The only story we had about Michael in my family was that he was a New York City policeman, so there was much research to do - especially to try and find where Michael emigrated from in Ireland.



Figure 1: Michael Tierney in Uniform, circa 1904
(Repaired version)



Figure 2: NY Police Museum Uniform Exhibit

It is unclear why this photo was taken on the roof of a building, but I have found a few New York Times articles from that time period mentioning an Officer Tierney, including two that also mention a roof. There is no way to conclusively determine if the photo is connected to either, but I will include the articles below.

I found it difficult to try and date the photo myself. There are many images of NYC police uniforms online, but very little information relating them to more than a general time period.

However, an inquiry to the <u>NYC Police Museum</u> asking about his uniform yielded wonderful results:. Their response:

"I can tell you with certainty that it was taken sometime after the spring of 1901. In 1901, patrolmen began to wear metal precinct number pins on their left collar, and this is visible on your great-grandfather's summer uniform (starting in 1912, they began wearing numbers on both collars).

Also, by 1908, the hat that he is wearing was no longer in use as modern regulation-style shorter hats had replaced these.

My guess, based mainly on intuition and having seen many photos from this era, is that the picture was probably taken sometime between 1901 and 1905. But it is possible it is as late as 1907 or 1908."

Michael Tierney Photo & Background Information Census Records

Due to poorly written versions and transcriptions of the Tierney surname¹, the family was not particularly easy to find in the 1900 or 1910 censuses² in Manhattan. When we did find them, those censuses provided residential addresses for the family as well as approximate birth years of Michael (1858), Anne (1861) and children Margaret (1889), Annie (1891), John (1892), Michael Edward (1893) and Thomas (1895.)

However, the years and even months in these censuses are notoriously inaccurate, so primary sources are needed to confirm them. Father Michael, John & Thomas dates above have all been confirmed. Also, in the 1900 census, son Michael is enumerated as "Edward M" so future researchers will need to look into both variations of the name.

A more comprehensive write up of the whole family will be provided later.

Police Records

I sent an inquiry to the New York Police Department asking about records of Michael Tierney's service. There was more than one man with the same name on the force³ in the late 1800s and early 1900s, so I provided as much information as I could using the census addresses, a general birth year and a possible death date from an online database. This also brought wonderful rewards: they provided his Index Record and Assignment Card, which contained a terrific amount of information.

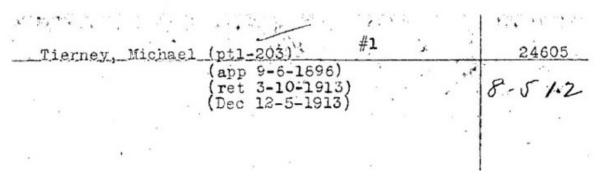


Figure 3: New York Police Index Record (Typo in appointed date.)

¹ Future researchers: look for variations such as Dierney, Fierney, Freeney among others.

² Note that there are few surviving results for the <u>United States 1890 census</u>.

³ Michael W. Tierney, in particular shows up in newspapers fairly often, since he was a friend of and worked alongside Police Commissioner Theodore Roosevelt. I know of no relation at this time.

⁴ www.italiangen.org is a volunteer genealogical group that has worked on transcribing many NYC records.

Michael Tierney Photo & Background Information Index Card Transcription

Text	Meaning	
Tierney, Michael (ptl-203)	Patrolman, Shield Number 203	
(app 9-6-1896)	Appointed to the force 06 September 1886. (NYPD notes typo in year of 1896)	
(ret 3-10-1913)	Retired from force on 10 March 1913	
(Dec 12-5-1913)	Deceased 05 December 1913	
8-5-12	Unsure of meaning	
24605	Unsure of meaning – perhaps the number of the index record in the file cabinet?	

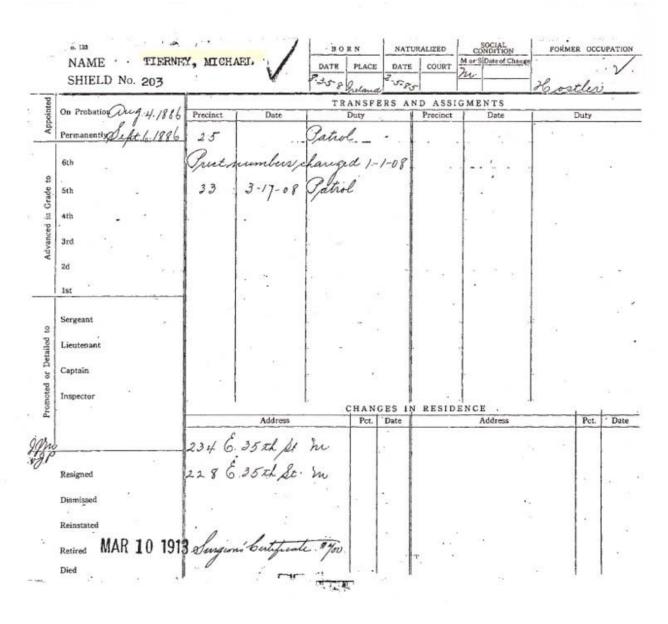


Figure 4: New York Police Assignment Card

Michael Tierney Photo & Background Information Assignment Card Transcription

Text	Meaning
Name	Tierney, Michael
Shield No.	203
Born	8-3-58, Ireland
Naturalized	2-5-85
Social Condition	M (Married)
Former Occupation	Hostler (aka Stableman)
On Probation	Aug 4, 1886 (Starting on police force)
Permanent	Sept 6, 1886
Precinct / Date/ Duty	25, Patrol (Precinct numbers later changed: now 19 th Pct. 153 East 67 th St.)
Note	Precinct numbers changed 1-1-08
Precinct / Date/ Duty	33, 3-17-08, Patrol
Addresses	234 E. 35^{th} St M and 228 E. 35^{th} St M (Unsure if M = Married?)
Retired	MAR 10 1913 – Notation: Surgeon's Certificate, \$700 (Annual Pension)

Michael's NY Police Assignment card turned out to be a wealth of information in comparison to what we knew before. In particular, his date of naturalization and former occupation pointed directly to one of several possible U.S. naturalization records. The index record below was found on Footnote.com, so I immediately ordered a copy of the original record from the National Archives at New York City (NARA) hoping to find where he came from in Ireland.

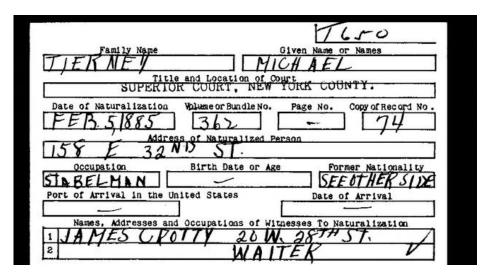


Figure 5: Michael Tierney Naturalization Index Card
The reverse of this card only lists original citizenship as subject to "Queen of Great Britain & Ireland"

A full page version of the original naturalization document is attached – unfortunately in 1885 they did not record very much information on the new citizen at all: Name, Occupation, Current address. Knowing that later naturalization applications have very detailed information, I called NYC NARA to ask if there was another document I should order, but their representative informed me that the document in hand was it. (Although I'm not convinced and plan to follow up again.)

Michael Tierney Photo & Background Information An Unlikely Discovery

To help better understand the context of my Irish ancestors I have been looking for books to help me on my way. Shortly after finding the photo of Michael in one of our family albums, I visited my local library. Scanning the shelves I noticed a collection of essays entitled The New York Irish.

I slipped the hefty book from the shelf, and let it fall open. Looking down at the randomly found page 230, I saw a photograph of a group of policeman in 1887⁵ standing in front of the newly opened New York City 25th Precinct and recalled that according Michael Tierney's Assignment Card he was assigned to the 25th precinct from 1886 until 1908.

On the far left of the 2nd row of officers in the photo was one of the few fellows without a moustache:

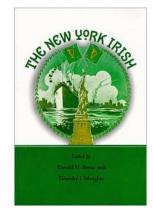


Figure 6: The New York Irish Book Cover

_

⁵ Short link to this photo on Google Books: http://bit.ly/eFQEc3



The opening of a new police station at 153 East 67th Street was the occasion for a formal portrait in November 1887. The 25th Precinct covered the blocks from Fifth Avenue to the East River between 57th and 79th Streets, a ward that in 1890 was 26 percent Irish by birth or descent. The neighborhood cop was one of the most visible "Irish" occupations in late-nineteenth-century New York City, partly because of Tammany influence and partly because of the 95 percent literacy rate among Irish immigrants. (From the collection of Anne T. Murphy.)

Figure 7: Group Photo - Opening of NY Police 25 Precinct, 1887



Formal portrait of policemen at opening of NYC 25th Precinct in 1887. (Detail of photo in "The New York Irish" (page 230)



Known photo of Michael Tierney from family album.

He looked vaguely familiar, so I scanned the photo and enlarged it enough to take a better look.

I believe this comparison of the book's photo and our own photo of Michael Tierney (circa 1904) is convincing evidence that he is in that 1887 photo.

I asked the publisher if they had any contact information for the source of the photo and they suggested I contact the book's authors. I have done so, but no response yet.

Figure 8: Michael Tierney Book & Photo Comparison

```
Obituary 1 -- No Title

New York Times (1857-1922); Dec 7, 1913;

ProQuest Historical Newspapers The New York Times (1851 - 2006)

pg. 19

THOMPSON.—Mary L., Mariners' Harbor, S.
I., Dec. 4.

TIERNEY.—Michael, 228 East 85th St., Dec.
5. Funeral notice later.

TURLEY.—Catherine, 335 Beekman Av.,

Bronx, Dec. 4. Funeral to-morrow, 9:30

A. M.

VAUGHN.—William R., 207 West 140th St.,

Dec. 3.
```

Figure 9: Death Notice

A death notice for Michael Tierney appeared in the NY Times on December 7, 1913 listing his death as December 5, 1913.

Although the notice mentions a Funeral Notice was to follow, a search of the newspaper for several weeks after this date turned up nothing.

I obtained his death certificate, Number 34658 from the New York City Municipal Archives and have attached it at the end of this document. His origin is listed only as Ireland, cause of death was "Endocarditis Chronic Cirrhosis Hepatis" and he was buried in Calvary cemetery on December 8, 1913.

That date is one day after the funeral notice above, which makes me wonder if there was perhaps an afternoon edition of the newspaper that might contain additional info.

Michael's parents are listed as John Tierney and Margaret Murphy – her maiden name is a new find for us.

I also found a listing for a Michael Tierney listed as Secretary of the Traffic Squad Benevolent Association in 1908⁶. The address for the association was in the area of his residence at the time. I found that the Association is still around today and a member of their board tells me that if the listing is our Michael, he would have been an original member of the group. He also sent a photo of their first meeting muster which is included below. I believe the 4th officer from the left with his hand to his face is a possible match (but very hard to tell.)

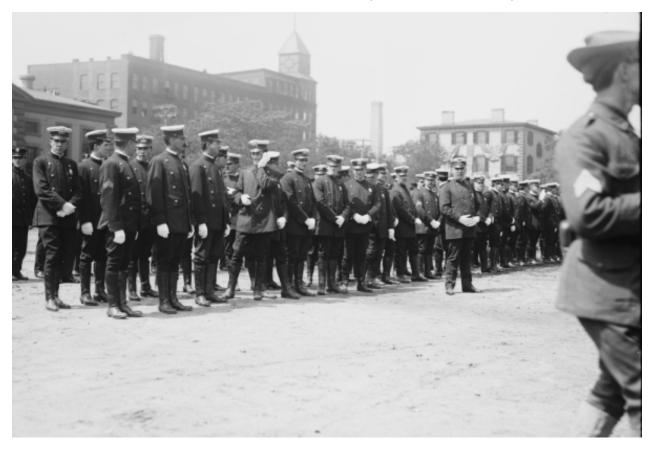


Figure 10: NY Police Traffic Squad Benevolent Association, First Muster, 1908

Next Steps

Now that we have his death certificate, I will need to make a trip to Calvary Cemetery to try to find his grave⁷. If there is a stone then perhaps some additional information about where he came from in Ireland could be on it, although that is probably a long shot. There is hopefully also the possibility that we might find Michael's wife Anne McDonald buried with him and obtain some birth and death dates for her as well.

I am in the process of checking with local area churches for birth and marriage records for the family. While waiting for a response to my inquiry from <u>Church of St. Stephen</u> on East 28th Street, I asked the Archdiocese of

⁶ This listing is found in several years of the Brooklyn Daily Eagle Almanac on Google Books.

⁷ On a related note, Michael's son John is buried at First Calvary along with his first wife Sabina Gilroy in Section 4B, Range 4, Plot L, Grave 11.

NY where I might find the records for St. Gabriel's Roman Catholic Church that I learned was located on East 37th Street from 1859 to 1939. They reported back that St. Stephen held those records – so I sent an updated request to the church.

Finally, St. Stephen reported back that while they did not find any marriage records, they found baptismal records for the three oldest Tierney children: Margaret, Annie and John. I am now waiting for a copy John's record to arrive.

This research is a work in progress and I hope to be able to add more information over time. If there are any questions I can answer or for anyone who might help me in my research I can be reached using the following contact:

John J. Tierney Huntington, NY

Blog: http://currach.johnjtierney.com

4	
	Superior Court of new york.
Ų	IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF
	Michael Tierney
L	BY OCCUPATION Stable comment ()
	TO BE ADMITTED A CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
	STATE OF NEW YORK . Is Phickage Sierry
	City and County of New York. Steet, the above-named applicant, being duly sworn, says, that he resides at No. 15 8 - 8 32 Speet, in the City of New York.
RECORD No	in the City of New York. that he has arrived at the age of twenty-one years; that he has resided in the United States three years next preceding this arrival at that age, and has continued to reside therein to the present time; that he has resided five years within the United States, including the three years of his minority and one year, at least immediately preceding this application, within the State of New York; and that for two years next preceding this application it has been, both fide, his intention to become a Citizen of the Litted States.
COR	Sworn in open Court, this & day \ day
R (I telegrapese CHAR.
7	SPATE OF NEW YORK. City and County of Acet Fort. 30.
136	being duly sworn, says, that he resides at No. In the City of New York, and is by occupation In the City of New York, and is by occupation States for three years next preceding his arrival at the age of twenty-one years that he has continued to reside therein States for three years next preceding his arrival at the age of twenty-one years that he has continued to reside therein States for three years next preceding his arrival at the age of twenty-one years; that he has continued to reside therein to the present time; that he has resided five years within the United States including the three years of his minority, to the present time; that he has resided five years within the United States including that the principle of the preceding his property of the preceding his preceding his property of the preceding his preceding
JIMIT I	and in the State of New York one year, at least, infinentially precent mis approach; the Constitution of the United States, and has behaved as a man of good moral character, attached to the principles of the Constitution of the United States, and well disposed to the good order and happiness of the same; and deponent verify believes, that for two years next preceding this application it has been, home fide, the intention of the said applicant to become a Citizen of the United States.
	of February 1885 Yames Cerolly Mokbuse
·	STATE OF NEW YORK
1.Y.C	city dad a guigo of the Lorentz to declare, on eath, that it is, b. na fale, my intention, matters been for three years next proceeding this applicant on become a Citizen of the United States; and to tention forever all allocations and fidelity to every foreign Prince, Potentate, State or Sovereignty, whatever, mattendarly to the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great British and Freland, of whom I am now a subject.
	sorm in open Court, this 5th day, of February 1885
IR1	CLERK.
SUPERIOR COUR	STATE OF NEW YOU. Cay and County of the York, the above named opticant, do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States; and that I the above named activities and entirely renounce and adjure all alleriance and fidelity to every foreign Prince, Potenties, State or States of the Constitution of the United States of
3R	was before a subject. Suorn in open Court this 5 day)
RIC	of February 1885 Almehoul Lieran
PE	
SU	

Figure 11: Michael Tierney 1885 Naturalization FRONT

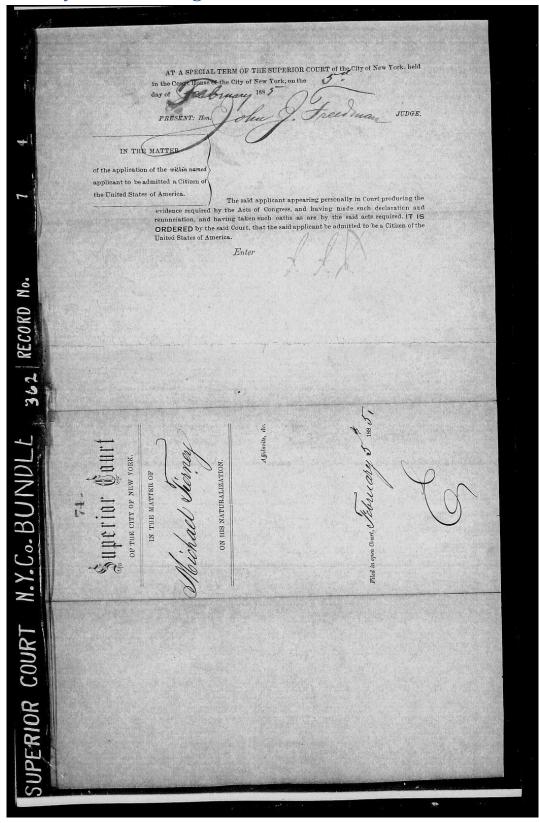


Figure 12: Michael Tierney 1885 Naturalization REAR

Department of Manhattan Department 228 East 35	ent of Figath of The City of New York BUREAU OF RECORDS STANDARD GERTHICATE OF DEATH
Saratter of preinines, private, private, properties, nospital or other place, etc. full menal 3. FULL NAME. Michael J.	Registered No. 3 465
Male while Bangle Maried On Bryoliceh (Write the word)	MONTE OF DEATH ARELIAN 5 1973 (Month) (Day) (Year)
AGE Compared Comp	I hereby certify that the foregoing particulars (Nos. I to 14 inclusive) are correct as near us the same can be ascertained, and I further certify that I attended the deceased from 1913 to the last saw alive on the last occurred on the date stated above at Alim, and that the cause of death was as follows:
BRYHPLACE Sig. or country)	Curhosis Nopolis
d. S. (if of toreging the state of the state	
10 NAME OF John Dierney	duration yrs, mos ds
II BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER (State of country)	Contributory(Secondary)
13 MAIDEN NAME Margaret Montply	
13 SIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER (State or country)	duration yrs mos ds
is Special INFORMATION required in deaths in hospitals and institu- es and in deaths of non-residents and recent residents. Former or all residence	Signature 162 Ear 64 16
ere was disease contracted, if not at piece of death?	17 PLACE OF BURIAL DATE OF BURIAL
LED DEC 8 1010 79	16 UNDERTAKER ADDRESS 3 4 4 6 3 9 4

Figure 13 - Michael Tierney Death Certificate

The news articles included here are possible mentions of Michael Tierney on the police force. There was also a Michael W. Tierney on the force as well as others with different given names during the years he was a policeman. Further evidence would be needed to definitively say any of these were about him.

I do think it is interesting that the only photo we have of him is on a roof in uniform and two of these news articles mention a roof.

The Almanac listing as a secretary of a benevolent association has a good chance of being our Michael

The pension listing matches his NY Police Assignment record and is definitely him.

POLICE AND FIRE NEWS. New York Times (1857-1922); Mar 11, 1913; ProQuest Historical Newspapers The New York Times (1851 - 2006)

POLICE AND FIRE NEWS.

Police Department.

SPECIAL ORDERS 55.

SPECIAL ORDERS 55.

Pensions, to take effect 12 P. M. March 10, on surgeons' certificates—Lieuts. George Rengerman, 21st Precinct, at \$1,125 per annum, appointed May 22, 1890, and Charles J. Meehan, Detective Division, \$1,125, June 20, 1881; Sergts. Mark P. Murtha, 13th, \$710, Jan. 7, 1837, and Hugh P. Cogan, 26th, \$760, Dec. 4, 1889; Patrolmen Michael Tierney, 33d, \$700, Sept. 6, 1886; Michael Garvey, 38th, \$700, Nov. 5, 1892; William E. Hall, 40th, \$700, April 6, 1889; James M. Auld, 42d, \$700, June 4, 1892; Matthew Bergen, 62d, \$700, Nov. 5, 1892; Richard B. Bevier, 195th, \$700, Oct. 2, 1895; Neal Sullivan, 270th, \$700, Feb. 5, 1890; William J. Stanford, Detective Division, \$700, May 19, 1891; Raiph W. Gallup, Health Squad, \$700, Feb. 18, 1891; Bernard McMorrow, 172d, \$700, Sept. 9; Henry M. Heyn, Boiler Squad, \$655, July 10, 1804; Matron Minmie V. Lynch, 105th, \$355, Oct. 16, 1899.

Transfers (to take effect 1:15 P. M. March 5): Captains—John W. O'Connor, 149th to 285th, and James H. Post, 235th to 149th; Lieutenants

Pension listing in NY Times: Michael Tierney retired from the force in March, 1913 and died on 05 Dec 1913.

286

THE BROOKLYN DAILY EAGLE ALMANAC.

[1918

SOCS. AND ASSNS .- SECRET AND BENEFIT-MISCELLANEOUS BENEFIT-BROOKLYN-Continued. Netherlands Soc.—Cosmopolitan Hall, 293 2d av., Mhtn. D. G. Verschuur, Pres., 65 Nassau, Mhtn: O. K. Club-State and Court. M. G. Rywelski, Pres.: Chas. H. Chambers, Rec. Sec., 2256 Bed-

Pres.; Bernhardt Bloch, Sec. tewards' Assn. of N. Y. C.—1890. 200 mem. 20 E. 42d. James Ringgold, Pres.; A. Hauser. Stewards' Sec.

Traffic Squad Benev. Assn. P. D. N. Y .- 1908. 3d av. P. F. Crane, Pres.; Michael Tierney, Sec., Tr. C., 138 W. 30th.

U. S. Civil Service Assn., Port of N. Y.-1902. 500 mem. Mutual benefit and further pensioning disabled members. A. R. Eaton, Pres., Custom House

Young Men's Benev. Assn.-1889.

Traffic Squad Benevolent Association listing is found in multiple years of the Brooklyn Daily Almanac.

The Association was started in 1908 and if our Michael Tierney is the secretary listed, he was a founding member.

This association is still around as of 2010, and a current member of the board sent a photo of the first muster of the members. One officer in the photo is a possible match, but it is difficult to

SHOT THE MAN WHO BEAT HIM AT POOL

Watkins Found the Change in His Coat Fifty Cents Shy and Fired a Bullet Into the Victor of the Game.

After being defeated in a strenuous game of pool this afternoon Joe Watkins drew a revolver and fired a bullet into the bosom of William J. Thompson, the victor in the pool game. Thompson is in Roosevelt Hospital at the point of death.

The men are negroes and live in the upper west side negro district, Thompson at No. 221 West Sixty-first street, and Watkins in Sixty-fourth street between Tenth and Eleventh avenues. The pool game was played in a saloon at No. 204 West Sixty-first street.

While the game was in progress the men hung their coats and vests on hooks on the wall. Watkins searched his coat for money with which to settle for the game and found his supply of cash 50 cents short. He accused Thompson of stealing it and followed the accusation with a bullet.

After the shooting Watkins ran down Sixty-first street, followed by a mob of negroes. He entered the house at No. 221, ran to the roof, crossed over to No. 223 and then ran down to the street, where he was captured by Policeman Tierney.

A crowd of negroes surged around Tierney and his captive. The policeman did not know whether the crowd wanted to rescue Watkins or kill him, so he signalled for help. As the district is dangerous the policemen who responded to the call weer by no means gentle in handling the crowd and riotous conditions prevailed until Watkins was safely imprisoned in the West Sixty-eighth street station-house. When the excitement died down Watkins was taken to Roosevelt Hospital, where Thompson identified him.

New York Evening World, 03 Feb 1904

View full page online at Library of Congress Chronicling America Site: http://bit.ly/dEAtI4

THE NEW YORK TIMES, TUESDAY, AUGUST 26, 1902.

POLICEMAN'S FIGHT WITH MURDEROUS GANG

Bag of Coal Thrown on His Face as He Lay on the Ground.

Attempt Made to Turn His Revolver

Against Him—He Held on to Prisoner in Struggle with Twenty Men.

A score of husky descendants of the old families of "Corcoran's roost," who have passed down in local history as earlier advocates of the strenuous life, attempted yesterday to revive the reputation of the "roost" along the same line, by "doing up" a policeman, which was the favorite pastime in the years gone by.

But they had a plucky policeman to deal with, and though the gang showed that they would not hesitate at murder, and in fact did try to turn the policeman's pistol against him, he managed to take one of them to the station, caused another to jump into the East River to elude arrest, and left many sore heads to be nursed.

Patrick Sarsfield Hickey, the policeman whom to their sorrow they tackled, has been only fifteen months on the force, but he is a member of two athletic clubs, and already has a record for saving lives at a fire where he dashed through flames and brought two persons safely to the street.

It was the Kips Bay gang that caused the disturbance. Each of the gang's members has a genealogy of which he is proud, and which he can trace on the records in the Police Department. In the last month Policemen Casey and Tierney, both of the East Thirty-fifth Street Station, have been assaulted by these roughs, and Tierney is still on sick leave as a result, and efforts were made by Capt. Delaney to break up the gang.

Giuseppe Cantoni and his wife keep a small restaurant on First Avenue at the corner of Thirty-eighth Street. In the rear there is a yard where the gang have collected daily and nightly since the order to keep them off the street. A number of times in the past week they have taken possession of the restaurant, ordered what pleased them, and laughed at the proprietor when he asked them for payment. At I o'clock yesterday several of them entered the restaurant and took the kettles, using them to send for beer. They appropriated all the food in the place and turned over some of the tables.

Mrs. Cantoni ran to the street shouting for the police. Hickey, who was on post near, ran into the restaurant and grabbed two of the men, "Red" Cunningham and "Jimmy" Gilmore. In an instant the garg attacked the policeman, who was thrown to the floor, but still clung to his prisoners. He managed to struggle to his feet, and, despite the rain of blows from the fists of his assailants and the struggles of the men he had grasped, he dragged the latter toward the door, hoping to summon holp. The news of the fight spread, and soon fully 300 people were assembled in front of the restaurant. The policeman shouted to the crowd repeatedly for help, but none was given him, the reputation of the gang making the onlookers reluctant to interfere.

One of the roughs ran to the street, and picking up a heavy paving stone, threw it at the struggling officer's head, but missed him. Hickey, finding the odds against him too great, released Cunningham, and with his free hand laid about him with his short billy as hard as he could, and succeeded in dragging Gilmore to the street. There he was tripped and fell, and as he lay on the sidewalk, still clutching his prisoner, a bag of coal was thrown on his face, and an attempt made to smother him. Again he managed to get from under those who were weighing him down, only to be felled by a stinging blow in the face. Once more he gained his feet, however, and knocked down a number of his assailants with his stick. This drove them several feet away for a time, and the officer exclaimed:

"Gilmore, you're my prisoner, and I'm

"Gilmore, you're my prisoner, and I'm going to take you to the station house if I shoot my way through. Now, I warn you, I don't want to commit murder, but I'll shoot to kill."

ⁱ 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. Also, my opinion might differ from those of other folks.