The Genealogy of Anthony Gale

Fourth Commandant of the US Marine Corps

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Introduction

The Fourth Commandant of the United States Marine Corps, Lt. Col. Anthony Gale, had a star-crossed career. An Irish immigrant, he entered the newly formed Marines in 1798 as a Second Lieutenant. He “took an active and gallant part” in the defense of Ft. McHenry during the War of 1812 (Abbot, 1918, p. 79), worked his way up through the ranks, and was elevated to the position of Commandant on 3 March 1819. Personal behavior issues coupled with arcane political infighting led to his court-martial, conviction and removal from the service in October 1820 (Bartlett, 1985). Subsequently, he lived in poverty in rural Kentucky and died on 12 December 1842 (Millett, et al., 2004, p. 52) (Long, undated, p. 11) or 12 December 1843 (Bartlett, 1985) (United States Senate, 1844, p. 323).

Previous efforts to establish an early biographical record for Lt. Col. Anthony Gale have been met with limited success. Recent research has uncovered new information, but the record remains incomplete. This paper presents a foundation of genealogical information concerning the Commandant and an analysis is performed in an attempt to fit the pieces together and “connect the dots” to tell a coherent story of his lineage.

My personal interest in Commandant Anthony Gale stems from a family relationship. His sister, Frances [Gale] Kearney, is my great-great-great-great grandmother. My purpose in publishing this article is to assemble the growing body of sources concerning Commandant Gale into one place and to advance the dialog regarding his heritage. My hope is that future genealogists will find this paper helpful in furthering the research concerning this somewhat enigmatic figure in our nation’s early history. If by using this paper, others can develop better theories than mine, I will be well pleased.

A chart illustrating the ancestors of Marine Commandant Anthony Gale and a family tree depicting selected relevant relatives of Commandant Anthony Gale discussed herein are presented in the Appendices. Copies of other original records of interest and connections to other families can be found on the Internet website The Genealogy of Marine Commandant Anthony Gale at http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mccunney/.

Acknowledgements

This paper builds on the earlier efforts of many others. In particular, I would like to acknowledge Robert T. Jordan, Lt. Col. Merrill L. Bartlett, USMC (Ret.), and in particular, the remarkable work of Richard A. Long of the US Marine Corps Museum who provided the essential foundation for this paper. The author further gratefully acknowledges the more recent contribution of fellow researchers Karen McCunney of Springfield, PA, Edward Gale Moore of Mechanicsville, VA and Robert Gale of New South Wales, Australia in finding additional genealogical data with modern research techniques unavailable to previous generations of
researchers. I also acknowledge the assistance of Robert Aquilina of the Marine Corps History Division and Greg Cina of the Marine Corps Archives and Special Collections for their time and effort in providing relevant material from the Marine collections concerning Commandant Anthony Gale.

Notes on Usage

This paper encounters seven different people named Anthony Gale. For clarity, although at times the usage is awkward, when referring to Anthony Gale, Fourth Commandant of the Marine Corps, he will be identified as Marine Anthony Gale, Commandant Anthony Gale, Marine Commandant Anthony Gale, or Lt. Col. Anthony Gale, except when providing a direct quote concerning him. His father, Anthony Gale, will be identified simply as Anthony Gale. The first of the Ashfield Gales of Queen’s County, Ireland will be referred to as Lt. Anthony Gale. Lt. Anthony Gale’s grandson, also named Anthony Gale, appears only in listings of the Ashfield Gales. A son of Peter Gale, fourth of the Ashfield Gales, is also named Anthony and appears once in the text. Anthony Gale, son of Thomas Gale of Valleyfield, appears in one paragraph. Anthony Gale, son of Malachi Gale and Catherine Holland, appears only in the table of Ballinakill Baptismal records.

In order to clearly identify certain females in the paper, maiden names will be given in brackets, such as Frances [Gale] Kearney.

Genealogical Discussion

Abstracts of Sir William Betham

Most of the prerogative wills of Ireland were destroyed in the Public Records Office fire at Four Courts in Dublin on 13 April 1922 (Stockwell, 2004, pp. 130-131). A substitute for these records is provided by Sir William Betham, Ulster King-of-Arms (Chief Heraldic Officer of Ireland) from 1820-1853, who took genealogical notes from the virtually all of the prerogative wills of Ireland up to 1800 and formed them into chart pedigrees (Vicars, 1897, p. vii), (Begley, 1987, p. 163). Four of Betham’s will abstracts and one pedigree are of particular interest and are presented at the Appendices:

Abstract of the will of Mall (Malachy) Delany of Ballinakill, Queen’s County, dated 6 November 1784, proved 20 January 1785.

Abstract of the will of Martin Delany of Ballyfin, Queen’s County, dated 23 August 1731, proved 24 November 1731.
Abstract of the will of Barbara [Albin] Delany, widow of Martin Delany, of Ballyfin, Queen’s County, dated 25 May 1738, proved 23/24 May 1739. (Two versions)

Sketch pedigree of the Ashfield Gales, also referred to as the Six Generations of Gales.

Frances Gale

Frances Kearney, along with her husband John and children Anthony, George, Mary Ann, Frances, Jane, Bridget, Ann and John, emigrated from Ireland sailing from Dublin and arriving in New York aboard the Ship Dublin Packet on 28 May 1828 (Ancestry.com, 2006). Richard McCunney, the author’s great-great-great grandfather and namesake, emigrated from Ireland to America sailing from Londonderry, Ireland, arriving in Philadelphia on 14 May 1832 aboard the Brig Ontario (NARA, 2003). On 12 September 1835, he married Frances Kearney’s daughter Bridget (St. John, 1986).

According to a handwritten Gale Family History by Helen Moore, a granddaughter of Bridget [Kearney] McCunney, Bridget’s mother’s maiden name was Frances Gale. An autobiography by Constance O’Hara, a great granddaughter of Bridget [Kearney] McCunney, also confirms Bridget’s mother’s maiden name as Gale, although Constance errs in stating her first name was Jane (O’Hara, 1955, p. 22). A letter from Mary C. Rider to Richard Long also states Bridget [Kearney] McCunney’s mother’s maiden name was Frances Gale (Rider, 1975).

According to the manifest of the Ship Dublin Packet, Frances [Gale] Kearney was 48 years old at the time of her immigration in 1828, which places her year of birth about 1780. The Old Cathedral Cemetery record, her Philadelphia Death Return and her obituary in the Philadelphia Inquirer all show her age at death to be 85, with a date of death on 26 January 1864 and an interment date of 29 January 1864. Her year of birth would be about 1778 from these records.

The O’Hara memoir and a biographical entry for Richard McCunney in The History of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick and of the Hibernian Society (Campbell, 1892, p. 476) both state that Anthony Gale, Fourth Commandant of the Marine Corps, was Bridget [Kearney] McCunney’s uncle. The O’Hara autobiography and the Gale Family History also state that Sharp Delany, first collector of the port of Philadelphia, was a cousin to this branch of the Gale family, including Frances [Gale] Kearney and Bridget [Kearney] McCunney.

According to the Gale Family History, a letter by Mary G. Moore (Moore, 1934), and a letter by Mary C. Rider (Rider, 1975), Jane Kearney, another daughter of Frances [Gale] Kearney, who emigrated with her family in 1828, married Sharp Gale, her cousin.

The Old Cathedral Cemetery record and Philadelphia Death Return for Sharp Thomas Gale (who later in life went by Thomas Sharp Gale) both show his age at death as 80, with a date of death on 15 February 1876 and an interment date of 18 February 1876, which places his year of birth about 1796. However, his Philadelphia Census entry of 1860, where he appears with his wife Jane [Kearney] Gale and daughter Mary Ann, lists his age at 60, which would make his year of birth about 1800. His obituary published in the Philadelphia Inquirer on 21 February 1876 states:

“Oh the 15th inst., at the advanced age of 80 years, Thomas Sharp Gale, eldest son of the late Thomas Gale, of Valleyfield, Queen’s County Ireland. He was a nephew of the late Colonel Gale, United States Marine Corps, and cousin of the late Sharp Delany, first collector of the Port of Philadelphia under George Washington.”

Analysis of Richard A. Long Memos

Richard A. Long was the Curator (Special Projects) of the Marine Corps Museum and conducted extensive research into the background of Lt. Col. Anthony Gale in the late 1960’s – mid 1970’s at the request of General Wallace M. Greene Jr., who was Commandant of the Marine Corps at the time (Jordan, 2007).

In a letter from Richard A. Long to Miss Pansy Pence Dinkle, Assistant Librarian, Kentucky Historical Society, dated 18 May 1967, Mr. Long discusses research performed by a colleague, Colonel Don Pershing Wyckoff, in Dublin. At the time, the research was based on the assumption that Lt. Col. Anthony Gale’s birth occurred in 1781. Based on Col. Wyckoff’s Dublin research, Long states that a marriage between Anthony Gale and Anne Delany occurred in 1781 (in another document, discussed below, he states the marriage was in 1780). Their children were Anthony, Parnell, William, John, Jane, Frances and Mall (Malachi). The Betham abstract of the will of Mall Delany (see Appendices) confirms this listing of their children. Subsequently, Mr. Long believed that he had made a 20 year error in computing Lt. Col. Anthony Gale’s age, now believing that he was born in 1761. The only data that Mr. Long provides that Lt. Col. Anthony Gale was born in 1761 is the 1840 Kentucky census, where he asserts Lt. Col. Anthony Gale’s age is given as 79. The Marines evidently have no independent records of their own that establish the birth date of Commandant Anthony Gale.

In an untitled memo dated 8 May 1967, Richard A. Long more fully documents the research performed in Dublin, Ireland by Colonel Don Pershing Wyckoff, USMC. Dates stated in this research are somewhat inconsistent, although they seem to have escaped the notice of Mr. Long.

The memo discusses the Registry of Deeds, Book 336, page 131, document 224169, which is characterized as a Marriage Settlement of 14 November 1780 involving “Thomas Gale
of Sampson’s Court…, Anthony Gale, second son of Thomas…, and Anne Delany” among others. Mr. Long then states that: “This document confirms the marriage of an Anthony Gale to an Anne Delany in 1780.” In view of other material, it confirms no such thing.

First, from Long’s memo, Registry of Deeds, Book 362, page 164, document 243155, an indenture of lease executed on 1 November 1782 and registered on 27 October 1784, involves Malachy Delany (identified in the Marriage Settlement as the father of Anne [Delany] Gale) and Anne Gale, widow. If Anne [Delany] Gale was married in 1780 and was a widow by 1784, how could she have had seven children?

Similarly, consider the will of Malachy Delany, dated 6 November 1784 and proved on 20 January 1785. Seven offspring of Anthony Gale and Anne Delany are enumerated in this 1784 will. Again, unless there were several multiple births, how could they have had seven children by 1784 if their marriage was in 1780?

Marriage settlements were generally executed before the marriage and registered through a process after the wedding ceremony (Begley, 1987, pp. 140, 150). This Thomas Gale Marriage Settlement was dated 14 November 1780, but registered on 20 June 1780 (Gale, 1780). How could the deed be registered before the date on the document itself? This curious arrangement suggests a form of post-dating of the document which would not occur in a normal marriage settlement.

One possibility is that the registrar either misread or mistranscribed the date of the marriage settlement. If so, then the date of the marriage settlement could have been 1770, before the wedding. However, it was not unusual for long periods of time to elapse between the execution of a document and its registration and for the death of one of the parties to be the trigger to register a deed (Begley, 1987, p. 141) (Grenham, 1993, p.104). The grantee of the deed, Thomas Gale, gentleman, Sampsons Court, died intestate in 1780 (Ffolliott, 1972, p.6).

If the transcription of the date by the registrar was accurate, then the marriage settlement for Anthony Gale and Anne Delany was executed well after their marriage. While marriage settlements were generally made before the wedding, there are records of post-marriage settlements in Ireland during this era (Begley, 1987, pp. 150-151).

The 14 November 1780 Marriage Settlement document contains apparently standard terms and conditions, but it also includes this rather specific provision (Gale, 1780):

“if the said Anne Delany should survive the said Anthony (Gale) that she should from and immediately after his Decease have receive and take out of said several lands and premises the yearly sum of thirty pounds ….”

Since Anne [Delany] Gale was a widow within two years of the date of the Marriage Settlement containing a quite specific provision for that eventuality, the belated
Marriage Settlement may have been executed in anticipation of Anthony Gale’s death in order to provide for Anne [Delany] Gale and her children.

Malachy Delany granted another Indented Deed to Anne [Delany] Gale on 6 December 1773 which was registered on 27 October 1784 (Delany, 1773). The parties of this registered deed are “Malachie (sic) Delany of Ballinakill in the Queens County, Gentleman, of the one part and Ann Gale otherwise Delany of Ballinakill aforesaid widow and administratrix of Anthony Gale late of Ballinakill aforesaid, gentleman, Deceased, and daughter of the said Malachie (sic) Delany of the other part.” (The date of this deed may also have been mistranscribed by the registrar since it makes more sense that Malachy Delany would have executed this deed after the death of Anthony Gale in 1783 rather than in 1773 during the marriage of Anthony Gale and Anne Delany. The term of the deed is “for and during the natural life and lives of Thomas Gale, Sir John Parnell and Frances Delany, now Frances Moffitt”. Certainly Malachi would not choose people of a generation older than his daughter to unfavorably define the term for this lease. The first Sir John Parnell died in 1782 (Burke, 1880, p.282) who was succeeded by his son, Sir John Parnell, a more reasonable choice for the purposes of the deed. Similarly, Thomas Gale, Anne [Delany] Gale’s father-in-law died in 1780 (Ffolliott, 1972, p.6). A better choice would be Thomas Gale, Anne’s brother-in-law. A 1773 deed would be referencing the two older men; a 1783 deed the two younger.)

From the language of the deed, Anthony Gale died intestate, since Anne [Delany] Gale is the administratrix of Anthony Gale’s estate. If Anthony had left a will, she would have been the executrix. Supporting this point, the *Index to Leighlin Administrations Intestate* lists an Anthony Gaele (sic) of Ballynakill in 1783 (Ffolliott, 1972, p. 6). So Malachy Delany and Thomas Gale are executing documents to provide for Anne [Delany] Gale, while her own husband fails to leave a will. There is a possible explanation for this seemingly odd behavior.

Commandant Anthony Gale suffered from periodic mental derangement (Bartlett, 1985). In an 1820 letter to Secretary of the Navy Smith Thompson, Catharine Gale, Lt. Col. Anthony Gale’s wife, appeals for support for her family and discusses her husband’s insanity. She writes (in part): “I am informed it is a family diseas (sic), his Father died insane….” If the Commandant’s father, Anthony Gale, did in fact die insane, then the strange 1780 Marriage Settlement for the support of Anne [Delany] Gale and the lack of a will by Anthony Gale now make sense. A belated marriage settlement would have been a particularly attractive vehicle to provide for Anne [Delany] Gale if Anthony Gale was mentally incapacitated since a married woman could not hold property in her own right at that time (Begley, 1987, p. 149). The 1780 Thomas Gale Marriage Settlement transferred certain property to trustees who managed the property on Anne [Delany] Gale’s behalf outside the control of her husband.
Genealogy of Anthony Gale

A copy of the original image of this 14 November 1780 Marriage Settlement for Anne [Delany] Gale and its transcription as well as other records of interest can be viewed on the Internet at http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mccunney/Edward.html.

Ballinakill Roman Catholic Church Baptismal Records

The Ballinakill (Queen’s County, Ireland) Roman Catholic Baptismal Records include the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Christening Date</th>
<th>Child’s Surname</th>
<th>Child’s First Name</th>
<th>Father Surname</th>
<th>Father First Name</th>
<th>Mother Surname</th>
<th>Mother First Name</th>
<th>Parish Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1801 09</td>
<td>Gale</td>
<td>Anthony</td>
<td>Gale</td>
<td>Malachy</td>
<td>Holland</td>
<td>Catherine</td>
<td>Ballinakill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1802 11</td>
<td>Gale</td>
<td>Hellen</td>
<td>Gale</td>
<td>Malachy</td>
<td>Holland</td>
<td>Catherine</td>
<td>Ballinakill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1804 02</td>
<td>Gale</td>
<td>Margaret</td>
<td>Gale</td>
<td>Malachy</td>
<td>Holland</td>
<td>Catherine</td>
<td>Ballinakill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1806 04</td>
<td>Gale</td>
<td>Catherine</td>
<td>Gale</td>
<td>Malachy</td>
<td>Holland</td>
<td>Catherine</td>
<td>Ballinakill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1808 06</td>
<td>Gale</td>
<td>Parnell</td>
<td>Gale</td>
<td>Malachy</td>
<td>Holland</td>
<td>Catherine</td>
<td>Ballinakill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1811 09</td>
<td>Gale</td>
<td>Malachy</td>
<td>Gale</td>
<td>Malachy</td>
<td>Holland</td>
<td>Catherine</td>
<td>Ballinakill</td>
</tr>
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<th>Father First Name</th>
<th>Mother Surname</th>
<th>Mother First Name</th>
<th>Parish Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1796 04</td>
<td>Glascott</td>
<td>Mary</td>
<td>Glascott</td>
<td>Patrick</td>
<td>Gale</td>
<td>Jane</td>
<td>Ballinakill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1797 10</td>
<td>Glascott</td>
<td>Frances</td>
<td>Glascott</td>
<td>Patrick</td>
<td>Gale</td>
<td>Jane</td>
<td>Ballinakill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1809 08</td>
<td>Kearney</td>
<td>Frances</td>
<td>Kearney</td>
<td>John</td>
<td>Gale</td>
<td>Frances</td>
<td>Ballinakill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1811 07</td>
<td>Kearney</td>
<td>John</td>
<td>Kearney</td>
<td>John</td>
<td>Gale</td>
<td>Frances</td>
<td>Ballinakill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1813 07</td>
<td>Kearney</td>
<td>Jane</td>
<td>Kearney</td>
<td>John</td>
<td>Gale</td>
<td>Frances</td>
<td>Ballinakill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1822 02</td>
<td>Kearney</td>
<td>John</td>
<td>Kearney</td>
<td>John</td>
<td>Gale</td>
<td>Frances</td>
<td>Ballinakill</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Note: “Patt Glasco” in the original record has been corrected to Patrick Glascott. Variant spellings of Gale (Geale, Geal) and Malachy (Mallack, Mallic) have also been corrected.)

The indenture of lease dated 1 November 1782 and registered on 27 October 1784 states Malachy Delany and Anne [Delany] Gale were of Ballynakill (variant spelling of Ballinakill) (O’Laughlin, 1994, p. xii) in Queen’s County, Ireland. Since Anne [Delany] Gale was listed as a widow in this indenture, her children listed in the will of Malachy Delany (including Malachi, Jane and Frances) were born perhaps 1770-1784, so her children would be having children of their own in the 1796-1822 period. Since the town, county, names and ages in the lease indenture and will abstract match these baptismal records, we can be reasonably certain that the Gale parents Malachi/Malachy, Jane and Frances listed in these records are the children of Anthony Gale and Anne Delany. Additionally, the baptismal records of certain children of John Kearney and Frances Gale (Frances, Jane, John) match the manifest of their immigration voyage aboard the Dublin Packet; and similarly as we shall see below, the baptismal records of certain
children of Malachi Gale and Catherine Holland (Margaret, Parnell, Malachi) match the manifest of their immigration voyage aboard the *Catherine*. Also, an informal discussion with a researcher at the Offaly Heritage and Archaeology Society indicates Gale was an unusual family name in Queen’s County during that era.

The Age of Lt. Col. Anthony Gale

As noted above, Richard Long believed Lt. Col. Anthony Gale was born in 1761. There are several problems with this date of birth. He received his Marine Commission as a Second Lieutenant in 1798 (Jordan, 2007). If he were born in 1761, he seems old (37) to receive an entry level commission in the Marines. Richard Long expresses this same concern in an undated, incomplete manuscript entitled *Anthony Gale*. Entering the military at the entry level is the act of a young man, not a middle aged adult. Early in his Marine career, about 1799, he killed Navy Lieutenant Allen MacKenzie in a duel (Bartlett, 1985). Are these the antics of a hot-headed youth or a more mature 38 year old? During his court martial in 1820, Lt. Col. Anthony Gale was accused of frequenting houses of prostitution (Bartlett, 1985). Is this the behavior of a 59 year old? Given his habitual heavy drinking and his mental health issues and considering the life expectancy of the era, is it likely that he lived to be 82?

Misreporting of older ages (75+) is common in the census with claims of ages older than the true age being the usual problem (Shorter et al., 1995, pp. 52-53). In the specific case of Lt. Col. Anthony Gale, he suffered from periodic mental derangement (Moskin, 2006), so any statement he made while retired in Kentucky is suspect. Also, Lt. Col. Anthony Gale repeatedly attempted to have his pension stipend increased (Ancestry.com, 2000), so lying about his age to make himself appear much older could have been a ploy to increase sympathy for his cause.

While it is not a significant difference, my examination of the 1840 Kentucky Census shows Lt. Col. Anthony Gale’s age to be 78, rather than the 79 reported by Richard Long. In the 1840 Kentucky Census record, he appears living in the household of his son, W.A. Gale (Lincoln, Kentucky; Roll: 117; Page: 88) in a column marked “Persons for Revolutionary or Military Services included in the foregoing”. However, in that same record, the oldest male living in that household is shown as age 60, but under 70, which is clearly inconsistent. This information concerning Commandant Anthony Gale’s name and age is repeated on the summary page for the county (Lincoln, Kentucky; Roll: 117; Page: 121).

Lt. Col. Anthony Gale also appears in the 1830 Kentucky Census, although his exact age is not listed. However, the oldest male living in his 1830 household (presumably Marine Anthony Gale himself) is shown to be of 50 years of age, but under 60 – which makes his birth between 1770 and 1780. According to this census data, Lt. Col. Anthony Gale would have had to have aged at least 18 years (and as many as 28 years) between the 1830 and 1840 censuses in order to be 78 years old in 1840. The best that can be said for Lt. Col. Anthony Gale’s age entry in the 1840 Kentucky Census is that it is inconsistent – and unreliable.
Lt. Col. Anthony Gale also appears in the 1820 Census in the District of Columbia, during the time he was Commandant – and on the same page as the Marine Garrison. In this record, the oldest male in the household (again, presumably the Commandant himself) is between 26 and 45 years of age, which places his birth no earlier than 1775. Actually, the four persons in his household in the 1820 census can be easily identified: male 26-45 (Lt. Col. Gale), female 26-45 (wife Catherine), female 10-16 (daughter Emily), male under 10 (son Washington Anthony).

Lt. Col. Anthony Gale also appears in the 1840 Kentucky Roll of Pensioners under Lincoln County (Quisenberry, 1974, p. 109). This document also shows him to be 78 years old. However, the source of this information is likely the same as the census – Commandant Anthony Gale himself. In this pension roll, he is also shown to be a Revolutionary War veteran, which is not confirmed by any known biographical sketch of him. Lt. Col. Anthony Gale’s own plea to have his pension increased only notes “upwards of twenty-two years of faithful” service (1798-1820) with no allowance made for additional service prior to 1798 (Gale, 1821). Since the Revolutionary War ended in 1781 with the surrender at Yorktown, he may have fabricated his age (to be 19 years old at war’s end) in order to be consistent with his claim to be a veteran of that war. Commandant Gale’s participation in the Revolutionary War is also inconsistent with his naturalization records (see below) which indicate he did not arrive in the United States until 1795. In any event, this document contains suspect information regarding Lt. Col. Anthony Gale and cannot be relied upon. Gale researcher Robert T. Jordan also agrees that Commandant Anthony Gale “did not enter service until the [Revolutionary] war ended” (Jordan, 2007, p. 48).

On the other hand, the alternate date (17 September 1782) commonly given for Marine Anthony Gale’s birth (Moskin, 2006), (Jordan, 2007) seems too young. He would have been shy of his 16th birthday upon receiving his Marine Commission and also only 15 years old when declaring his intent to become a citizen on 15 June 1798 (US District Court, 1801). He also would have not met the conditions of the Naturalization Act of 1795 which required him to be a “free white person” of at least the age of 21 when he swore his citizenship oath in Court on 27 November 1801. So 1761 seems too early for Lt. Col. Anthony Gale’s birth and 1782 seems too late.

Another record regarding the age of Commandant Anthony Gale is provided in a document in the Marine Archives of a partial transcription of a 23 October 1838 letter from Lt. Col. Anthony Gale to President Martin Van Buren. According to this transcript, Gale writes (in part): “as a military man that I embraced in my nineteenth year”. This Marine record further states: “All accounts in the A&L Biographical File indicate that he entered the Marine Corps as a Second Lieutenant on 2 Sept 1798”, which would place the birth year of Commandant Anthony Gale at 1779-1780. This date makes the most sense of the most facts. He enters the Marine Corps as a young man and becomes a citizen shortly after he reaches the legal age (21) to do so. His duel with Allen MacKenzie occurs when he is about 20 and his alleged frequenting of houses of prostitution occurs when he is about 40. He dies at about 64. Also, a birth year of 1779-1780
is also consistent with Lt. Col. Anthony Gale’s age as reported in the 1820 District of Columbia Census and the 1830 Kentucky Census.

**Lt. Col. Anthony Gale’s Commission and Naturalization**

An interesting question regarding Commandant Anthony Gale’s Marine commission is how he received it in the first place. President John Adams authorized the formation of the Marine Corps on 11 July 1798, and Lt. Col. Anthony Gale was among the first to apply for a commission which he received in 1798. The exact date of his commission is in some dispute. It is variously reported as 2 September 1798 (Jordan, 2007) or 26 July 1798 (Millett et al., 2004, p. 45). A document entitled *Master Roll of a Detachment of Marines under the Command of Lieutenant Anthony Gale* for the period 30 December 1798 to 15 November 1799 shows his date of appointment as 26 July 1798. Consistent with the July 1798 date for his commission, a receipt dated 27 August 1798 is signed by “Anthony Gale, Lieut. of Marines”, whose signature matches Commandant Anthony Gale’s signature on his 1801 naturalization papers. In any event, Marine Anthony Gale received his commission as a Second Lieutenant so quickly that it seems unlikely that he achieved it on his own merit, especially since he had no apparent military background and was not yet even a citizen. Indeed, the American State Papers of 1816 and 1820 show Marine Anthony Gale to be the only foreign born Marine Officer.

In an undated, incomplete manuscript concerning Lt. Col. Anthony Gale’s Marine commission, Richard Long shares this concern and notes (Long, 1967):

“The conditions under which Gale received his commission are equally mysterious. It was customary during the first one hundred years of the existence of the Navy and the Marine Corps for a candidate for a commission to be recommended to the President, to a Congressman, or to the Secretary of the Navy for that commission by one or more persons who were well acquainted with the capabilities and character of the candidate. Thus far, no recommendations can be found for Anthony Gale.”

According to the *Hibernian Society*, Lt. Col. Anthony Gale was a cousin of Sharp Delany (Campbell, 1892, p. 476). Sharp Delany was a Colonel in the Revolutionary War (Egle and Busch, 1890, p. 640), a warm friend of General Washington (Ashmead, 1902, p. 79), and served in the Pennsylvania Legislature after the Revolution (National Cyclopedia, 1895, p. 504). Sharp Delany was still Collector of the Port of Philadelphia in 1798 (Simpson, 1859, p. 308), having received a Presidential appointment to this position by George Washington (Campbell, 1892, p. 108), when Lt. Col. Anthony Gale received his Marine Corps commission.

Sharp Delany attained some prominence in the latter part of the 18th Century in Philadelphia (Ashmead, 1902, pp. 69-98). It was likely not a coincidence that Commandant Anthony Gale came to Philadelphia when he emigrated from Ireland. It would have been foolish of him to ignore the connections of his Delany cousin to help establish himself in America. As
we will see further below, it should also not come as a surprise that several of his Irish immigrant relatives also chose Philadelphia as their home. Although I have no further evidence to support the assertion, I suspect it was Sharp Delany who made the recommendation for the Marine Commission for his cousin Lt. Col. Anthony Gale. While Richard Long was unable to independently verify the claim, in a 1967 letter, he notes “materials from the files of my Marine Corps predecessors name him [Commandant Anthony Gale] as an Irishman, who was brought to this county at any (sic) unknown date, by a relative, Sharp Delaney (sic)” (Long, 6 January 1967. p. 2).

Sharp Delany died on 13 May 1799, so he was deceased by the time that Lt. Col. Anthony Gale became a citizen on 27 November 1801. The witness who attested to the character of Marine Anthony Gale in his naturalization papers was Thomas R. Delany (US District Court, 1801). Sharp Delany had a son named Thomas who died in 1806 (Campbell, 1892, p. 108). The 1806 will of Thomas R. Delany leaves his property to his mother (and Sharp’s widow) Margaret [Robinson] Delany (Delany, 1806). The evidence is clear that the son of Sharp Delany, Thomas R. Delany, signed Lt. Col. Anthony Gale’s naturalization papers.

The immigration date of Lt. Col. Anthony Gale can be bracketed by the Naturalization Laws of the time. According to his naturalization papers, Lt. Col. Anthony Gale declared his intention to become a citizen on 15 June 1798. Therefore, consistent with the text of his naturalization papers, he was subject both to the Naturalization Act of 1795 and the Naturalization Act of 1798. In accordance with those statutes, had Commandant Anthony Gale immigrated to the United States prior to 29 January 1795, he would have been grandfathered under the Naturalization Act of 1790, which only required a two year residency period without a separate declaration of intention phase (Carter, 1989, pp. 178-189). Lt. Col. Anthony Gale provided his oath in U.S. District Court that he resided in the United States for five years on 27 November 1801. Consequently, Commandant Anthony Gale immigrated to the United States sometime between 29 January 1795 and 27 November 1796.

Malachi Gale

Malachi Gale, identified as a brother of Frances [Gale] Kearney in the will of Mall Delany and the Ballinakill Baptismal records, also emigrated from Ireland to America. Along with his wife, Catherine, and children Margaret, Parnell, Malachi Jr., Mary and Catherine, Malachi sailed aboard the Catherine, leaving Dublin on 14 July 1817 and arriving in Philadelphia on 24 September 1817 (Ancestry.com, 2006). His three oldest children also appear in the Ballinakill Baptismal Parish records. According to the ship’s manifest, Malachi was 40 years old at the time of his immigration. According to his petition for naturalization, he was 60 years old on 6 October 1834 when he stated his intent to become a citizen (United States District Court, 1834). However, according to his obituary published in the Philadelphia Inquirer on 17 September 1861, he was 94 at the time of his death, placing his year of birth about 1767, rather than 1777 as indicated by the Catherine manifest or 1774 as indicated by his naturalization
papers. According to church records, Malachi Gale married Catherine Holland in Ireland (Ballinakill Roman Catholic Church Parish Records, 1801-1811).

Malachi Gale, Jr. also resided in Philadelphia until his death on 9 January 1890. (Philadelphia Inquirer, 1890, 9 January.) Malachi Jr. is buried in Old Cathedral Cemetery along with his sister, Mary [Gale] Burchell (Old Cathedral Cemetery, 2009). While not buried in the McCunney family plot, Malachi Jr.’s attending physician was Dr. Michael O’Hara, the McCunney family physician (Philadelphia Death Return, 1890). Dr. Michael O’Hara and his son, also named Dr. Michael O’Hara, were the signatories on virtually all of the death certificates of the extended McCunney family for the second half of the 19th Century. Frances [McCunney] O’Hara, Dr. Michael O’Hara’s wife, was a daughter of Irish immigrant Richard McCunney (Campbell, 1892, p. 492) and a granddaughter of Frances [Gale] Kearney and thus a great niece of Malachi Gale.

A biographical sketch (Atlanta Constitution, 1873) and an obituary (Collier, 1885) of John Hughes Flynn support Malachi Gale as the brother of Commandant Anthony Gale. While there are various stray errors in the accounts, both the obituary and biography state Mr. Flynn was descended from the Gales and Hollands of Queen’s County, Ireland. Mr. Flynn’s maternal grandfather is reported to have “emigrated to this country in 1816, and settled in the neighborhood of Philadelphia… where he continued to live until his death, in 1863 at the advanced age of 90 years.” Originally from Queen’s County Ireland, Malachi Gale who married Catherine Holland actually immigrated in 1817, died in 1861 in Philadelphia reportedly at the age of 94, but the biographical account is reasonably close. The biographical sketch also notes that his maternal grandfather’s brother in “Coming to America, he entered the service of the United States, and at the time of his death held the position of major in the marines, in the naval service.” While Lt. Col Anthony Gale’s eventual rank is in error, the description otherwise fits Malachi’s brother Commandant Anthony Gale.

Also note that according to the Catherine manifest, Malachi Gale had a son named Parnell, the same unusual given name of another son of Anthony Gale and Anne Delany.

Parnell was a prominent family name in Queen’s County Ireland at the time. Sir John Parnell of Rathleague was a Member of Parliament for Maryborough and was created a Baronet of Ireland in 1766 (Burke, 1880, p. 282). His son, Sir John Parnell, was a representative in Parliament for Queen’s County, Chancellor of the Exchequer and a Member of the Privy Council in Ireland (Lodge and Archdall, 1789, p. 70). In a 1773 indented deed executed by Malachy Delany for Anne [Delany] Gale, “Thomas Gale, Sir John Parnell and Frances Gale, now Frances Moffitt” are mentioned as parties to the registered deed, demonstrating a connection between Sir John Parnell and Anne [Delany] Gale, and providing a rationale for the use of the family name Parnell as a given name for one of her children.

Incidentally, a Parnell Gale whose age is consistent with the son of Anthony Gale and Anne Delany was Mayor of Galway in 1817 (Dutton, 1824, p. 322).
Jane Gale

In two letters written to Richard Long in January and February, 1975, Mary C. Rider discusses much of the same information provided in other accounts of the relatives of Commandant Anthony Gale. Mary writes that her great-grandmother was Jane Gale, who she assumes is a sister of Commandant Anthony Gale. Betham’s abstract of the will of Mall Delany does identify a Jane Gale as a daughter of Anthony Gale and Anne Delany. Mary [Christie] Rider’s mother was Mary [Glascott] Christie, whose father was John R. Glascott, son of Irish born William Glascott. Ballinakill Roman Catholic Baptismal Records identify Patt Glasco (sic) as the husband of Jane Gale. Apparently Jane Gale’s husband’s name was truncated in either the record or its transcription and is likely Patrick Glascott, which supports Mary C. Rider’s account.

Consistent with several other reports of the connection of the Gales to Sharp Delany, Mary states that her grandfather’s sister related the story of Sharp Delany’s relationship to the family.

Enhancing her credibility, other statements in the Rider letters are also consistent with other reports – Bridget Kearney married Richard McCunney, Frances [Gale] Kearney is the Aunt of Sharp Gale, Sharp Gale married Jane Kearney, his first cousin, and Jane Kearney was a daughter of Frances Gale.

Mary C. Rider explains that her distant cousin, Frances Colpitts, a granddaughter of Sharp Gale, is the source of the information that Sharp Gale was the nephew of Commandant Anthony Gale. (Census records confirm that Sharp Gale and Jane Kearney’s daughter, Mary Ann, married Dr. Bernard McElroy, whose daughter Frances married James Vandever Colpitts. Frances Colpitts is their daughter.) Mary also relays that Ms. Colpitts states that her Gale ancestor was given a grant in Ireland. This account is consistent with the grant of land that Lt. Anthony Gale received from Cromwell and Charles II, discussed later in this paper.

For Mary C. Rider and Frances Colpitts to be cousins, they must share a common ancestor. Hence Jane Gale, Mary C. Rider’s ancestor, must have a common ancestor with Frances Colpitts’ Gale ancestors (Frances [Gale] Kearney and Thomas Gale of Valleyfield). If Jane Gale is the sister of Frances [Gale] Kearney and Thomas Gale of Valleyfield, (and thus a daughter of Anthony Gale and Anne Delany) then Mary Rider and Frances Colpitts would be third cousins. This arrangement also supports Mary Rider’s claim of the family’s relationship to Sharp Delany.

The Identity of Lt. Col. Anthony Gale, Fourth Marine Commandant

One might be tempted to think that the Anthony Gale who married Anne Delany subsequently became the Marine Anthony Gale. If the marriage of Anthony Gale and Anne Delany really did occur in 1780, then the elder Anthony Gale’s birth date could be around 1761.
Let’s speculate that Anne Delany died around 1790, a female relative took over the rearing of their children and encouraged him to seek a new life in America. There are many problems with this theory, but significantly under this scenario Marine Anthony Gale is no longer Bridget [Kearney] McCunney’s uncle as stated by Constance O’Hara and the biographical sketch in the Hibernian Society; he’s her grandfather. There is also the issue of Anne Delany being a widow in 1782. So we can reasonably rule out this possibility.

Except for the connection of Thomas R. Delany being a witness to Lt. Col. Anthony Gale’s naturalization, Richard Long’s predecessors’ statements that the Gales were relatives of Sharp Delany (Long, 18 May 1967, p. 3), (which is independently confirmed by the Constance O’Hara autobiography, Helen Moore’s Gale Family History, the obituary of Sharp Gale, the 1975 letter by Mary Rider and the Hibernian Society book), and the fact that the names and dates involved match, there appears to be no other evidence in the Marine Archives connecting Anthony Gale/Anne Delany as the parents of Marine Anthony Gale. However, we now have developed additional information unavailable to the Marines regarding this point.

The Betham abstract of the will of Mall Delany, the Ballinakill Roman Catholic Baptismal Records and the immigration records of Frances [Gale] Kearney and Malachi Gale clearly establish them as children of Anthony Gale and Anne Delany. Baptismal records, the Mall Delany will and the 1975 Mary Rider letters provide convincing evidence that Jane Gale is also a child of Anthony Gale and Anne Delany, as well as further documenting the family connection to Sharp Delany.

The O’Hara autobiography and The History of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick and of the Hibernian Society (Campbell, 1892, p. 476) both state that Anthony Gale, Fourth Commandant of the Marine Corps, was Bridget Kearney McCunney’s uncle – or equivalently, Frances Gale’s brother. The O’Hara memoir and the Gale Family History both connect the family of Frances Gale as a cousin of Sharp Delany.

The biographical sketch of John Hughes Flynn (Atlanta Constitution, 1873) indicates Malachi Gale’s brother (unnamed) was an officer in the US Marines.

In view of all of the above, and considering:

a. An Anthony Gale (along with Frances, Malachi and Jane) appears as a child of Anthony Gale and Anne Delany in the Betham abstract of the will of Malachy Delany,
b. The Hibernian Society book states Lt. Col. Anthony Gale was a cousin of Sharp Delany (Campbell, 1892, p. 476),
c. Irish immigrant Commandant Anthony Gale came to Philadelphia where his naturalization papers were attested by Sharp Delany’s son, Thomas R. Delany,
then with a reasonable degree of certitude, Anthony Gale, son of Anthony Gale and Anne Delany, is the fourth Commandant of the U.S. Marines.

Sharp Gale

In a 6 January 1967 letter from Richard Long to Dorothy Wulfeck wherein Long requests genealogical assistance from her, Long writes (in part):

“On 6 January 1820, however, he [Lt. Col. Anthony Gale] requested of Secretary of War John C. Calhoun that a nephew – Sharp Gale – be discharged from the Corps of Artillery at Fort Mifflin, Pa., stating that Sharp was a minor.”

The 1876 obituary and 1876 death return of Sharp Gale (who later in life went by Thomas Sharp Gale) both state he was 80 at the time of his death, so he would have been about 24 in 1820, hardly a minor. The 1850 Census and 1860 Census both show him as four years younger, but still of military age. It appears that either Lt. Col. Anthony Gale was mistaken about Sharp Gale’s age or that Sharp’s reported age in his obituary, death return and the 1850 and 1860 Census were all in error.

Note that Lt. Col. Anthony Gale states that Sharp Gale is his nephew. In addition to the 1820 letter by Commandant Anthony Gale, Sharp Gale’s obituary states: “He was a nephew of the late Colonel Gale, United States Marine Corps”. The January 1975 letter from Mary Rider to Richard Long also states that Sharp Gale was Commandant Anthony Gale’s nephew. However, for Sharp Gale to be a nephew to Commandant Anthony Gale, then Sharp Gale’s father, Thomas Gale of Valleyfield, and Lt. Col. Anthony Gale would be have to be brothers. However, note the absence of a Thomas Gale in the list of siblings of Lt. Col. Anthony Gale in the Betham abstract of the will of Malachy Delany (see Appendices).


Confirming these claims, the archives of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia show that a marriage dispensation was granted on 12 January 1853 to “Sharp Gale (prot.) & Jane Kearney”. Their dispensation is on a page titled (in part) “secundi gradus consanguinitatis & affinitatis in linea transversali aqua li (sic)” (Latin translation – “Second degree consanguinity and affinity equally in the transverse line”). According to Catholic consanguinity tables (Taunton, 1906, p. 247) and Catholic dispensation Canon (Petrovits, 1921, pp. 222-223), this means a first cousin relationship. Oddly and erroneously, however, the Gale/Kearney dispensation states it is for affinity (related by marriage) rather than consanguinity (related by blood). For Sharp Gale and
Jane Kearney to be first cousins, then their parents, Thomas Gale of Valleyfield and Frances [Gale] Kearney, respectively, must be siblings. As discussed previously, the O’Hara autobiography and the *Hibernian Society* (Campbell, 1892, p. 476) both state that Lt. Col. Anthony Gale was Bridget [Kearney] McCunney’s uncle – or, in other words, Frances [Gale] Kearney’s brother. Hence, according to these accounts, Commandant Anthony Gale, Frances [Gale] Kearney and Thomas Gale of Valleyfield are all siblings.

**Captain William Gale**

There is one other set of documents which support Thomas Gale of Valleyfield as a sibling of Commandant Anthony Gale. In a richly detailed, credible 1906 letter by T. F. Earle to relative John Gale, Earle confirms Sharp Gale as the son of Captain Thomas Gale of Valleyfield and also states Captain William Gale and Captain Thomas Gale of Valleyfield are brothers. Earle relates his aunt’s account of Captain William Gale as being blind from contracting opthalmia. A related account states Parnell Gale, a son of Captain William Gale, resided and subsequently died in Cork, Ireland. Note that a William Gale does appear in the Betham abstract of the will of Malachy Delany as a son of Anthony Gale and Anne Delany.

In response to a request for information concerning Commandant Anthony Gale posted by the Marines in the *Philadelphia Evening Bulletin*, Frances M. Gale of Philadelphia wrote in a 1934 letter to Lt. Col. Edwin N. McClellan that her Irish immigrant father, Samuel P. Gale of Cork, Ireland, often spoke of Commandant Gale, whom she identified as an uncle of her father. Ms. Gale also stated Samuel P. Gale’s father was an English officer who “received a pension for years before he died as he had become blind”. The similarity of the two letters concerning a blind English military officer named Gale in the early 19th Century with family in Cork, Ireland is striking. If these two accounts are talking about the same person, and if the relationships stated in both letters are accurate, then both Captain William Gale and Captain Thomas Gale of Valleyfield are siblings of Lt. Col. Anthony Gale.

Samuel P. Gale married his cousin, Mary Burchell, a granddaughter of Malachi Gale. The records of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia document an 1859 marriage dispensation for "Samuel Gale and Mary Ann Birchell (sic), 2nd and 3rd consang." (first cousins, once removed). Accordingly, consistent with the account of Frances M. Gale, Samuel P. Gale must be the grandson of Anthony Gale and Anne Delany, and his father must be one of the brothers of Marine Commandant Anthony Gale.

The Earle letter also states that Captains William and Thomas Gale had a half brother named Ryan. Note in the abstract of the will of Malachy Delany (see Appendices), his daughter Ann Ryan appears. Since we can safely assume Malachy did not name two of his daughters who survived into adulthood Ann, Ann/Anne Delany must have remarried and became Ann Ryan by November 1784 when Malachy wrote his will. A son of her second marriage would be named Ryan and a half brother of Captains William and Thomas Gale, which provides further
corroboration for Captains Thomas and William Gale to be sons of Anthony Gale and Anne Delany.

Additionally, a descendant line of Captain William Gale contains two Parnell Gales. As discussed above, according to the Betham will abstract of Malachy Delany, Parnell Gale was one of the sons of Anthony Gale and Anne Delany. For the unusual given name Parnell to make multiple appearances here further supports Captain William Gale as the son of Anthony Gale and Anne Delany.

Captain Thomas Gale

The T.F. Earle letter states Harriet Thomas is the second wife of Captain Thomas Gale. In 1808, while Thomas Gale was an Ensign, he executed a marriage settlement for the benefit of his wife, Harriet Thomas. In the registered memorial of this marriage settlement, Ensign Thomas Gale grants in trust certain property of Sampson’s Court “as the said Thomas Gale was entitled to the same by virtue of the Settlement recited upon the intermarriage of his father Anthony Gale with Miss Anne Delany” (Gale, 1808).

We now have developed sufficient evidence to establish that Sir William Betham omitted Thomas Gale as a son of Anthony Gale and Anne Delany in his abstract of the will of Malachy Delany. Betham’s task of creating his will abstracts was a manual, very difficult, enormously time-consuming procedure which required him to decipher all forms of handwritten wills. Errors would be inevitable, especially errors of omission, such as neglecting one child in a long list of children which may be scattered throughout the will. I have identified another situation (discussed in the paragraph below) where Betham left out a name in a list of siblings in a will abstract and was inconsistent in stating the date a will was proved.

In the appendices, Betham’s abstract of the will of Martin Delany and two abstracts of the will of his wife, Barbara [Albin] Delany are reproduced. There are seven sons and one daughter listed in the abstract of Martin’s will. In the first abstract of Barbara’s will, appearing in Betham’s Volume 17 (Wills for surnames beginning with “D”), only six sons and one daughter are listed. Malachy appears in the abstract of Martin’s will, but is missing in this first abstract of Barbara’s will. Betham also inadvertently created a second abstract of the will of Barbara [Albin] Delany in Volume 42 (Wills for surnames beginning with “L”). Realizing his mistake, Betham drew a line through the entry, but the abstract is still clearly legible. In this second abstract, Betham includes Malachy as one of Barbara’s sons. Betham also records her will was proved on 23 May 1739 in the first abstract and on 24 May 1739 in the second abstract. If Betham could miss Malachy Delany in his first abstract of the will of Barbara Delany, and mistranscribe the date the will was proved, then he could miss Thomas Gale in his abstract of the will of Malachy Delany.

Irish parents of the era often named their sons after this general pattern (Ouimette, 2005, p. 19) (Mac Conghall et al, 1997, p. 30):
The first son was named after the father’s father.
The second son was named after the mother’s father.
The third son was named after the father.

Note that two of the sons of Anthony Gale and Anne Delany adhere to this naming convention – Malachi (after his mother’s father) and Anthony (after his father). So it would be consistent with this naming practice that Anthony Gale and Anne Delany had named a son Thomas (after his father’s father).

Family Roots in Queen’s County, Ireland

The Thomas Gale 14 November 1780 Marriage Settlement states these various parties are from Queen’s County: Thomas Gale (Sampson’s Court, Queen’s County), John Gale (Ashfield, Queen’s County), and Malachy Delany (Rathleague, Queen’s County). Also, the lease indenture of 1 November 1782 states Malachy Delany and Anne [Delany] Gale were of Ballynakill, Queen’s County. The naturalization papers of Anthony Kearney, Frances [Gale] Kearney’s son, state that he was born in Queen’s County, Ireland (Court of Quarter Sessions, 1840). The Ballinakill (Queen’s County) Roman Catholic Baptismal Records include children of Frances [Gale] Kearney, Jane [Gale] Glascott and Malachi Gale. As noted above, the obituary of Sharp Gale states his father, Captain Thomas Gale was of Valleyfield, Queen’s County, Ireland. So all of the relevant members of the Gale, Kearney and Delany families have their roots in Queen’s County, Ireland. Following Ireland gaining its independence from Great Britain in 1921-1922, all places named after British royalty were subsequently renamed. Queen’s County is now present day County Laois (or Leix).

Descendants of Anthony Gale and Anne Delany in Philadelphia

As seen from his naturalization records, Lt. Col. Anthony Gale immigrated to the United States in 1795-1796, however, no immigration record has been found for him. His 8 January 1800 marriage announcement states he was from Philadelphia (Ancestry.com, 2000). He was naturalized in Philadelphia in 1801 (US District Court, 1801). During his Marine career, he was “assigned to his beloved Philadelphia” (Millett et al., 2004, p. 47) where he commanded the Marine barracks from April 1807 to July 1817. Following his court martial in 1820, he was hospitalized for insanity in Philadelphia (Pennsylvania Hospital Archives, 1821).

Malachi Gale, Commandant Anthony Gale’s brother, immigrated in September of 1817 arriving in Philadelphia (Ancestry.com, 2006). He was naturalized in Pennsylvania (Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, 1844). Malachi consistently appears in the census in Philadelphia and died and was buried in Philadelphia (Philadelphia Death Return, 1861).

Frances [Gale] Kearney, Commandant Anthony Gale’s sister, immigrated in 1828 to the United States (Ancestry.com, 2006). Her son, Anthony, was naturalized in Philadelphia (Court
of Quarter Sessions, 1836). She died in Philadelphia and is buried the McCunney family plot in Old Cathedral Cemetery in Philadelphia along with her children Anthony, George, Bridget and Jane (Old Cathedral Cemetery, 2008).

Sharp Thomas Gale, Commandant Anthony Gale’s nephew, petitioned to become a citizen in Philadelphia (Court of Quarter Sessions, 1836). He consistently appears in the census in Philadelphia and died in Philadelphia and was buried in the McCunney family plot in Old Cathedral Cemetery in Philadelphia (Old Cathedral Cemetery, 2008). No immigration record has been found for him.

William Glascott, from the discussion in the 1975 Mary C. Rider letters and the Ballinakill Roman Catholic Church Parish Records, is evidently the son of Jane Gale, husband of Patrick Glascott and Commandant Anthony Gale’s sister. Along with wife Margaret, William Glascott emigrated from Ireland arriving in New York City on 8 September 1841 aboard the Warsaw (Ancestry.com, 2006). He appears in the 1850-1870 Census in Philadelphia and was naturalized in Philadelphia (Court of Common Pleas, 1875). He died in Philadelphia and was buried in Old Cathedral Cemetery (Philadelphia Death Return, 1879).

Samuel P. Gale, previously documented as the son of a brother of Commandant Anthony Gale, appears in the 1860 Census in Philadelphia and elsewhere in Pennsylvania from 1870-1900. He was naturalized in Pennsylvania, immigrating as a minor in 1848 (Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, 1863). No immigration record has been found for him.

William Gale, since his son William Thomas Gale was buried in the McCunney family plot in Old Cathedral Cemetery in Philadelphia (Old Cathedral Cemetery, 2008), is evidently a relative of Frances [Gale] Kearney. He appears in the 1850-1880 Census in Philadelphia and died and was buried in Philadelphia (Philadelphia Death Return, 1895). He was naturalized in Pennsylvania, immigrating as a minor in 1840 (Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, 1863). No immigration record has been found for him.

Edward Gale, since his wife Mary and infant daughter were buried in the McCunney family plot in Old Cathedral Cemetery in Philadelphia (Old Cathedral Cemetery, 2008), is evidently a relative of Frances [Gale] Kearney. He appears in the 1860-1880 Census in Philadelphia and died and was buried in Philadelphia (Philadelphia Death Return, 1897) in the same lot and section of American Mechanics Cemetery as Henry Gale, son of Sharp Thomas Gale (American Mechanics Cemetery, 1897). The funeral services for his second wife, Ellen Gale, were conducted from the home of Mary Gale Burchell, daughter of Malachi Gale and mother of Mary Burchell who married Samuel P. Gale (Philadelphia Inquirer, 1890, 8 March). Edward Gale was naturalized in Philadelphia (Court of Common Pleas, 1866). No immigration record has been found for him.

William Gale and Edward Gale may be brothers and may have immigrated together. Otherwise, all of the above descendants of Anthony Gale and Anne Delany immigrated
separately and all of them resided in Philadelphia. It is reasonable to believe all came to Philadelphia to be close to relatives who preceded them there, starting with Sharp Delany.

Distant Maternal Lineage of Lt. Col. Anthony Gale

As noted earlier, *The History of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick and of the Hibernian Society* (Campbell, 1892, p. 476) states that Sharp Delany, first collector of the port of Philadelphia, was a cousin of Commandant Anthony Gale. Due to their difference in ages, Sharp Delany (c. 1739-1799) appears to be at least a generation older than Lt. Col. Anthony Gale (c. 1779-1842). The parents of Sharp Delany are Daniel Delany of Ballyfin, Queen’s County, Ireland and Rachel Sharp, granddaughter of noted Dublin Quaker Anthony Sharp, for whom Sharp Delany was named (Pennsylvanina Magazine of History, 1896, p. 134). The grandfather of Lt. Col. Anthony Gale is Malachy Delany. For Sharp Delany to be a cousin of Commandant Anthony Gale, Daniel Delany and Malachy Delany must be related in some manner.

*The History and Antiquities of the Diocese of Ossory* (Carrigan, 1905, p. 148) documents the following names (among others) on an inscription in the Anatrim Churchyard regarding the Delanys of Ballyfin, Queen’s County, Ireland:

1. Martin Delany, late of Ballyfin, who departed this life the 22nd of October 1731, aged 59 years.
2. Barbara Delany, alias Albin, wife of Martin Delany, dyed the 26th of July 1738, aged 50 years.
3. Martin Delany, Esq., who departed this life August 7th 1770 aged 62 years;
4. …also his wife, Anndoraty (sic) Delany who departed this life February 15th 1779 aged 58 years.

According to Sir William Betham’s sketch pedigree of Martin Delany of Ballyfin in the Queen’s County, his wife is Barbara, daughter of James Albin of Rogerstown in County Meath. Their children include Daniel Delany, Martin Delany of Ballybrittas in the Queen’s County and Malachi Delany. The wife of the younger Martin Delany is Anna Dorothea, daughter of Thomas Fitzgerald of Morett in the Queen’s County. The wife of Malachi Delany is Jane, daughter of John Sabatier of Mountmellick.

Clearly, Daniel Delany, the father of Sharp Delany, from Ballyfin, Queen’s County, is the son of Martin Delany and Barbara [Albin] Delany of the same town and county. This sketch pedigree of Martin Delany (Betham, FHL #100105) and the will of Martin Delany (see Appendices) also establish a Malachy Delany as their son as well.

Since there is ample reason to believe Malachy Delany and Daniel Delany are related in order for Sharp Delany to be a cousin of Anthony Gale, the appearance of both Malachy Delany and Daniel Delany as brothers in the sketch pedigree and will of Martin Delany is persuasive.
Genealogy of Anthony Gale

Evidence that Malachy Delany, son of Martin Delany, is the father of Anne Delany and the grandfather of Marine Anthony Gale.

Filling out a couple of more names of Commandant Anthony Gale’s family tree, Betham’s abstract of the will of John Sabatier and his son Thomas (Betham, FHL #595945) provide the maiden name of Jane Sabatier’s mother, Elizabeth Freeman; and according to Betham’s sketch pedigree of James Albin (Betham, FHL #100104) and *The Virginia Albins* (Albin, 1989, p. 11), James Albin’s wife given name is Anne.

Distant Paternal Lineage of Lt. Col. Anthony Gale

In Chapter 4 of *Commandants of the Marine Corps* (Millett and Shulimson, 2004, p. 45), Lt. Col. Merrill L. Bartlett, USMC (Ret.) states that Commandant Anthony Gale “traced his paternal lineage to Col. Oliver Gale, who came from England in the train of British forces sent to occupy Ireland during the reign of Henry VIII.” In the citations for this chapter on Commandant Anthony Gale, an acknowledgement is cited for “the assistance of Richard A. Long, Special Projects Curator, MCHC, for sharing his extensive material on Gale.”

A specific document in the Richard A. Long collection that addresses this matter is Long’s memo of 8 May 1967 where he documents research conducted by Col. Don Pershing Wyckoff in Dublin, Ireland. Among other items, Col. Wyckoff found a “loose document” in the Dublin Genealogical Office which contained a background of a Gale Family in Ireland. According to Col. Wyckoff’s transcription, Col. Oliver Gale came to Ireland at the time of Henry VIII. A Lt. Anthony Gale married a woman of the Wandesford (spelling, ed), family and resided at Crottentegle (spelling, ed), alias Ashfield. No relationship is stated between this Lt. Anthony Gale and Col. Oliver Gale. Lt. Anthony Gale had a son, Samuel Gale, who married a woman named Grace of Gracepark. Samuel Gale in turn had sons named Anthony (who inherited the Ashfield estate), Thomas, Henry and John. Three other primogenital generations of Gales are listed: Peter, Samuel and another Peter, all of whom inherited Ashfield. Trinity alumni records (Burtonshaw and Sadleir, 1924, p. 315) provide the dates of birth of these latter three Gales – Peter Gale (c. 1736- ), Samuel Gale (c. 1780- ) and Peter Gale (c. 1804- ), the last Gale to own Ashfield (Belfast News-Letter, 1851).

The “loose document” found by Col. Wyckoff documenting these six generations of Gales was drawn by Sir William Betham and appears in the Dublin Genealogical Office collection of “Miscellaneous Pedigrees”, also known as the “Loose Pedigrees”. A copy of Betham’s abstract of the six generations of Gales (the Ashfield Gales) is provided in the Appendices.

Betham’s abstract of the Ashfield Gales correlates well with other published records. Lt. Anthony Gale’s son, Samuel Gale, is found in *A Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Landed Gentry of Great Britain and Ireland* (Burke, 1858, p. 466). According to Burke, Samuel Grace, Esq., of Ashfield, Queen’s County, married Ellis (or Alicia) Grace, daughter of Oliver
Grace, Esq., M.P., and Chief Remembrancer of the Exchequer in Ireland, of Gracefield, Queen’s County. This record is consistent with Betham’s sketch pedigree of the Ashfield Gales which asserts Samuel Gale married a “Grace of Gracepark”. Similarly, Landed Gentry states Peter Gale, Esq., of Ashfield, Queen’s County married Mary Browne, daughter of William Browne, Esq., of Browne’s Hill (Burke, 1858, p. 139), which compares favorably with Betham’s entry that Peter Gale married “Catherine of Brown of Brown’s Hill”, despite the conflict with Miss Browne’s first name. Additionally, the Index of Church of Ireland Marriage Licenses, Diocese of Ossory, 1691-1845, lists a marriage of Peter Gale to Catherine Browne in 1758. This same index documents a 1732 marriage between Anthony Gale and Mary Vicars, consistent with the Betham pedigree.

The Irish and Anglo-Irish Landed Gentry records the British force that was sent to Ireland by Oliver Cromwell in 1649-1653 to restore British rule following the Irish Rebellion of 1641. Documented among the “Soldiers of the Commonwealth” of this occupying force was Anthony Gale, who “Claims in right of an Adventurer as well as in right of a Soldier” and was granted land in Queen’s County and Westmeath by Cromwell and codified by Charles II (O’Hart, 2000, p. 415). The Adventurers’ Act of 1642 had invited members of the public to invest £200 for which they would receive 1,000 acres (4 km²) of lands that would be confiscated from rebels in Ireland (Manganiello, 2004, p.10). The Lt. Anthony Gale in Betham’s abstract of Ashfield, Queen’s County is evidently this same Anthony Gale, as it provides the explanation of the origin of the Gale Ashfield estate in Crottentegle, Queen’s County, Ireland. The first local record of the Ashfield Gales is “Anthony Gayle” (sic) who appears in the 1659 Census of Ireland as a titulado (land holder) in Crottentegle, Queen’s County, Ireland.

The connection between Marine Commandant Anthony Gale with this lineage of Gales documented by Sir William Betham is circumstantial. The 1784 will of Malachy Delany lists the children of Anthony Gale and Anne Delany (including Marine Commandant Anthony Gale) who are the common grandchildren of both Malachy Delany and Thomas Gale. Accordingly, the approximate age of Thomas Gale, grandfather of Marine Anthony Gale, is consistent with Thomas Gale, son of Samuel Gale, in Betham’s sketch pedigree of the Ashfield Gales.

According to the 1780 Marriage Settlement executed by Thomas Gale, he owned property in Sampson’s Court in Queen’s County, Ireland. As a landowner in Queen’s County, Ireland in the 18th century, it is reasonable to believe that Thomas Gale of Sampson’s Court is related to the Anthony Gale who received the original grant of land in Queen’s County, Ireland from Cromwell/Charles II in the 1660s.

The parties to the 14 November 1780 Marriage Settlement executed by Thomas Gale (Gale, 1780) are:

“Thomas Gale of Sampsons Court in the Queen’s County, gentlemen, and Mable (sic) his wife and Anthony Gale, second son of the said Thomas Gale of the first part, Peter Gale of the town of Carlow, Esq., John Gale of Ashfield in the Queen’s County, gentleman, and Stephen Fitzgerald of Ballydavis in the said County,
gentleman, of the second part, and Anne Delany, Eldest daughter of Malachi of Rathleague in the Queen’s County aforesaid, gentleman, of the third part.”

Later in this Marriage Settlement document, Thomas Gale assigns certain property “unto the said Peter Gale, John Gale and Stephen Fitzgerald and the survivors and survivors of heirs of such survivors in Trust” for the benefit of Anne Delany.

Note Thomas Gale named Peter Gale, Esq., of the town of Carlow as a trustee to the 1780 Marriage Settlement. Peter Gale, Esq., is the fourth of the Six Generations of Gales, born about 1736. Landholders in the town of Carlow from 1759 (Nuttall, 1759) and Freeholders in Carlow from at least 1767 (Finn’s Leinster Journal, 1767) until 1851 (Belfast News-Letter, 1851), the Ashfield Gales owned a house on Tullow Street which was described as “one of the best residences in the town of Carlow” (Freeman’s Journal, 1851). The family lived in Carlow during this period. Anthony Gale, Peter Gale’s son, was born in Carlow (Burtchaell and Sadleir, 1924, p. 315). Peter Gale’s grandson, also named Peter Gale, the last of the Ashfield Gales, is “of Ashfield Hall Carlow” according to the Six Generations of Gales Betham pedigree. The town of Carlow is in County Carlow, just across the border from Queen’s County and about five miles from the Queen’s County Ashfield estate.

According to Irish Genealogy: A Record Finder, marriage settlement trustees were always relations by blood or marriage, often a member from each family (Begley, 1987, p. 150). Thomas Gale would not name a wholly unrelated Peter Gale, Esq., as a trustee in this Marriage Settlement document. Additionally, another Gale residing at Ashfield, John Gale, is also named as a trustee. The remaining trustee, Stephen Fitzgerald, is related to Anne [Delany] Gale by marriage. Anne [Delany] Gale’s uncle, Martin Delany, Jr., married Anna Dorothy Fitzgerald. Stephen Fitzgerald, Esq., Queen’s County, was a trustee to the will of Anna Dorothy [Fitzgerald] Delany (Eustace, 1956, p. 314-315); and a Stephen Fitzgerald appears as a nephew in the will of Martin Delany, Jr. (Betham, FHL #595940).

Sampson’s Court is the subject of a 1737 deed poll (often used for partitioning land) granted by Christmas Paul to Anthony Gale of Crottentegle (the site of the Ashfield estate), the third of the Ashfield Gales. The term of the deed was defined to be during the natural lives of Peter Gale, the fourth of the Ashfield Gales (who was only a year old at the time) and Anthony Gale, second son of Thomas Gale, among others. Since we can safely rule out that there was another Thomas Gale who also had a second son named Anthony who also had a connection to Sampson’s Court, the Thomas Gale in this deed must be the same Thomas Gale of Sampson’s Court who appears in 14 November 1780 Marriage Settlement.

In a 1780 Indenture of Lease granted to Thomas Gale of Samsons (sic) Court, farmer, witnessed (among others) by Thomas Gale of Samsons (sic) Court, gentleman, the term of the lease is during the life of Peter Gale of Ashfield, Esq. The appearance of Peter Gale of Ashfield, Esq., the fourth of the Ashfield Gales, in this Indenture involving Thomas Gale of Sampson’s/Samsons Court establishes still another connection between the Sampson’s Court
Gales and the Ashfield Gales, further solidifying a family connection between these Gale families.

The 1906 T. F. Earle letter provides a long list of detailed family relationships. A fair reading of this letter supports Captain Thomas Gale of Valleyfield and Captain William Gale as descendants of Samuel Gale, the second generation of the Gales of Ashfield. By extension, the Anthony Gale who married Anne Delany, father of Captains Thomas and William Gale, would also be a descendant of Samuel Gale. Accordingly, other children of Anthony Gale, including Marine Commandant Anthony Gale, would similarly be descendants of Samuel Gale.

After a discussion concerning Peter Gale, the sixth and last of the Ashfield Gales, T. F. Earle also provides a family tree depicting Captain Thomas Gale of Valleyfield and his children, among other relationships. For Captain Thomas Gale’s eldest son, Earle states: “Anthony Gale was heir to Peter Gale. Went to America.” Since any male descendant of a later generation of the Ashfield Gales would have a prior claim to Ashfield before this Anthony Gale, Earle apparently means that this Anthony Gale was the heir to Peter Gale along this descendant line. In any event, Earle clearly connects this Anthony Gale as a descendant of the Ashfield Gales. So then his father, Captain Thomas Gale of Valleyfield, and his grandfather, the Anthony Gale who married Anne Delany, would also be descendants of the Ashfield Gales. As another son of Anthony Gale and Anne Delany, then Commandant Anthony Gale would also a descendant of the Ashfield Gales.

The accumulated data:

1. The 1780 Marriage Settlement where Thomas Gale of Sampson’s Court for the marriage of his second son, Anthony, names Peter Gale, Esq., the fourth of the Ashfield Gales, as a trustee (at a time when marriage settlement trustees were always relations by blood or marriage),

2. The 1737 Sampson’s Court Deed involving Anthony Gale, second son of Thomas Gale, and Peter Gale, son of Anthony Gale of Crottentegle (Ashfield),

3. The 1780 Indenture of Lease involving two Thomas Gales of Sampson’s Court and Peter Gale of Ashfield, Esq.,

4. The T.F. Earle letter which discusses that siblings of Commandant Anthony Gale are descendants of Samuel Gale, the second of the Ashfield Gales, provides reasonably convincing evidence that Lt. Col. Anthony Gale, grandson of Thomas Gale of Sampson’s Court, is indeed a descendant of Samuel Gale, the second of the Ashfield Gales.
Genealogy of Anthony Gale

Connection to the Yorkshire Gales

In his Gale sketch pedigree, Sir William Betham included a reference to Col. Oliver Gale who came to Ireland at the time of Henry VIII (1491-1547), but the relationship of Col. Oliver Gale to Lt. Anthony Gale is not established. An Oliver Gale of Thirntoft, Yorkshire County, England appears in *A Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Commoners of Great Britain and Ireland* (Burke, 1838, p. 624) who was living during the time of Henry VIII. According to *The General Armory of England, Scotland, Ireland, and Wales* (Burke, 1884, p. 384), both these Gales of Yorkshire County, England and the Gales of Ashfield County, Ireland, displayed the same Coat of Arms. Since the same, distinctive Coat of Arms appears in use by both of these Gale families, it is plausible that the Oliver Gale of Yorkshire was the Oliver Gale who came to Ireland in the time of Henry VIII and was an ancestor of the Lt. Anthony Gale who came to Ireland during the reign of Cromwell and established the Ashfield estate in Queen’s County, Ireland.

On the upper right of his sketch pedigree of the Ashfield Gales, Sir William Betham made the notation “See Ducatus Leodiensis 203”. This reference is to page 203 of the book *Ducatus Leodiensis* by Ralph Thoresby. On this page of the book is the same pedigree of James Gale and Oliver Gale of Thirntoft that appears in Burke’s *Heraldic History*. Evidently, Betham also believed in this connection to the Ashfield Gales.

Connection to King Edward I and Charlemagne

Burke’s account (1858, p. 466) of the ancestry of Samuel Gale’s wife, Ellis Grace, includes Sir Oliver Grace and Mary Fitzgerald, whose maternal grandfather was Pierce Butler, 8th Earl of Ormonde. According to Sir Bernard Burke’s *Royal Descents and Pedigrees of Founders’ Kin*, Pedigree XXIX, Pierce Butler, 8th Earl of Ormonde, is a descendant of Edward I, King of England. Also according to Sir Bernard Burke’s *Royal Descents and Pedigrees of Founders’ Kin*, Pedigree L, King Edward I is a descendant of Charlemagne. So if Thomas Gale, Marine Anthony Gale’s grandfather, is indeed the son of Samuel Gale as discussed above, then Lt. Col. Anthony Gale, Fourth Commandant of the Marine Corps is also a descendant of King Edward I and Charlemagne. Since royalty tended to marry royalty and into other houses of nobility, ancestors of Edward I and his Queen Consort, Eleanor of Castile, include Kings of France and Scotland, Counts of Holland, Grand Dukes of Russia and rulers of various Kingdoms of medieval Iberia, including Castile, Leon, Aragon, Navarre and Portugal (Turton, 1928). Genealogical charts of these connections can be viewed at [http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mccunney/Edward.html](http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mccunney/Edward.html).

Founder’s Kin

Another passage in the T. F. Earle letter helps verify its credibility and also establishes Commandant Anthony Gale as “founders’ kin”, which would have enabled him at the time to a
preference to a fellowship at All Souls College in Oxford. The Earle letter contains a discussion concerning attempts of certain relatives to a free education at Oxford. Earle writes (in part), quoting his Aunt (Earle, 1906, p. 1):

“…the relatives of Chichele, Archbishop of Canterbury … would have the right of a free education – and my father, owning to this relationship had this claim. This relationship to the founders came from the Lady Magdalen Sheffield through the Grace family, one of whom married Sam Gale of Ashfield.”

Through the greater part of the 19th Century, All Souls College in Oxford, founded by Archbishop of Canterbury Henry Chichele in 1438, awarded preferences for fellowships to descendents of siblings of the Archbishop as founders’ kin (Alden, 1899, p. 41). The descent of Lady Magdalen Sheffield (who married Walter Walsh) from William Chichele, Sheriff of London, brother of Archbishop Henry Chichele is documented in genealogical tables of Founders Kin in *Stemmata Chicheleana* (1765, Tables 1, 21, 24, 26, 28, 91). This Sheffield line descended through Margaret (Magdalen) Sheffield, wife of Walter Walsh, to Elizabeth Bryan who married Oliver Grace, Esq., M.P. (Burke, 1866, p. 490), whose daughter, Ellis (or Alicia) Grace married Samuel Grace, Esq., of Ashfield, Queen’s County (Burke, 1858, p. 466).

James Norris Brewer in *The Beauties of Ireland* (Vol II, p. 120) confirms this founders’ kin preference:

“All the descendants of Oliver Grace, by his wife, Elizabeth Bryan, are, as founder's kin, entitled to a preference in the election of Fellows at All Souls' College, Oxford. In the "Stemmata Chichleana," No. 91, their descent may be deduced, through the families of Walsh, Sheffield, Vere, Trussel, and Kene, from Agnes Chichele, the grand daughter of William Chichele, who was youngest brother of Henry Chichele, Archbishop of Canterbury, and founder of that College, temp. Henry VI.”

This passage, in conjunction with other relationships detailed in the Earle letter, further supports addressee John Gale, grandson of Captain William Gale, a son of Anthony Gale and Anne Delany (as is Commandant Anthony Gale), as a descendent of Samuel Gale of Ashfield and his wife Ellis Grace, daughter of Oliver Grace and Elizabeth Bryan, and hence a descendent of Edward I and Charlemagne.

**Non-Supporting Data**

In the interest of full disclosure, I must point out that not all available data supports the genealogical theories of this paper and not all sources cited are wholly reliable.

In her 1934 letter to Lt. Col. McClellan, Mary Moore, a great-granddaughter of Frances [Gale] Kearney identifies Commandant Anthony Gale as Frances Gale’s cousin, not her brother.
Similarly the account of her sister, Helen Moore, refers to Commandant Anthony Gale as an “American cousin” rather than a closer relative. While Helen and Mary Moore are quite accurate in discussing their own ancestry, both make errors in discussing collateral relatives. Mary mistakenly claims George Gale, author of *The Gale Family Records in England and the United States*, as well as a Peter Gale who served in the Revolutionary War are the Commandant’s brothers. In her Gale Family History, Helen Moore misses three of her Grandmother Bridget Kearney’s siblings (George, Ann, John), misses one of Bridget’s children (Michael), and misstates Bridget’s father (Pirie rather than John). So both Mary and Helen Moore may also be mistaken about the precise relationship of Commandant Anthony Gale to their great-grandmother. Also as a result of the errors in their accounts, I have not used Helen or Mary Moore as an only source.

Similarly, the Constance O’Hara autobiography also contains several errors. Constance erroneously identifies Bridget Kearney’s mother as Jane Gale instead of Frances Gale and incorrectly claims Bridget Kearney’s father was Frances Kearney, the engraver. She also spells the name as “Kearny”. Accordingly, I have also not used the O’Hara autobiography as an only source.

Perhaps the most troubling disconnect to the genealogical theories of this paper is the absence of Thomas Gale as a son of Anthony Gale and Anne Delany in the Betham abstract of the will of Malachy Delany. However, the 1808 marriage settlement executed by Ensign Thomas Gale clearly establishes him as a son of Anthony Gale and Anne Delany and contradicts the Betham will abstract. Additionally, any theory which excludes Thomas Gale of Valleyfield as a sibling of Commandant Anthony Gale rapidly runs into a host of problems:

1. Commandant Anthony Gale states in his letter of 6 Jan 1820 to Secretary of War John C. Calhoun date that Sharp Gale was his nephew. Sharp Gale’s obituary and a 1975 letter from Mary Rider to Richard Long make the same claim. From both Sharp Gale’s obituary and the T.F. Earle letter, Sharp Gale’s father was Thomas Gale of Valleyfield. Unless one of these statements is false, Thomas Gale of Valleyfield and Commandant Anthony Gale must be brothers.

2. Helen Moore in her *Gale Family History*, Mary G. Moore in her 1934 letter, and Mary C. Rider in her 1975 letter all state that Jane Kearney and Sharp Gale were cousins. Confirming this claim, Catholic Church records document that a second degree (first cousin) dispensation was granted to permit them to marry. Unless all of these sources are in error, their parents, Frances [Gale] Kearney and Thomas Gale of Valleyfield were brother and sister.

3. The O’Hara memoir and the biographical entry for Richard McCunney in *The History of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick and of the Hibernian Society* (Campbell, 1892, p. 476) both state that Commandant Anthony Gale was Bridget Kearney McCunney’s uncle.
Unless both of these sources are in error, Bridget’s mother, Frances [Gale] Kearney and Commandant Anthony Gale were brother and sister.

4. The weight of evidence is strong and consistent concerning the relationship between Sharp Delany and Commandant Anthony Gale, Frances [Gale] Kearney and Thomas Gale of Valleyfield. If they are all related to Sharp Delany, then they are also related to each other. Sharp Delany crosses paths with:

   a. Commandant Anthony Gale – *The History of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick and of the Hibernian Society* (Campbell, 1892, p. 476) states that Sharp Delany was his cousin. Sharp’s son, Thomas R. Delany, attests at his naturalization.

   b. Frances [Gale] Kearney – *Heaven Was Not Enough* (O’Hara, 1955, p. 22) and the Moore *Gale Family History* both state that Sharp Delany was a cousin to the family.

   c. Sharp Gale – His obituary states Sharp Delany was a cousin.

Finally, in addition to Thomas Gale of Valleyfield, this paper has provided reasonable evidence that three other siblings that do appear in the Betham abstract of the will of Mall Delany – Frances, Malachi and Jane – are related to Commandant Anthony Gale and to each other.

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Descendents of Commandant Anthony Gale

At Marine Corps Headquarters, portraits of all Commandants of the Corps are displayed, except one, Lt. Col. Anthony Gale, since no portrait or likeness of him is known to have survived (Moskin, 2006). Over the years, the Marines have made several unsuccessful attempts to find living descendents of Commandant Anthony Gale to see what he may have looked like. Gale researcher Robert T. Jordan observes that “Gale's heirs have been lost through time” (Jordan, 2007, p. 48).

The most extensive research for this purpose was conducted by Richard A. Long. Among the items in the Richard Long collection at the Marine Corps Archives is a box containing photographs of hundreds of 20th Century military men with the surname Gale, which shows the lengths to which the Marines were going to find a basis for his portrait. Until now, all attempts to find living descendents of Lt. Col. Anthony Gale have been unsuccessful.

Recently, the author discovered living descendents of Commandant Anthony Gale, including several along the direct male line. Although the passage of so many generations likely makes any family resemblance remote, the Marine Corps History Division has been alerted to this finding in case a composite portrait of the Commandant might be attempted based on several available photographs of his male descendents.
Family Portraits

Irish immigrant Richard McCunney commissioned his portrait to be painted by Thomas Sully, one of the best known portrait artists of the era. The portrait is now held by the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts in Philadelphia. Other portraits of Richard McCunney and Bridget [Kearney] McCunney also survived and remain in family hands.

Two portraits of Commandant Anthony Gale’s niece, Bridget [Kearney] McCunney, are attached as appendices to this paper. They may be among the best images available of a close relative of Anthony Gale, fourth Commandant of the United States Marine Corps. Credit and grateful appreciation is given to Robert T. Jordan for restoration of the younger image of Bridget whose portrait suffered some damage due to improper storage.
Appendices

1. Ancestors of Marine Commandant Anthony Gale
2. Family Tree of Marine Commandant Anthony Gale
6. Abstract of the Will of Martin Delany, by Sir William Betham
7. Abstract of the Will of Mall (Malachy) Delany, by Sir William Betham
Ancestors of Marine Commandant Anthony Gale

Thomas Gale

Anthony Gale

Mable

Marine Commandant Anthony Gale
b: in Ireland
d: December 12, 1843 in Lincoln County, KY

Martin Delany
b: Abt. 1672
d: October 22, 1731

Malachi Delany

James Albin
b: 1642 in Derbyshire, England
m: Abt. 1665 in Wicklow, Ireland
d: December 29, 1722 in Rogerstown, County Meath, Ireland

Barbara Albin
b: Abt. 1674 in Leinster, County Meath, Ireland
d: 1739 in Chester, PA

Anne Delany

Anne
b: 1646 in Derbyshire, England
d: 1693 in Rogerstown, County Meath, Ireland

John Sabatier

Jane Sabatier

Elizabeth Freeman
Betham Sketch Pedigree - Six Generations of Gales
Betham Abstract of the Will of Barbara [Albin] Delany

Barbara Delany of Ballisfin in the Queens County widow 25 May 1758, 23 May 1739 late husband Martin D

Sons: Martin D
      Daniel D
      James D
      John D
      Dennis D
      William D

Anne Anne wife of Dudley Fitzgerald
Betham Abstract of the Will of Barbara [Albin] Delany #2

25. Delany Barbara Bally
   In Queen's C. dtd 25th May 1738, pr 24th May 1739.

  Son Martin D. Husband
  Martin D. Sons, Daniel
  James, John, Dennis, & Wm.
  Son in law, Dudley Fitzgerald — only
  son Anne Fitzgerald Delany
  Son, Malachy D.
Betham Abstract of the Will of Martin Delany

28th Martin Delany, of Ballygee
in the Queens County
23rd Aug 1731—24th Nov 1732
wife Barbara
1st son Daniel
2 — Martin D
3 — Malachi D
4 — James D
5 — John D
6 — Dennis D
7 — William D
dame Anne Fitzgerald, wife
of Dudley D.
Betham Abstract of the Will of Mall (Malachy) Delany

Mall Delany of Ballinakill 26 Oct
6 Nov 84 b. 30 Apr 85
1st dau. — Sam Gale dau of Arthur Gale
Fanny Gale — 2nd
2nd son - Parmele Gale
Male
John Gale
Sons in law — John Maffit, John Maffit
Daw - Ann Ryan
Bridget [Kearney] McCunney
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Genealogy of Anthony Gale

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