



## FAMILY ARTICLE

### TEACHER GUIDE

# THE MOORES

### WHO THEY ARE

Bridget and Joseph Moore move into 97 Orchard Street in 1869 with their three young children: Mary Kate, Jane, and Agnes. Having just left the Five Points, a predominantly Irish community, and arriving in “Little Germany” in the Lower East Side, they might have had difficulty feeling like they belonged. Maybe they decorated their home to remind them of their Irish culture, or celebrated important holidays together, like St. Patrick’s Day. While it may have been difficult to communicate with their German-speaking neighbors, perhaps Bridget tried to make friends with some of the other mothers. Even though the Moore’s only lived at 97 Orchard Street for one year, in that time they tried to make this space their home!

### PRIMARY SOURCE

#### 1 Map of Location of the Moore Family’s Homes in 1860s New Yorks



This is a map of Lower Manhattan in the 1860s, plotting a few important points relevant to the Moore family story. It shows their trajectory uptown, as they perhaps were searching for better conditions in housing, or a closer location to their place of worship. The hexagon circles the first neighborhood in which they lived as a married couple — the Five Points, a predominantly Irish community.

#### Questions for Student Exploration

- Read the key for this map.
- Can you find the number that represents 97 Orchard Street?
- What does number 4 represent? Why do you think that place is important?
- Why do you think the Moore’s moved so many times?



## READING ACTIVITIES

### **Comprehension Questions**

- Where is Bridget from and when did she immigrate?
- What was the push factor that influenced Bridget's move to the United States from Ireland?
- What religion did Bridget and Joseph practice?
- What was the first neighborhood Bridget and Joseph lived in? Describe this neighborhood.
- How many children did Joseph and Bridget have? What country are they born in?
- How did many Americans feel about Irish immigrants when Bridget and Joseph immigrated?
- What was Joseph Moore's job?
- Where did the Moore's go on Sundays?
- What holiday in March would be important to the Moore family?

### **Your Turn / Thinking Questions**

#### **ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCE**

- How do you imagine 17-year old Bridget would feel when she stepped of the boat in New York City?
- Why do you think the Moore's would make Five Points their first home in the United States? Why do you think they moved to 97 Orchard Street?
- How does Bridget teach her daughters about their Irish culture?
- Why do you think the St. Patrick's Day parade is important to help the Moore family feel like they belong?

#### **ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCE**

- Do you have anything that protects you or your home from danger?



## WRITING ACTIVITIES

- 1** Imagine that 5-year old Mary Catharine attended the St. Patrick's Day Parade today with her father, Joseph Moore. She comes home and wants to tell her mother, Bridget Moore, all about it. Write at least 10 lines of dialogue between Mary Catherine Moore and her mother Bridget Moore. Include the following in your dialogue:

  - *Who did Mary Catharine see at the parade?*
  - *What were the people watching the parade wearing?*
  - *What were the people marching in the parade doing?*
  - *What did Mary Catharine hear?*
  - *What did Mary Catharine eat?*
  - *How did Mary Catharine feel at the parade?*
  - *What did Mary Catharine bring back from the parade for her mother?*
  
- 2** How do Bridget and Joseph Moore try to pass on their culture from Ireland to their children? In your answer, choose two different examples and use evidence from the text and primary sources.

## GLOSSARY

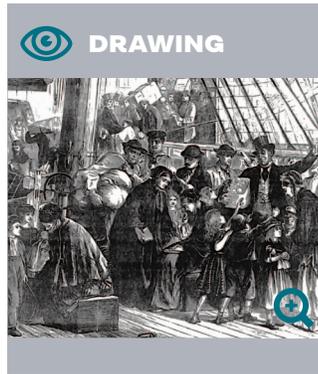
<b>FAMINE</b>	(n.) an extremely short supply of food that leads to extreme hunger.
<b>CATHOLICISM</b>	(n.) a religion.
<b>SANITARY</b>	(adj.) clean, healthy, safe.
<b>SUSPICIOUS</b>	(adj.) to be untrusting of someone or something.
<b>STEREOTYPE</b>	(n.) a belief or description about a large group that does not necessarily apply to specific individuals from that group (ex: all pitbulls are mean dogs).
<b>DISCRIMINATE</b>	(v.) to treat people differently based on prejudice.
<b>PREJUDICE</b>	(n.) to make a judgement about a person before getting to know them.
<b>VENDOR</b>	(n.) a person who sells something at a store or a market stall.
<b>COAL</b>	(n.) a black rock that is used to start a fire to provide heat.
<b>ROSARY</b>	(n.) a string of beads and a cross, it is used by Catholic people to pray and remind them of their faith.
<b>SHAMROCK</b>	(n.) a green, three leaf clover.



## FAMILY ARTICLE

### THE STORY

# THE MOORES



#### DRAWING

## Getting Here

Bridget Moore immigrated to the United States from Ireland in the year 1863 when she was 17 years old. She came by herself on a ship that travelled six weeks to get to New York. Many people left Ireland and moved to the United States because there was not enough food, and people were starving. There was a **famine**. Bridget's parents knew that she couldn't have a good future in Ireland, and they also needed her to send them money from the United States to help the family. In New York City, there were lots of other Irish immigrants and more chances to earn money. In the 1860s, immigrants from Ireland were one of the biggest groups in New York City, alongside immigrants from Germany. Imagine Bridget, still a young girl, stepping off the boat in New York City alone.

**YOUR TURN** How do you imagine 17-year old Bridget would feel when she stepped off the boat in New York City?



#### PRIMARY SOURCE

## Getting Started

After about a year of living in New York, Bridget married another immigrant from Ireland named Joseph. Both of them practiced **Catholicism**, like many immigrants from Ireland. They both spoke English, although some immigrants from Ireland spoke a language called Irish or Gaelic. The first home they had together was in a neighborhood called the Five Points. The Five Points was mostly a neighborhood of new immigrants from Ireland and China, as well as Black Americans. The good things about the Five Points were that the cost of renting an apartment was low and there were many other Irish people for Bridget and Joseph to talk to. The bad thing was that the **living conditions** were not **sanitary** and there was a high chance of getting sick.

**1** A map showing the locations of the Moore's homes.

Bridget and Joseph had three daughters, Mary Catherine, Jane, and Agnes. In 1869, Bridget and Joseph moved to 97 Orchard Street on the Lower East Side. Most of the people in their building and in this neighborhood were immigrants from Germany, but the apartment and living conditions were better than the Five Points.

At this time in history, many people in the United States were **suspicious** of Irish immigrants and had unfair, bad opinions about them. There were **stereotypes** that said Irish people were poor, dirty, had diseases, and liked



### DRAWING



to fight. Many Irish people who wanted jobs were **discriminated** against. Having to deal with these **prejudices** and poor treatment would make things more difficult for the Moores.

**YOUR TURN** *Why do you think the Moore's would make Five Points their first home in the United States? Why do you think they moved to 97 Orchard Street?*

## Making a Home in the Lower East Side

### IN THE HOME

On the 4th floor of 97 Orchard Street, the Moore's created their Irish American home. Joseph worked as a waiter, earning about \$5 a week. Bridget worked to feed her family and made sure the home was clean. Because their apartment did not have running water or refrigeration, she woke up early to get water from the backyard pump, and went shopping for food from different **vendors** at the Essex Market. She also needed to scrub the **coal** dust from the walls. Mary Catherine was 5 years old, so maybe she helped Bridget by bringing coal upstairs from the cellar for the stove, or maybe she looked after her sisters, Jane and Agnes, while Bridget cut up potatoes, carrots and onions for a stew.

Above the door to the apartment, the Moores hung a St. Bridget's Cross. They believed the cross protected their home from danger, and it also reminded them of their homes in Ireland. In Irish tradition, the color red also protects a person and their home.

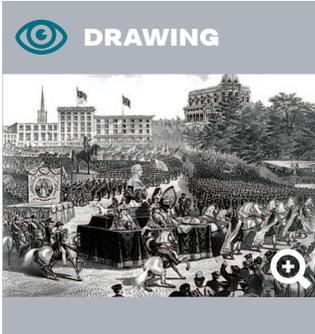
**YOUR TURN** *Do you have anything that protects you or your home from danger?*

### PHOTOGRAPHS



Mary Catherine, Jane, and Agnes were born in the United States, and they wouldn't be able to remember Ireland. Bridget and Joseph would have to teach them what it means to be Irish. To teach the children Irish songs, Bridget and Joseph might have had a fiddle and book of Irish melodies. Perhaps they all danced together in the living room. Little Jane might have worn her father's top hat while dancing. To show the children where they lived in Ireland, Bridget and Joseph could point to their map of Ireland. They could describe the green fields, stone walls, and roaming sheep of their home. Perhaps they could even write a letter together to Bridget's mother in Ireland. Because they practiced the Catholic religion, they had a **rosary** in the apartment to teach the children how to pray. They could say a prayer for each bead on the rosary. Bridget might even teach her daughter Mary Catherine how to make the St. Bridget's Cross.

**YOUR TURN** *How does Bridget teach her daughters about their Irish culture?*



### DRAWING

#### IN THE COMMUNITY

Each day, Bridget and her girls went to the backyard of 97 Orchard Street to get water, because there was no running water in their apartment. In the backyard, they got buckets of water, waited in line to use the toilet, and saw their neighbors. Many people in the building and the community spoke German, some people call the neighborhood “Little Germany.”

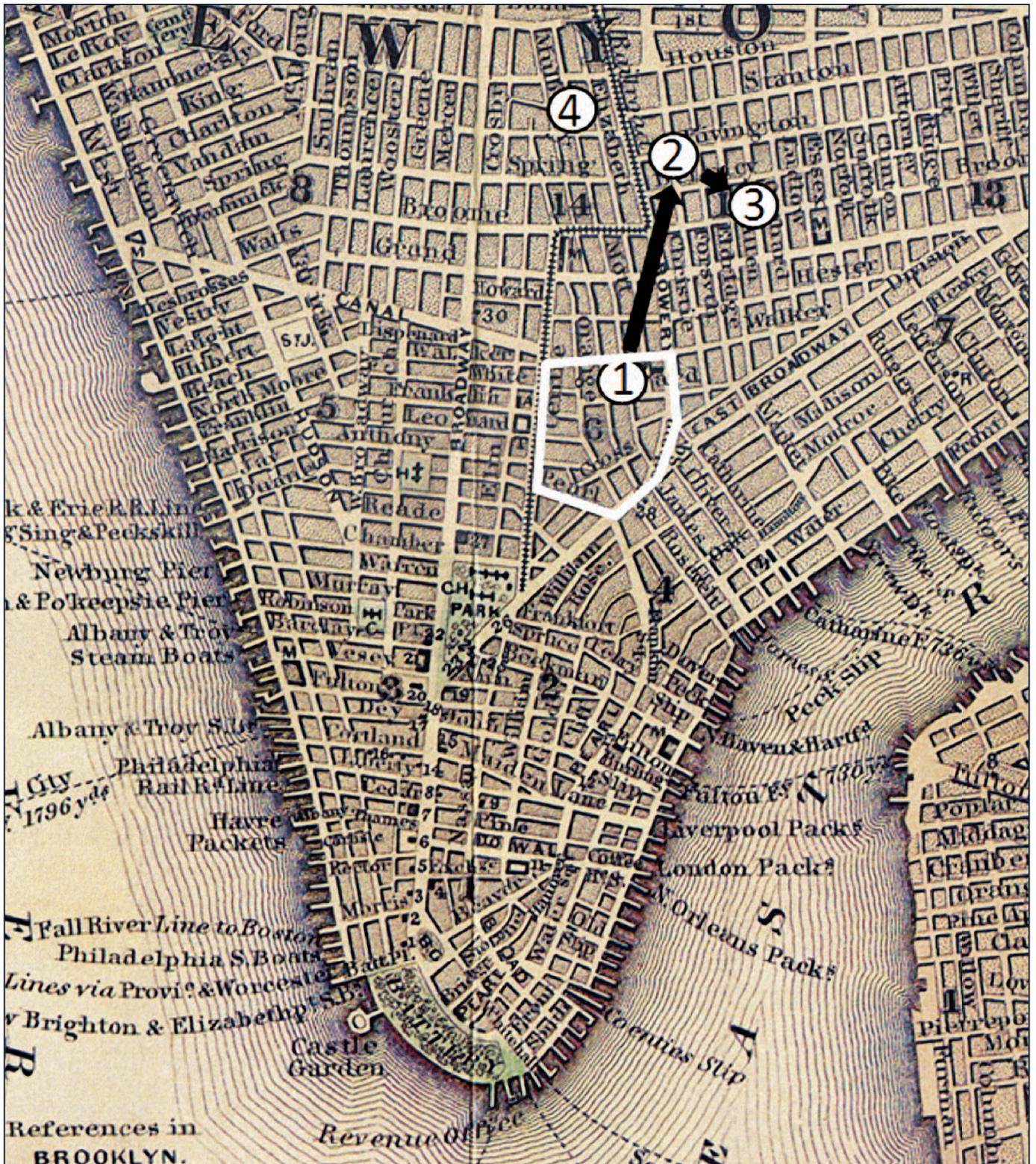
On Sundays, the Moores might have put on their nicest clothes, walked for a few blocks, and arrived at St. Patrick’s Old Cathedral, their church. At St. Patrick’s most people were of Irish background. Perhaps they could relax for that hour on Sundays and feel like themselves.

Another day that would be important to the Moore family was St. Patrick’s Day in March. On St. Patrick’s Day, Irish immigrants and their children marched through the streets of New York letting everyone know they were proud of their culture and their country. Almost everyone in New York City would have at least heard the sounds of the Irish bands as they marched through the city. Perhaps Joseph and Bridget gave their daughters **shamrocks**, green ribbons, and tiny flags to wave as they attended the parade together. Perhaps today the great-great-great-grandchildren of Bridget and Joseph still take their children to the St. Patrick’s Day parade in New York City.



### PHOTOGRAPH

**YOUR TURN** *Why do you think the St. Patrick’s Day parade is important to help the Moore family feel like they belong?*

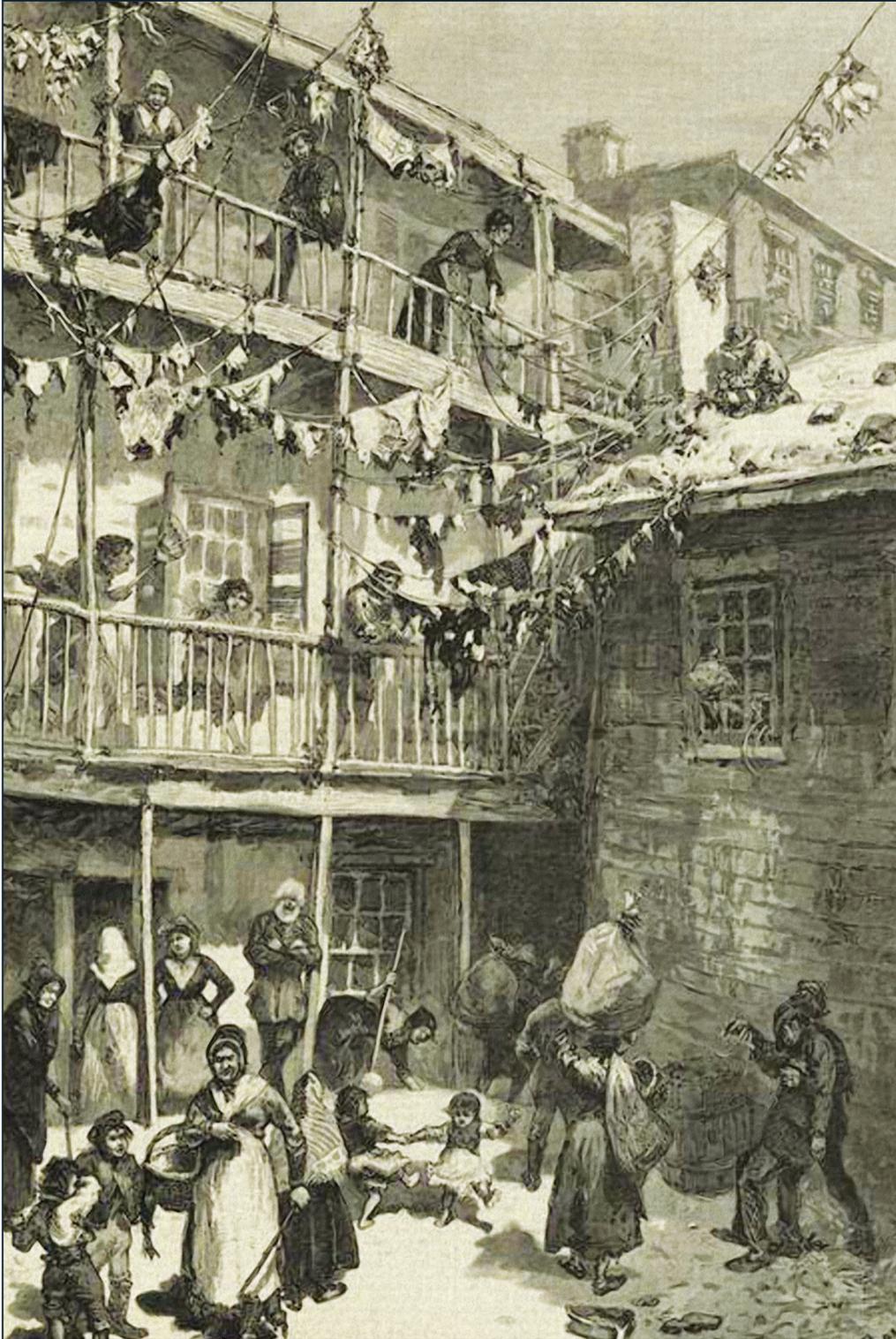


This is a map of Lower Manhattan in the 1860s with a few important points for the Moore family story. The white line outlines the first neighborhood they lived – The Five Point, a neighborhood of many Irish People. Next they moved uptown. Perhaps they were searching for better conditions in housing, or a closer location to their church.

1 65 Mott, 2 150 Forsyth, 3 97 Orchard, 4 St. Patrick's Old Cathedral.



*This is a drawing of people on a ship in the 1860s. Bridget Moore's journey to New York on a ship took 6 weeks.*



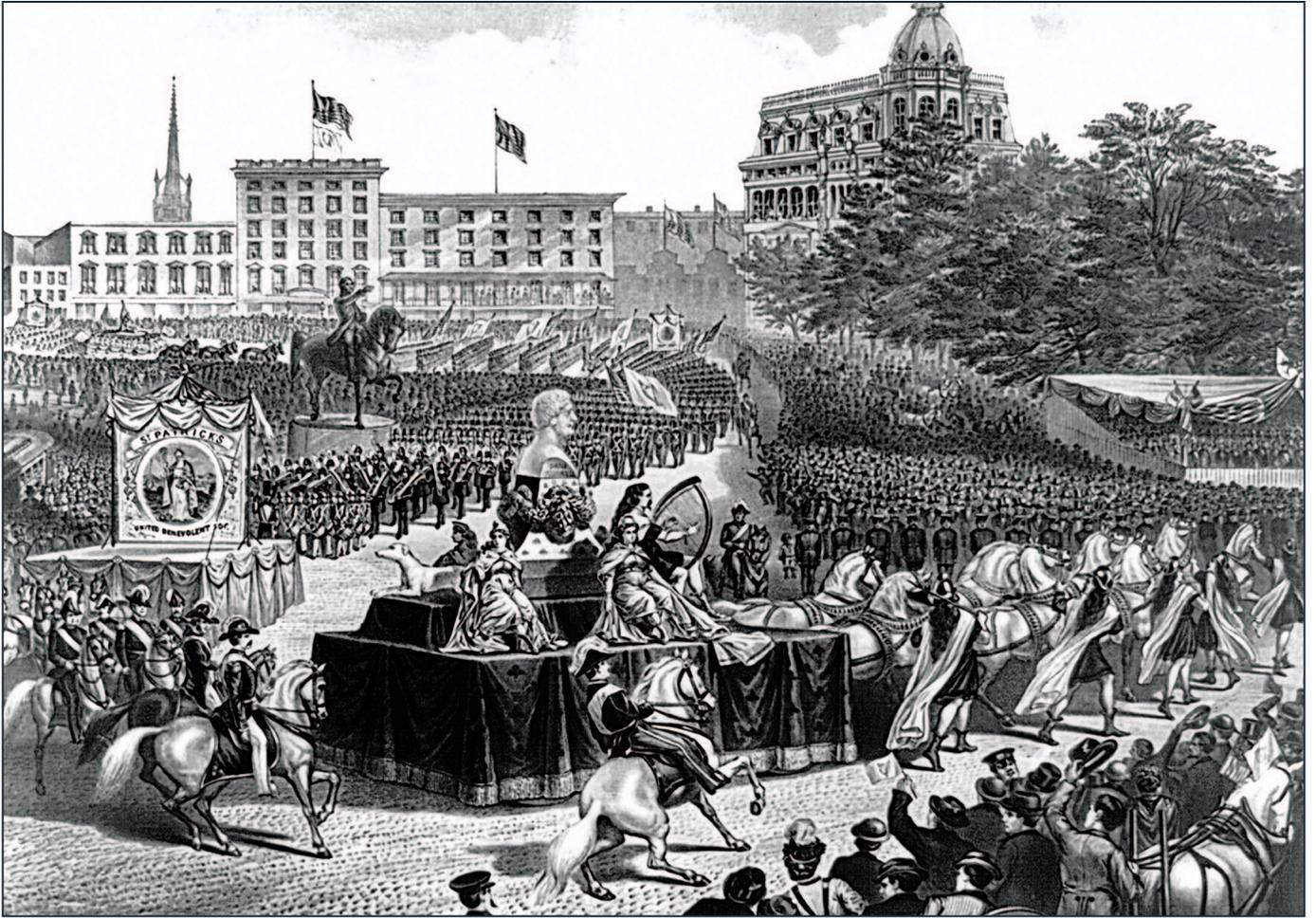
*This is a picture of the Five Points Neighborhood. It was the first neighborhood the Moore family made a home in the United States.*



*The Moore's kitchen. 5-year old Mary Catherine Moore would help her mother by looking after her two younger sisters.*



*The Moore Parlor. In this room, Bridget and Joseph could play the fiddle and sing Irish songs to teach their children about being Irish.*



*This is a drawing of the St. Patrick's Day parade from 1874.*



*The great-great-great-grandchildren of Bridget and Joseph Moore and their families.*