

around 1873, and the two ladies started an argument. The two ladies escalated to the point of Catherine hitting Anna Hilgers over the head with a frying pan!

Catherine was found guilty of assaulting her neighbor, and was fined \$38, which was a lot of money in those days. But somehow, Catherine paid it.

Catherine Neafsey O'Connor died on April 13, 1897, and was buried at Calvary Cemetery in St. Paul, Minnesota.



Johnnie O'Connor, who was killed suddenly, and was buried in Calvary Cemetery in Shakopee.



The Connor house is now at The Landing in Shakopee.



SHAKOPEE HERITAGE SOCIETY
2109 Boulder Pointe, Shakopee, MN 55379

952-693-3865

shakopeeheritage.org



SHAKOPEE HERITAGE SOCIETY



**Catherine Neafsey
O'Connor**

(Photo not of Catherine)

ca. 1834-1897

Compiled and written by David R. Schleper, Shakopee Heritage Society © 2020

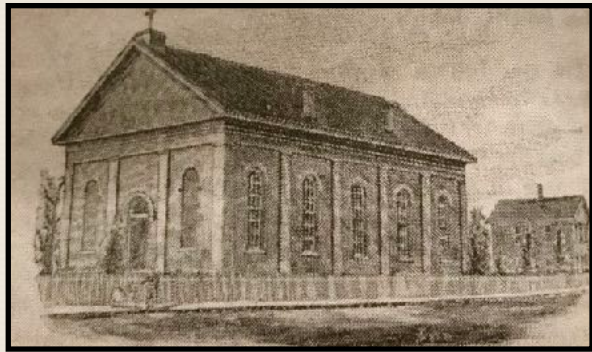


Catherine Neafsey (or Nefsey) was born in Ireland around 1834. She immigrated to the United States, and married John O'Connor in LaSalle, Illinois, near Chicago, in 1858.

The family came to Minnesota in 1859 or 1860. In 1861, the family was living in Glendale Township, Scott County, Minnesota, which is near present day Savage.

The O'Connor family in 1865 consisted of John and Catherine, along with their children: Edwin, age 8, Mary, age 7, Julie, age 5, Catharina, age 2, and John Jr., age one.

While Catherine Neafsey O'Connor was taking care of the family, John O'Connor volunteered and joined the 9th Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, Company I.



On left is the Church of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Shakopee. It later was called St. Mary's Catholic Church. On the right is the graves of John O'Connor and their son, Johnnie. The cemetery is Calvary Cemetery located in Shakopee.



John returned to his family in Glendale and shortly after, bought a house in downtown Shakopee. This is the neighborhood where Catherine and their neighbor, Anna Hilgers, reside. Henry and Mary F. Hinds sold their house on Second and Market Street to the O'Connors for \$200. It was near the train tracks.

Catherine did not have much money. She was not able to read or write, and signed her name with an 'X.'

Catherine and her family spent regular time at the Church of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Shakopee.

The church was often called the Irish Church. The Church of the Immaculate Conception, which was just a few blocks from St. Mark's, was erected by 1866. It was not until 1876 that the church became St. Mary's Catholic Church.

John O'Connor worked at the Schroeder Brick and Lime Manufacturing Company. It was one of the leading and most

prosperous business enterprises of the city, and was well known in the northwest. The brick yard was located north of Bluff Avenue between Market and Minnesota Street. The bricks were from near the Minnesota River, near Huber Park. Many of the early building in Shakopee were made from these bricks. The work that John did was only for 8 months of the year. The rest of the year, he was out of work.

To make it worse, John and Catherine's son, Johnnie, died suddenly.

Catherine's husband, John O'Connor had a long and lingering illness due to the eye injury he suffered in the war. The injury turned cancerous. He died in June of 1878.

Catherine Neafsey O'Connor was upset. Really upset. And she had enough. She grabbed a frying pan and headed outside, and went next door to Anna Hilgers.

They were neighbors living on Second and Market Street in downtown Shakopee point