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**Here is why I know David Ahearn (aka Ahern) came from Castle Magner parish in Ireland:**

David Ahearn, Irish Catholic St Louis policeman, born 1843 Ireland married Ellen Maloney on 14 June 1871 at St Bridget Church in St Louis. Ellen's mother, Margaret Maloney, was also a member of St Bridget and we have a 4 Jul 1887 donation certificate to prove it. The marriage was witnessed by a relative, one Thomas Ahern (note that on this record David's surname is spelled "AHERN" not "AHEARN", both spellings with or without the extra A were used even within the family). We also have the 1871 St Bridget marriage record stating the four parents were Michael B. Ahern & Mary Cahil, Patrick Maloney & Margaret Cusick, all Irish Catholic. Thomas Ahern was over the age of consent placing him at least 21 in 1871, so he had to be born prior to 1850. In the 1875 St Louis Directory we have residences "Ahern, David, police, r. ss. Cass av. nr 27th" and "Ahern, Thomas - bricklayer, r. 1609 Biddle. This places David and Ellen in the same neighborhood and only a couple of blocks from Thomas in the 9<sup>th</sup> Ward. There is also a M F Ahern, clk W U Tel Co, living at the 1609 Biddle address, probably Thomas' son Michael (age 18). The only white Irish Catholic Thomas Ahern fitting this description in the 1870 census was:

**1870 Census St. Louis Ward 9 #1134.**

Thomas Ahern	38	b Ireland 1832, brick mason
Catherine Ahern	36	b Ireland 1834
Michael Ahern	13	b MO 1857
Thomas Ahern	10	b MO 1860
John Ahern	6	b MO 1864
Catherine Ahern	2	b MO 1868

**The 1880 St. Louis Census agrees:** (although this family is listed twice) 12<sup>th</sup> ward

Thos. AHERN	Self	M	Male	50	IRE	Brick Layer	IRE	IRE	Brick Mason
Cathern AHERN	Wife	M	Female	47	IRE	Keeping House	IRE	IRE	
Michael AHERN	Son	S	Male	23	MO	Telegraph Operator	<i>(see 1875 directory, clk W U Tel Co)</i>		
Thos. AHERN	Son	S	Male	20	MO	Shoe Factory			
John AHERN	Son	S	Male	17	MO	Moulder			
Katie AHERN	Dau	S	Female	12	MO	At School			

Thomas and Catherine are buried in Calvary Cemetery and records agree with the census, although there is some allowance for variation in birth year due to record discrepancy. In genealogy research the age at death is not always reported correctly due to many factors so exact birth year calculated from death records is never certain. This is certainly the right Thomas Ahern family though because the names and family members match up.

**Calvary Cemetery Section 12 lot 1358**

AHERN THOMAS	M	Oct 10 1899	72	(b 1827)
AHERN CATHERINE	F	Dec 07 1904	70	(b 1834)
AHERN MICHAEL	F M	Oct 29 1924	67	(b 1857)
AHERN JOHN J	M	May 13 1904	38	(b 1866)
AHERN THOMAS	E M	Aug 16 1938	75	(b 1863)

Even though David Ahearn is not reported in any census prior to 1880, the 1871 marriage record places him in St Louis as certainly part of Thomas' family. His absence from the earlier census is a mystery, but as will later be observed, he may have been in the wilds of California or some other place where census was unavailable, unreliable, or perhaps he was still in Ireland. I believe the exact relationship of David should be nephew of Thomas and the following information will show the logic of this placement.

Tracing Thomas Ahern back through time we find he and Catherine's marriage record 1 Jun 1856 in St. Louis at St. Lawrence O'Toole Church by Father John Henry. Thomas Ahern son of Michael Ahern & Anne Ring married to Catherine Croake (aka Crooks) daughter of Michael Croake & Mary Ryan. Again all Irish Catholic people.

Thomas and family are oddly absent from the 1860 St Louis Census, but since his children were born consecutively in Missouri from 1857 to 1868, as shown in the 1870 census, we know he was there somewhere, even if the 1860 census missed him. His parents, Michael and Ann are found in the 1860 census though:

**1860 St. Louis Census 6<sup>th</sup> Ward**

Michael Ahern	55	teamster	b 1805	Ireland
Anna Ahern	60		b 1800	Ireland
Michael Ahern Jr	30		b 1830	Ireland Laborer
William Ahern	18		b 1842	Ireland Apprentice Machinist
Margaret Ahern	8		b 1852	PA ( <i>odd place for this family, perhaps not a daughter or just another clue ?</i> )

Even though there was another Irish Michael and Ann combination in the 1860 census I have concluded it was the same family somehow double reported. The ages and names are all the same for both families, again within reasonable variations of a couple of years so the conclusion that there was only one couple matching the necessary description is easily made. This is a rather moot point though because the conclusion comes with the 1850 census connecting the above family to our Thomas Ahern "brick layer". This was the only Irish Michael Ahern or Thomas Ahern in 1850 St Louis:

**1850 Census St. Louis Ward 4**

Michael Ahern	50	b 1800	Ireland
Ann Ahern	50	b 1800	Ireland
Thomas Ahern	21	b 1829	Ireland bricklayer
Patrick K Ahern	14	b 1836	Ireland
Cornelius Ahern	12	b 1838	Ireland
William Ahern	10	b 1840	Ireland
Mike Ahern	16	b 1834	Ireland ( <i>out of order so perhaps not a son Michael Jr?</i> )

Now we have Thomas "bricklayer" son of Michael and Ann with the entire family, but prior to Thomas' St Louis marriage in 1856. The Calvary death records agree, although we find "Nancy" as the nickname for Ann and also find the family name of Jeremiah was passed down. Even though the younger group of Jeremiah, Thomas, Nettie and Alice have not been placed in the family, they were most likely grandchildren buried in the family plot. Again the dates are a little off the census records due to variation in death records not always reported correctly. Note that this is the only Irish Catholic Michael Ahern in the St Louis cemetery system of any age within 20 years of the one we seek, so it is again concluded to be the correct group:

**Calvary Cemetery Section 6 lot 0257**

AHERN MICHAEL M Dec 12 1878 87 b 1791  
AHERN NANCY F Mar 16 1869 71 b 1798  
AHERN MICHAEL M Dec 10 1870 40 b 1830  
AHERN JEREMIAH M Feb 03 1875 25 b 1850  
AHERN THOMAS M Mar 27 1890 2  
AHERN NETTIE F Feb 09 1893 0  
AHERN ALICE F Jun 23 1894 0

This is certainly the correct family, being the only Michael Ahern group in St Louis in 1850-60, so we proceed to the "Search for Missing Friends article" These were Irish Immigrant Advertisements placed in nationally distributed Boston Pilot 1831-1920:

*18 Feb 1854 - "Of Michael Ahern, of the parish of Castle Magner, near Mallow, co. Cork, who came with his brother Jeremiah to New York, in November, '48, and sailed from thence to California. Information of him will be received by his anxious parents, now in the city of St Louis by addressing Michl. Ahern, St Louis, Mo."*

This publication clearly states our Michael Ahern of St Louis was searching for his two lost boys Jeremiah and Michael. Jeremiah has been found in an 1872 San Francisco newspaper death record:

*"AHERN--In San Francisco, June 24th, Jeremiah AHERN, aged 47 years." Source: Sacramento Daily Record, 26 July 1872, p.2. Transcribed by Susan Cherry-Boyer. (note Jeremiah's birth was abt 1825).*

And then the 1870 California census says: *"1870 San Francisco: Jeremiah Ahern 45 (b1825) Ship Carpenter \$5,000, Hanna 22 (b 1848 Ire), Eliza 18 (b 1852 NY)".*

Although this is not conclusively the correct Jeremiah Ahern it verifies at least one Jeremiah Ahern person was in California at the correct time and very likely resulting from the 1849 Gold Rush. The two Ahern men who arrived in New York in 1848 and sailed to California can be positively connected to the St Louis Michael Ahern family through the "Missing Friends" article so we know this entire family came from Castle Magner parish in County Cork Ireland.

We are then left with the mystery of exactly where David Ahern's parents Michael B Ahern & Mary Cahil were and how David ended up in 1871 St Louis. The solution to this part of the mystery may yet be located in the Castle Manger Catholic records. Perhaps the parents died and David moved to St Louis with his grandparents? Possibly his mother Mary died in California and David's father is one of the single graves in Calvary Cemetery? Or perhaps it may never be solved but we can still conclude David came from Castle Magner, Ireland where his family originated.

Even though Michael B Ahern could have been an uncle, brother or cousin to Thomas Ahern "bricklayer" we know he was closely related. My personal theory is Michael B Ahern was the lost son who went to California with his brother Jeremiah. The oldest certain sibling of the St Louis 1850 Michael Ahern family is Thomas "bricklayer" and he is 29 years younger than the parents. It is very likely he had older brothers who remained in Ireland when Michael and Ann (Nancy?) came over. I have placed Michael B and Jeremiah in the family this way and remain convinced it is the correct conclusion.

Conclusion: Maureen Campbell-Wood (John Joseph Campbell, Catherine Elizabeth Ahern, David Ahern), is a great granddaughter of David Ahern b 1843, St Louis Policeman and therefore a 3rd great granddaughter of Michael Ahern "teamster" (of Castle Magner) who published the 1854 article.

### **Michael AHERN "Teamster" Of Castle Magner Parish, County Cork, Ireland**

Born: abt 1790-1800 Ireland

Died: 12 Dec 1878 St Louis

Married: Anna RING (AKA Nancy) b abt 1798-1800 d 16 Mar 1869

Children of Michael and Anna:

- i Michael B AHERN b abt 1823, Ireland Immigrated NYC Nov 1848 Married abt 1842, Ireland Mary CAHIL  
Children:
  - i David AHEARN (aka AHERN) b 1843 Ireland d 16 Oct 1887 St Louis married Ellen MALONEY
  - ii *Jeremiah AHERN b 1850 d 3 Feb 1875 – buried with grandparent, but perhaps not correctly placed here*
- ii Jeremiah AHERN b abt 1825 d 26 July 1872 in CA Immigrated NYC Nov 1848 m unknown
  - i Hannah AHERN b 1848 Ireland
  - ii Eliza AHERN b 1852 NY
- iii Thomas AHERN b. 1827 In Ireland, occupation bricklayer d 10 Oct 1899 St. Louis MO [1]  
Married: 1 Jun 1856 in St. Louis at St. Lawrence O'Toole Church to Catherine CROAKE b 1830 Ireland  
Children of Thomas and Catherine:
  - i Michael F AHERN b Jun 1857
  - ii Thomas AHERN b Jan 1860
  - iii John J AHERN b Apr 1864
  - iv Catherine E AHERN b 1868
- iv Michael AHERN b. 1834 (*out of order in the 1850 census, so perhaps not a son?*)
- v Patrick K AHERN b 1836 Ireland [1] d Nov 1909 [4]  
1st m Bridget b 1840 d 1 Jul 1881 (res in 1881 2400/2500 block Dickson St near 2500 Cass)  
residence 1601 Olive street in 1895 [5]
  - i James AHERN b 1858 Works In Saw Mill
  - ii Mary AHERN b 1862 d 15 Aug 1873 [5]
  - iii John AHERN b 1866 Stamping Co
  - iv Michael AHERN b 1868 d 22 Feb 1897 [5]
  - v Patrick AHERN b 1870 d 12 Dec 1910 [4]
  - vi Edward AHERN b 1874
  - vii Thomas B AHERN b 1876 d 20 May 1933 [4]
  - viii Wm. AHERN b 1878
  - ix Mary (Maggie) AHERN b 1880 d 14 Aug 1880 [5]
  - x Robert AHERN b 1887 d 24 Jun 1891 [5]2nd m Maggie HOLLY b 1854 d 13 Aug 1925 (mother of Robert Emmett) [4]
  - xi Robert Emmet AHERN b March 1889 d 29 Jun 1895 [4]

- vi Cornelius R AHERN b. March 1843 (or 1838) Ireland d 1896 m Fanny L MATTHEWS b 1844 MO d 18 Aug 1919, res 2220 Cass St (see also 1880 census CR Ahern 42) [6]
- i Walter C. AHERN b 1873 d 3 Jun 1875 [6]
  - ii Albert AHERN b. 1880
- vii William AHERN b. 1842 living with Cornelius & Fanny in 1880 at res 2220 Cass St
- viii Margaret AHERN, b. 1856

Sources:

1. St Louis Calvary Cemetery Record, Calvary Sec 012 Lot 1358 "Thomas Ahern"
2. 1875 Directory
3. 1850, 1860, 1870 1880 Federal Census records
4. Calvary Plot 012 0801 "Patrick K Ahern"
5. Calvary Plot 004 0128 "Bridget Ahern, wife of Patrick"
6. Calvary Plot 015 1092 "Cornelius R Ahern"