

# WILLIAM JOSEPH MURTY, also DAKAN

Private, Company "L" 30<sup>th</sup> Infantry

Died October 25, 1918 of Wounds Received in Action in France

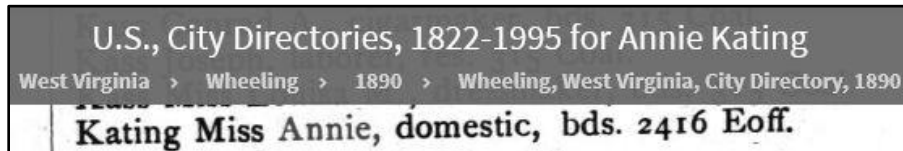
Compiled by Linda Cunningham Fluharty.

Born in Wheeling on September 27, **1890**, William Joseph Murty became the adopted (or foster) son of Alexander Dakan and Sophia Gschwender. Alexander Dakan and Sophia "Schwender" were married in Wheeling on January 9, 1872. In the 1880 census of Pease Township, Belmont County, Ohio, Alexander and Sophia had two daughters, Josephine 6 (born 1874), and Emma, 4 (born 1876).

The 1890 Wheeling City Directory indicates that a boarder lived with the Alexander Dakan family.



The boarder's name is misspelled and was actually KEATING.



At the time of the 1900 census, Alex and Sophia "Daken" resided at **2416 Eoff Street**, Wheeling, with their son, William, age 9, born in September **1890**. Alex was employed as a Catcher in a Roll Mill.

In the 1910 census, William Joseph Dakan is described as their **"ADOPTED SON."**

William Joseph Dakan was 26 when he registered for the World War I Draft.

Form 1 4225 REGISTRATION CARD No. 48		47-1-32-A	
1 Name in full <i>William Joseph Dakan</i> Age, in yrs. <i>26</i>		REGISTRAR'S REPORT	
2 Home address <i>2416 Eoff Wheeling W. Va.</i>		1 Tall, medium, or short (specify which)? <i>Short</i> Slender, medium, or stout (which)? <i>Medium</i>	
3 Date of birth <i>September 27 1890</i>		2 Color of eyes? <i>Blue</i> Color of hair? <i>Black</i> Bald? <i>Yes</i>	
4 Are you (1) a natural born citizen, (2) a naturalized citizen, (3) an alien, (4) or have you declared your intention (specify which)? <i>Born in City of</i>		3 Has person lost arm, leg, hand, foot, or both eyes, or is he otherwise disabled (specify)? <i>None</i>	
5 Where were you born? <i>Wheeling W. Va. U.S.A.</i>		I certify that my answers are true, that the person registered has read his own answers, that I have witnessed his signature, and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:	
6 If not a citizen, of what country are you a citizen or subject? <i>U.S.A.</i>		_____ (Signature of registrar)	
7 What is your present trade, occupation, or office? <i>Express Co. Employee</i>		Precedent <i>7 Centre</i>	
8 By whom employed? <i>Alexander Express Co.</i>		City or County <i>Wheeling this Co.</i>	
9 Where employed? <i>Wheeling</i>		State <i>W. Va.</i>	
10 Have you a father, mother, wife, child under 12, or a sister or brother under 12, solely dependent on you for support (specify which)? <i>None</i>		Date <i>June 5 1917</i>	
11 Married or single (which)? <i>Single</i> Race (specify which)? <i>Caucasian</i>			
12 What military service have you had? Rank <i>None</i> Service branch _____			
Do you own steam engine or farm tract, (specify grounds)? <i>None</i>			
I affirm that I have verified above answers and that they are true.			
544 <i>W. J. Dakan</i> (Signature of registrant)			

WILLIAM JOSEPH DAKAN is also WILLIAM JOSEPH MURTY according to the *United States, Veterans Administration Master Index, 1917-1940*. It seems possible that he was raised using the surname DAKAN but had not been legally adopted. In any case, this writer believes his mother was **ANNA KEATING**, the boarder in the Dakan home in **1890**. His father was **MICHAEL MURTY**. - The address on this card, **191 Alley 14**, is significant.

MURTY WILLIAM JOSEPH					
DAKAN WILLIAM JOSEPH			C		73 535
Private Co L 30th Inf			K		
191 Alley 14 Wheeling West Va			A		1 678 776
Ssn	5 481 022	Died	10/4/18	T	4 779 100
Born	9/14/90			B	
Ent	9/20/17	Dis	10/25/18	Cl	
				I	149 721

U. S. VETERANS BUREAU  
MAIL AND RECORDS  
Form 7202—Rev. Sept., 1925

INDEX CARD

GPO 2-13265

The remains of William Joseph Dakan were returned to Wheeling and he was interred at Mt. Calvary Cemetery in September 1921.

**Wheeling Intelligencer, 15 Aug 1921**  
**Private Dakan's Body Coming.**  
The body of Private William J. Dakan has been shipped from France, and is due to arrive at Hoboken, August 25, according to advices received by his father, Alexander Dakan, 2416 Eoff street.  
Private Dakan was a member of the first contingent to be sent to Camp Lee from this city. He was a member of Company L, Thirtieth infantry, and saw service in some of the most important engagements of the war. He was gassed while fighting in the Argonne forest, and died in a base hospital October 25, 1918, at the age of 28 years.  
The American Legion will have charge of the funeral services and will appoint pallbearers and a firing squad after the arrival of the body.

## THE PARENTS OF WILLIAM JOSEPH MURTY/DAKAN

The MURTY surname is Irish and is also found as MURPHY, even MURTAUGH & MURTHA.

*Wheeling Register, 14 Jan 1891*  
**Squire Arkle's Court.**  
Michael Murphy was before Justice Arkle yesterday on complaint of Miss Annie Keating, charging him with bastardy. He was sent to jail in default of \$400 bond for his appearance at the next term of Court. The warrant for Murphy's arrest was issued on October 13th, and he eluded the officers until yesterday morning, when he was arrested by Constable Richard Boccker between three and five o'clock, while at work at the Upper Riverside forge.

In Wheeling, Ohio County, at St. Joseph's Cathedral, on April 11, 1891, PATRICK MURTY gave consent for his 18-year-old son, MICHAEL MURTY, born in Ireland, to marry ANNA KEATING, 21, born in Pittsburgh.

The following legal action is not described.

*Wheeling register | Friday, Nov 20, 1891*  
January 19—Nancy Lyle v. W. M. Handlan; Annie Keating v. Michael Murty; Carrie E. Bliss v. Leroy Miller.

*Wheeling Register, 24 Nov 1894*  
Annie Keating vs. Michal Murty, bastardy, dismissed.

## THE MOTHER, ANNA KEATING

This writer believes that ANNIE KEATING gave birth to WILLIAM JOSEPH MURTY in 1890 while living with Alexander and Sophia Dakan. The father, MICHAEL MURTY, was threatened with jail and/or large fines over Annie's claims of bastardy. The two married in the Catholic Church, but how long they were together is unknown. It is also not known if she was actually a widow, if they divorced, or if they had simply parted ways and didn't divorce. It would not have been easy to divorce at that time, especially when she was aligned with the Catholic Church. She used her maiden name in subsequent records, for the most part, which would be unlikely if she was the widow of Michael Murty.

But the child, William Joseph Murty, was raised as William Joseph Dakan.

U.S., City Directories, 1822-1995 for Annie Keating  
 West Virginia > Wheeling > 1896 > Wheeling, West Virginia, City Directory, 1896  
**Keating Miss Annie, domestic, wks. 910 Main.**

In the 1900 census, Annie Keating, 30, born in Pennsylvania, was employed as a Glass Worker and was a boarder at a home on alley H, near McColloch Street.

Annie was not found in the census after 1900 but she is found in Wheeling City Directories, at the **SAME ADDRESS shown for WILLIAM JOSEPH MURTY/DAKAN in the *United States, Veterans Administration Master Index, 1917-1940.*** Her name varies and it appears that she chose to live as Anna Keating, a widow, perhaps a more acceptable status at that time.

U.S., City Directories, 1822-1995 for Anna Keating  
 West Virginia > Wheeling > 1909 > Wheeling, West Virginia, City Directory, 1909  
**Keating Mrs. Anna (wid. Michael), res. 191 Alley 14.**

U.S., City Directories, 1822-1995 for Anna Kating  
 West Virginia > Wheeling > 1911 > Wheeling, West Virginia, City Directory, 1911  
**Kating Miss Anna, res. 191 Alley 14 (2d fl).**

U.S., City Directories, 1822-1995 for Anna Keating  
 West Virginia > Wheeling > 1915 > Wheeling, West Virginia, City Directory, 1915  
**Keating Miss Anna, res. 191 Alley 14 (2d fl).**

U.S., City Directories, 1822-1995 for Anna Keating  
 West Virginia > Wheeling > 1921 > Wheeling, West Virginia, City Directory, 1921  
**Keating Anna (wid Michael), res 191 Al 14**

A Laundress:

U.S., City Directories, 1822-1995 for Annie Keating  
 West Virginia > Wheeling > 1926 > Wheeling, West Virginia, City Directory, 1926  
**Keating Annie Mrs lndrs h191 Alley 14**

Anna Keating Murty/Murphy, born on March 2, 1870 in Pittsburgh, daughter of Patrick Keating & Mary Dean, died on July 8, 1935 in Wheeling. Her death record states she was a widow, and her spouse was Michael Murphy. Her tombstone at Mt. Calvary Cemetery reads, "ANNA KEATING." Her obituary states that her son, **WILLIAM MURPHY, was KILLED DURING THE WORLD WAR.**

The State of Ohio, Belmont County.  
 In the Matter of the Will of )  
 Anna Keating Murphy, sometimes known )  
 as Anna Keating Murty, )  
 Deceased. )

In her extensive will, Anna Keating Murphy is identified as "Anna Keating Murphy, also known as Anna Keating Murty." Her will names four siblings: Mary, Delia (Kennedy), Michael and Patrick. The two brothers lived in Shadyside, Ohio, and the will states that she had lived for a time in Shadyside, Belmont County, Ohio, and she made her last will there in 1932. It also states that Anna left no spouse.

*Wheeling Intelligencer, 10 July 1935*

**MRS. ANNA MURPHY**  
**MASS ON THURSDAY**

**REQUIEM HIGH MASS AT ST. JOSEPH'S CATHEDRAL; RESIDENT OF EAST WHEELING**

Requiem high mass for Mrs. Anna Keating Murphy 65, who died at the home of Mrs. Lizzie Greiner, 1024 Lind street, Monday, will be solemnized at 9 o'clock at St Joseph's cathedral Thursday morning. Brief services are also to be held preceding the mass at the Altmeyer and Sons funeral home at 8:30 o'clock. Interment will occur at Mt. Calvary cemetery.

Mr. Murphy had been in failing health for six years and seriously ill for the past month. She was born in Pittsburgh, Pa., March 2, 1870, a daughter of the late Patrick J. and Mary Dean Keating. She came to Wheeling in infancy and had resided in East Wheeling ever since. She was a life member of St. Joseph's cathedral.

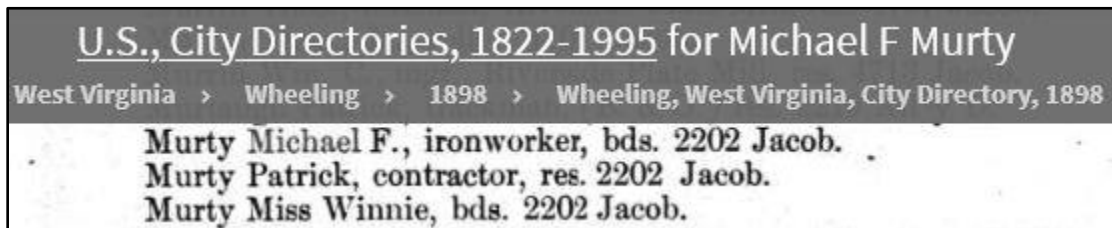
Surviving are two brothers Patrick J. Keating and Michael J. Keating, both of Shadyside, Ohio; two sisters, Mrs. Bridget Kennedy, Wellsburg, and Miss Mary Keating, Columbus, Ohio; and six nieces and nephews. A son William Murphy was killed during the World War.

#### THE FATHER, MICHAEL MURTY

All that is known for certain is that Anna Keating claimed Michael Murty fathered her child and they married in 1891. After that, Anna was on her own, without her child, who was raised by the Dakans and tragically lost his life in the war.

Despite minor conflicts in records, I believe the following Michael Murty, son of Patrick, is the father of William Joseph Murty/Dakan. If I am wrong, I will correct it. (lcflu@aol.com)

There was a Patrick Murty who immigrated from Ireland with his family in the mid-1880s. His wife was Anna Gallagher, although their son, Michael, later stated in records that his mother was Anna White. It was actually his maternal grandmother whose maiden was White/Whyte. The children of Patrick and Anna Murty were Michael, Delia (Brannen), Mary (Klieves) and Winifred.



The family was missed in the 1900 census, but they are found in Wheeling City Directories. Not all are presented here but they stayed in the same area of Jacob Street, 2202 & 2204.

After the marriage of Michael Murty to Annie Keating, nothing is known about his whereabouts until closer to 1900, as shown in the 1898 City Directory.

On December 24, 1906, in Monroe County, Michigan, Michael Murty, 31, married Mollie Miller. Michael was described as born in Virginia, residing in Chicago, Illinois, father "Frank" and mother Anna White. Mollie, 30, the daughter of Charles Miller and Marie Baker, was born in West Virginia and was living in Toledo, Ohio. Neither married previously. (Some misinformation in the record.)

Michael & Mollie returned to Wheeling and are in the 1910 census - spelled "Murphy" - residing at 2119 Jacob Street. The parents, Patrick, 69, and Anna Murty, 64, lived at 2204 Jacob Street with daughter, Winnie, 28. All were born in Ireland and immigrated in 1886 (year varies in records). Mr. Murty was a Naturalized Citizen.

<p><b>Wheeling Intelligencer, 30 July 1915</b></p> <p><b>Mrs. Patrick Murtha.</b></p> <p>Mrs. Patrick Murtha, aged 73, died yesterday morning at 1 o'clock at the family home, No. 2204 Jacob street, following a brief illness of a complication of diseases. Mrs. Murtha is survived by her husband, and the following children: Mrs. Mary Klieves, Mrs. Brannen, and Miss Winnie, at home; and Patrick, Jr. Funeral services will be held Saturday morning at 8:30 o'clock, at the home. Requiem high mass will be celebrated at 9 o'clock at the St. Joseph's Cathedral and interment will be in Mt. Calvary cemetery.</p>	<p><b>Wheeling Intelligencer, 14 July 1916</b></p> <h2>Obituary</h2> <p><b>Funeral for Patrick Murtha Today.</b></p> <p>Funeral services will be held this morning at 8 30 o'clock at the family home, 2204 Jacob street, for Patrick Murtha, followed with requiem high mass in St Joseph's cathedral at 9 o'clock. Interment will be in Mt Calvary cemetery.</p> <p>Mr Murtha died Wednesday evening at his home following five weeks' illness. He was born in Ireland but spent the greater part of his life in Wheeling, coming to this city in 1883. He was a devout member of St Joseph's cathedral congregation and was well known in South Wheeling. He leaves the following children, Mrs. Mary Klieves, Mrs. George Brannon, Michael Murtha and Miss Winifred Murtha.</p>
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Anna Gallagher Murty died on July 29, 1916. Patrick Murty died July 12, 1916. Son, Michael Murty, 2119 Jacob Street, gave the information for his father's death record but he is not named in his mother's obituary. They are buried at Mt. Calvary Cemetery.

In 1930, Michael and Mollie lived at 315 South Huron Street, Wheeling Island. Michael died in 1934 and he is buried at Greenwood Cemetery. At that time, his address was 75 Indiana Street.

As stated earlier, Michael's mother's maiden name was Gallagher, not White.

Mollie's death record and obituary verify, by stating her parents' names, that they were, indeed, the couple who married in 1906 in Michigan.

<i>Wheeling Intelligencer</i> , 19 Apr 1934	<i>Wheeling Intelligencer</i> , 9 Nov 1954
<b>MICHAEL F. MURTY SERVICES FRIDAY</b>	<b>MRS. MOLLIE MURTY</b>
Funeral services will be held in the chapel of the Kepner funeral home Friday afternoon at 2 o'clock for Michael F. (Murphy) Murty, 60, a former employe of the Martins Ferry Corrugating company. He died Tuesday morning at 8:30 o'clock in his home, 75 Indiana street.	Mrs. Mollie Miller Murty, resident of 13 S. York St., died suddenly last evening at 8 o'clock after being admitted to the Ohio Valley General Hospital. She was born in Wheeling, daughter of Charles and Maria Baker Miller and was a member of St. Paul's Evangelical and Reformed Church. She spent most of her life on Wheeling Island and was the widow of Michael Murty, who died in 1946. Surviving are a brother, Oscar Miller, Charleston; a sister, Mrs. Rose Driehorst, Washington, D C; two nieces, Mrs. Marie Dulaney, Wheeling, and Mrs. Delia Niebergall, Washington, D. C., and two nephews, George Sheridan and Edward Driehorst, both of Wheeling. Friends are being received at the Aitmeyer Funeral Home, 1400 Eoff St.
The services will be conducted by Rev. John R. C. Haas, pastor of St. Paul's Evangelical church. Burial will be made in Greenwood cemetery.	
Mr. Murty had been in failing health for three years and for the past year was seriously ill. He had been bedfast for the last two months.	
He was born in Ireland August 11, 1873, a son of the late Patrick and Ann White Murty and came to Wheeling to reside in childhood. He was formerly employed at the Riverside mill of the National Tube company, but in more recent years had worked for the Martins Ferry Corrugating company. He was a member of St. Paul's Evangelical church and of the Loyal Order of Moose.	
He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Mollie Miller Murty; three sisters, Mrs. Mary Killeen, Mrs. George Brannen and Miss Winnie Murphy, all of Wheeling.	