

## Manion/Mannion – Parents and Children in Trouble

The actions of the adults on Grasshopper Hill may have influenced the behavior of their children.

### THE SUN August 1885

On Friday, August 21, Antonio Iannello, an Italian, who keeps a fruit stand just west of North Boundary bridge, on the Baltimore county side, complained that a **gang of boys living on "Grasshopper Hill,"** nearby, made a practice of **throwing stones and billets of wood** at his stand, breaking his glasses, upsetting his fruit and annoying him in many ways. Wm. Stewart, Edward Stewart, Frank Elisha, Michael Copin, **Michael Manion** (age 14) and Eddie Hagan were arrested by the officer as participants in these depredations and brought before Justice N. R. Dorsey, who dismissed the boys with a reprimand after exacting from them the costs."

The Stewart boys were next-door neighbors to the Manion/Mannions on Grasshopper Hill. Their mother, Catherine Stewart, was the daughter of Malachi and Rose Kelly who also lived on Grasshopper Hill. Malachi and Rose Kelly were both sponsors at several Manion and Coffay baptisms and may possibly have been relatives of the Manions/Coffays. Catherine Stewart got herself into a mess when she involved many of the Grasshopper Hill community in her fight with Antonio Iannello:

### THE SUN August 1885

The next day, Mrs. Catherine Stewart, mother of the two Stewart boys, who established a fruit stand just above Iannello's, went to the Office of the Justice and swore out a warrant for the arrest of the little six-year-old son of Iannello, charging him with stoning her house and assaulting her sons. The Italian boy, a harmless looking little fellow in contrast with the bigger Stewart boys, was greatly frightened in the magistrate's office. After a hearing, the case was dismissed.

On Thursday, Mrs. Stewart again went to the magistrate's office, accompanied by two young girls about eleven and twelve years of age, who obtained warrants charging Iannello with assaults on each of them. The case was heard yesterday before Justice Dorsey, and from the evidence of the two girls and their mothers, and seven or eight other witnesses in the neighborhood, it appeared that the charges were unfounded, and they were dismissed. By advice of counsel, Iannello then swore out a warrant for Mrs. Catherine Stewart for subornation of perjury.

As the boys grew older, they continued to get in trouble.

### THE SUN, March 15, 1888

Mr. John C. Lamb, residing on Boundary avenue, has complained to the county police that **boys of Grasshopper Hill** have **taken possession** of his vacant house, where they assemble nightly and **gamble**.

Comment: John C. Lamb was a landlord who owned several of the dwellings on Grasshopper Hill.

The day after the gambling incident was reported, **Michael Manion** (at age 17) was arrested:

### 1888 March 16, Northwestern District Police, Baltimore

Offender: **Michael Manion** 1:45 p.m.

Officer: W. W. Brown

Offence: Disturbing the peace by acting disorderly Dismissed. No fees or costs.

Another incident involving **Michael Manion** and his mother occurred that same year:

**1888 June 29, Northwestern District Police, Baltimore, 11:10 a.m.**

Offender: **Michael Manion** (on warrant)

Officer: Miller.

Offence: **Disturbing the peace by acting disorderly and fighting on the street.**

Committed for hearing June, 30 7 am

Michael Manion 11.10 am. on warrant!	Miller wit.	Disturbing the peace, by acting disorderly and fighting on the street. Committed for hearing June, 30 7 am
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Michael was arrested at 11:10 a.m. His mother, **Mary Manion**, was arrested on the same day at 11:34 p.m. for the exact same charges. Mother Mary, and son Michael, spent some time in jail together.

**1888 June 29 Northwestern District Police, Baltimore, Friday, 11:34 p.m.**

Offender: **Mary Manion** (on warrant)

Officer: Winters & Miller

Witnesses: Wm. Butcher, Carrie Butcher, John T. Watts, Sarah Thompson of **Mt. Royal Hill**

Offense: **Disturbing the peace by acting disorderly and fighting on the street.**

Examination waved. **Committed for Criminal Court.**

Mary Manion 11.34 Pm. on warrant!	Winters! wit. Wm. Butcher Carrie Butcher John T. Watts! Sarah Thompson Mt. Royal Hill Off. Miller	Disturbing the peace, by acting disorderly & fighting on the street. Examination waved. Committed for Criminal Court.
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We know this is our Mary Manion from the address of the witnesses: **Mt. Royal Hill**

Mary's arrest may have had something to do with the arrest of her son, Michael Manion, earlier in the day. She was jailed and released the next day on bail procured by **Michael Coffay**, her-brother-in-law. Mary's Criminal Court case lasted nine months.

**1888 Baltimore City Criminal Court,  
Indictment Docket**

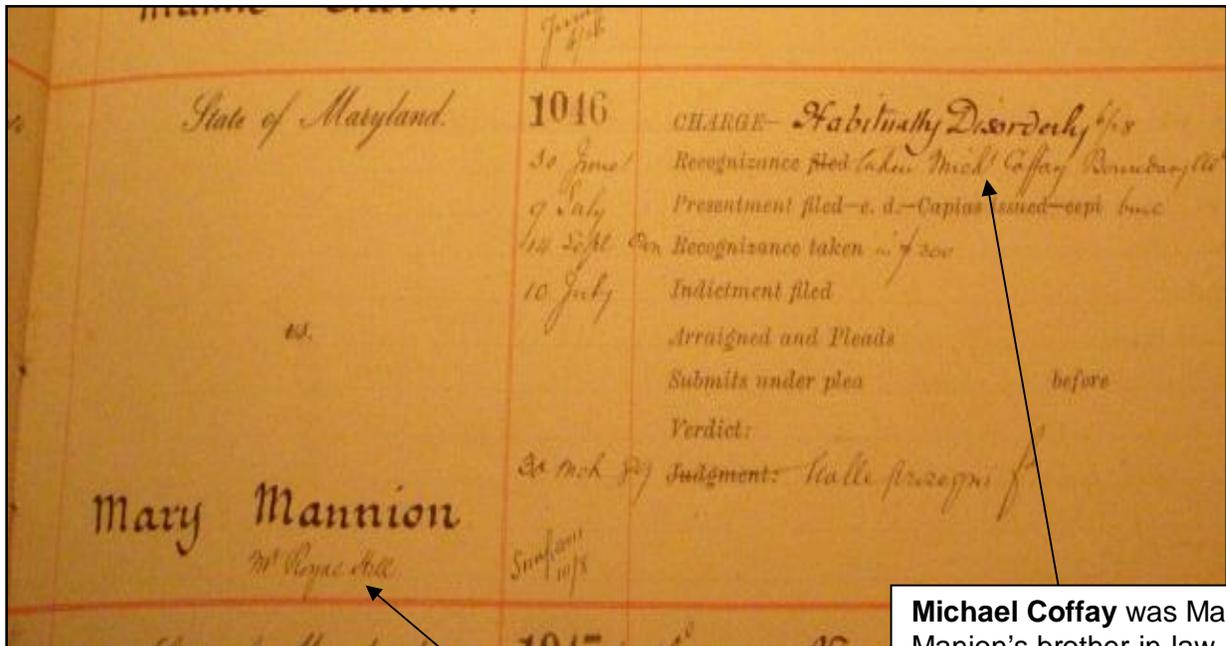
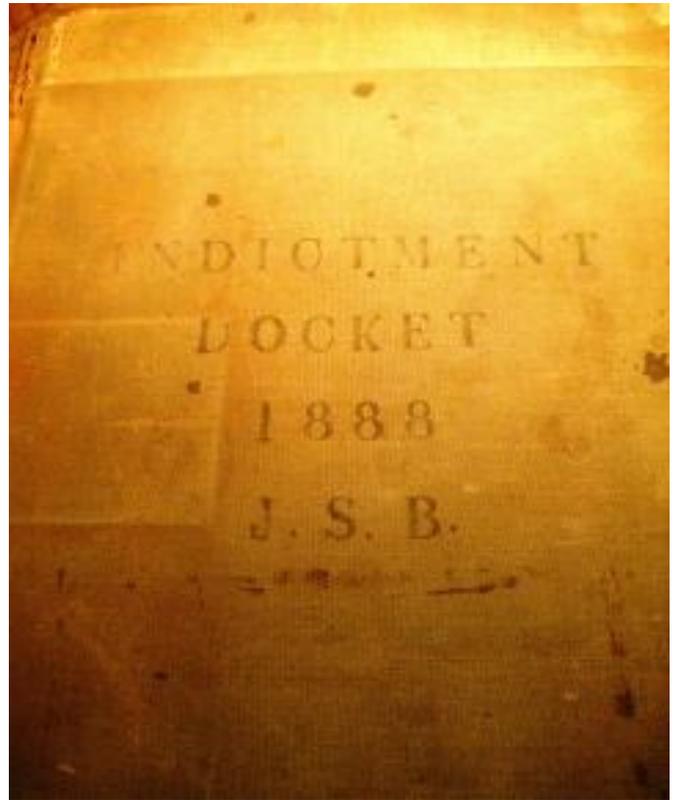
Case #1046 - **State of Maryland** vs.  
**Mary Mannion, Mt. Royal Hill**

**Charge:** Habitually Disorderly, Jail Sentence:  
30 day

**June 30, 1888** - Recognizance taken  
**Michael Coffay** (*Mary's brother-in-law*) of **Mt.  
Royal Hill** near Boundary Ave. Bail paid: \$150

**July 9, 1888** - Presentment filed, **Sept. 14,  
1888** - own recognizance taken - \$300

**March 30, 1889** Judgment: nolle prosequi  
(case not pursued any further)



**Michael Coffay** was Mary Manion's brother-in-law. He was the son of Catherine Hanley-Mannion-Coffay & half-brother of William Manion.

We know that this is our Mary because of the address, **Mt. Royal Hill**, under her name, and the reference to her brother-in-law, **Michael Coffay**. Note how the court clerk used the "Mannion" spelling.

**1888** was an eventful year for our ancestors on Grasshopper Hill. Frank Manion, at age 16, was also in the records:

1888 August 6, Northwestern Police District, Baltimore, 11:36 P.M.  
Offender: **Frank Manion**  
Officer: Dillon  
Offence: Drunk on the street, Fined 1.00 + costs, released.  
Fine .50, Cost 1.50 Magistrate: Benzinger

1888 August 10 Northwestern Police District, Baltimore  
Offender: **Frank Manion** 4 P.M. (on warrant), surrendered to Lieut. Watkins  
Officer: Dillon (witness)  
Offence: Willfully disturbing a neighborhood by loud and unseemly noises, profanely, + c  
(cursing) Magistrate: Hebb

Troubles for our ancestors continued into the 1890s. **Robert Manion**, at age 18 in 1893, was the youngest son of William and Mary Manion:

1893 Dec 11, Central Police District, Baltimore, Monday, 10:09 p.m.  
**Robert Manion**  
Officer: Brown  
Offense: Assaulting and striking Officer Brown while in the discharge of his duty.  
Fine: \$? plus costs and committed.

The next morning, after being released from the night before, Robert was arrested again.

1893 Dec 12, Central Police District, Baltimore, Tuesday, 11:09 a.m.  
**Robert Manion**  
Officer: Brown  
Offense: Drunk on the street. **Manion** dismissed.

The Manion/Mannion family lived at #1914 Elm Street on Grasshopper Hill. The neighbors directly across from them, at #1917 Elm Street, also had problems.

**THE SUN**, August 28, 1897 **Troubles of the Conway Clan**  
The Conway family, #1917 **Mount Royal Hill, better known as "Grasshopper Hill,"** were yesterday again before Justice Wood as witnesses against Charles Conway, one of the sons, who was charged with attempting to strike his sister, Julia Conway, with an axe. A month ago a member of the same family was before Justice Wood charged with using a hatchet during a family row. Charles was sent to jail for 30 days.

**THE SUN** April 13, 1899 **NEGRO ROWDYISM**  
William Conway, aged thirteen, **1917 Elm street (Grasshopper Hill),** was assaulted and beaten last night by a crowd of colored boys...