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OHIO IRISH AMERICAN NEWS

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BREATHTAKING TRINITY COLLEGE DUBLIN



EDITOR'S CORNER

By John O'Brien, Jr.



Half-Way There

It's only 6 months to St. Patrick's Day ~ I'm kidding, sort of. Honestly, there have been so many events, music, dance and gatherings this summer, I probably only hit 25% of the ½ Way to St. Pat's Party's. New ones crop up every year, but a few of those with staying power are based in authenticity and are can't miss events as we move to cold and rain ~ winter is coming.

Did you know Hallowe'en has its roots right out of Ireland? I won't spoil it here but read within and see how such a little country has had (and continues to have) big impact, spreading traditions across the world. All seasons and traditions linger, even across centuries and ½ Way to, too. It was an exciting summer for the

vibrant GAA in Ohio. Cleveland, Akron, Columbus and Cincinnati all made strides and experienced unprecedented growth across all ages and GAA sports, language, music & dance. Male, female or coed, it is thrilling to see kids and adults of all ages fill the fields and grow in skills, both physical and mental. I've got rhythm; the social skills, assurance and overall physical health learned here will apply no matter what they do in the future, Gaelic or not.

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at www.ohioianews.com. Our Facebook, Twitter and Instagram pages are earning over 50,000 engagements per month as well, so please follow and interact with us there too. A bird never flew on one wing; your feedback is always welcome; together we fly.

*Nuair a stadann an ceol, stadann an rince
(When the music stops, so does the dance)*

John



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About Our Cover:

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Trinity College
Dublin

Cover photo by Roxanne Collins

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Cleveland, Ohio 44113-2289

I hope that this letter finds you happy and well. I write to tell you about recent events, which have affected the location and firm affiliation from which we will be providing you with continuing legal services.

On or about July 15, 2019 my partner of over 20 years, Tim Collins decided to leave Collins & Scanlon LLP and take a position with another firm. While Tim was not an owner of the Firm, Tim's unexpected departure left me with many decisions to make about the future of Collins & Scanlon LLP, in order to determine how to best serve our clients, many of whom I have represented for more than a decade.

Over the years, I have been privileged to work with the best lawyers in Cleveland. One such association dates back fifty (50) years. Some of you may know, or have heard good things about Hawkins and Company, LLC. The Hawkins firm was founded by Edward C. Hawkins with whom I was a lifelong friend and colleague. Currently, Ed's daughter Ann Marie Hawkins, and son John Hawkins are carrying out their father's legacy of providing excellent and cost efficient legal services. Ann and John are also both C.P.A.'s and are very experienced in intricate business and transaction matters, trust, estate, probate, real estate and other business and personal transactions.

Due to Tim's departure, I have decided to join Hawkins and Company, LLC so that I can continue to provide you with the best legal service possible. Ann and John have an excellent staff of lawyers with whom we have worked on various legal matters over the years. The attorneys at Hawkins and Company, LLC together with myself will continue to provide you high quality legal services on a cost efficient basis.

Harvey Labovitz and retired Judge Ken Callahan of Scanlon and Associates, LLP will also be joining Hawkins and Company, LLC.

As of September 30, 2019, Harvey, Ken and I will join with Hawkins and Company, LLC, and will be winding up and closing Scanlon and Associates LLP formerly known as Collins & Scanlon LLP. Hawkins and Company, LLC is located at 1267 West 9th Street, Cleveland, Ohio, 44113. The general phone number is (216) 861-1365. You can also still call (216) 696- 0022 and contact us.

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**COOKING UP
A HOOLEY**
By Katie Gagne



Creamy Pumpkin Pasta

It's really not as scary as I thought – actually it's quite delicious. I am a flip-flop girl at heart, but I am embracing the cool, fall weather with all sorts of warm and cozy smells – including PUMPKIN EVERYTHING. Sometimes all the sweetness is too much, so I searched out some ways to use this autumn favorite in a savory dish. After a few experiments, my version of Creamy Pumpkin Pasta came to be. Serves 4

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 lb Campanelle -- this cone-shaped pasta is perfect for hearty ingredients and sauces
- 1 Sweet Red Pepper – chopped
- 1 16oz roll bulk Italian Sausage
- 4 oz Mushrooms – I used Baby Bellas - but any variety works
- 2 Cloves Garlic minced
- 8 oz Pure Pumpkin
- 2 Cups Chicken Stock
- ½ Heavy Whipping Cream
- 1 cup grated Parmesan Cheese
- ½ teaspoon Nutmeg
- 2 teaspoons Black Pepper
- 2 teaspoons Salt
- 1 tablespoon Olive Oil
- 4 teaspoons fresh Sage, chopped
- 2 teaspoons fresh Chives, chopped

Prepare pasta according to package directions, drain, return to the warm pasta pot, and set aside.

In a large skillet, sauté the red pepper, mushrooms, and garlic cloves in olive oil until soft.

Add in the sausage and cook through. Remove from the skillet and set aside.

In the same skillet, stir the pumpkin, salt, pepper, nutmeg and chicken stock until blended. Heat on medium until simmering. Add in the cream and let it thicken, stirring frequently. Add in half the Parmesan Cheese.

Add the Sausage, Mushrooms and Red Pepper back in and toss to coat.

Pour entire mixture over the pasta in the pot, add in the remaining Parmesan Cheese, Sage and Chives and stir until mixed well. Serve with warm, crusty bread and Enjoy! ■

Katie Gagne teaches English at Trinity High School in Garfield Heights. She is also the owner of her in-home bakery Sassy's Sweets and Oh So Much More. You can contact her at (440) 773-4459 or at mkbluebows@aol.com.

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SAFE HOME

Margaret T. "Peggy" O'Donoghue
Nov 20, 1937 ~ Sep 4, 2019



Margaret T. "Peggy" O'Donoghue, age 81, of Cranberry Twp., passed away on Wednesday, September 4, 2019 while under the care of Good Samaritan Hospice in Wexford. Born November 20, 1937 in Pittsburgh, she was the daughter of the late John F. Linehan and Mary K. (Naughton) Linehan.

Margaret was a beloved Mother and Nana to her seven children, 26 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren, always supporting them in every aspect of their lives and instilling in them a love and respect for their Irish heritage. She was employed as a registered nurse at St. Francis Hospital, UPMC Passavant Hospital and Kane Regional Center in North Hills. For thirty years, she and her husband, Tom, owned and operated the Blarney Stone, a landmark Pittsburgh restaurant. Margaret was a faithful member of St. Ferdinand Catholic Church, where she attended mass daily. Margaret loved to travel all over the country and enjoyed going to Disney with her family. She will be dearly missed and fondly remembered. She leaves behind to cherish her memo-

ry her seven children, Dennis (Kelley) O'Donoghue of Eagle Point, OR, Mary Kay (Gary) Marince of Windemere, FL, John (Allison) O'Donoghue of Fox Chapel, Jeffrey (Samantha) O'Donoghue of Canonsburg, Thomas (Jennifer) O'Donoghue of Weddington, NC, Timothy (Theresa) O'Donoghue of Canonsburg, and Sheila (John) Connolly of Harrison City; 26 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

In addition to her parents, Margaret was preceded in death by her husband, Thomas B. O'Donoghue; her brother, Patrick Linehan; and her sisters, Mary Ellen Dorsch, Clara Hegarty and Kathleen Garred. Friends will be received from 7-9 P.M. on Saturday, September 7, 2019 and from 2-4 P.M. and 6-8 P.M. on Sunday, September 8, 2019 at the Boylan-Glenn-Kildoo Funeral Home & Cremation Svcs., Inc., 130 Wisconsin Ave./PO Box 2155, Cranberry Twp., PA 16066.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10 A.M. on Monday, September 9, 2019 at St. Ferdinand Catholic Church, 2535 Rochester Rd., Cranberry Twp., PA 16066. (Everyone please meet at church.) Margaret will be laid to rest at Calvary Cemetery in Pittsburgh. Memorial donations may be made in her honor to the Red Cloud Indian School, 100 Mission Dr., Pine Ridge, SD 57770.

Obituary courtesy of www.boylanfuneralservices.com

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WHEN IRISH EYES ARE SMILING; BE VERY AFRAID

By Maury Collins



A child asked his father, "How were people born?" So his father said, "Adam and Eve made babies, then their babies became adults and made babies, and so on."

The child then went to his mother, asked her the same question, and she told him, "We were monkeys then we evolved to become like we are now."

The child ran back to his father and said, "You lied to me!" His father replied, "No, your mom was talking about her side of the family."

A lady goes to the doctor and complains that her husband is losing interest in sex. The doctor gives her a pill, but warns her that it's still experimental. He tells her to slip it into his mashed potatoes at dinner, so that night, she does just that. About a week later, she's back at the doctor, where she says, "Doc, the pill worked great! I put it in the potatoes like you said! It wasn't five minutes later that he jumped up, raked all the food and dishes onto the floor, grabbed me, ripped all my clothes off, and ravaged me right there on the table!"

The doctor says, "I'm sorry, we didn't realize the pill was that strong! The foundation will be glad to pay for any damages." "Nah," she says, "that's okay. We're never going back to that restaurant anyway."

A young man and woman got married. At the time of their marriage, the husband noticed his wife carried a decently sized metal box and shoved it up at the top of their closet. Curious as he was, the wife told him to never to look in it no matter what the circumstances.

Over the years, he saw that metal box in the closet, but never peered into it for the sake of his wife. One day the wife had a stroke and was rushed to the hospital. As the husband sat grieving at home, he thought of the box, snatched it up, and sped to the hospital where his wife remained with her death coming soon. The husband pleaded and begged her to allow him to open the box by her side.

"Well" she said, "I suppose now would be the right time." The husband unlatched the hook and peered inside.

On one side sat two crocheted dolls, and on the other, to his surprise, sat one million dollars!

"Honey, before we got married, my mother gave me this box and told me that whenever I got mad at you, I should go to the bedroom and crotch a doll," said the wife. The husband was thrilled and thankful. He absolutely couldn't believe his wife had only been mad at him two times!

"That is amazing!" said the husband to his wife. "Honey, I'm grateful beyond belief you've only been mad at me

twice, but how on this earth did you manage to get one million dollars?" "Oh, honey" said the wife, "That's the money I got from selling the dolls."

A young couple is on their honeymoon. The husband is sitting in the bathroom on the edge of the bathtub saying to himself, "Now how can I tell my wife that I've got really smelly feet and that my socks absolutely stink? I've managed to keep it from her while we were dating, but she's bound to find out sooner or later that my feet stink. Now how do I tell her?"

Meanwhile, the wife is sitting in the bed saying to herself, "Now how do I tell my husband that I've got really bad breath? I've been very lucky to keep it from him while we were courting, but as soon as he's lived with me for a week, he's bound to find out. Now how do I tell him gently?"

The husband finally plucks up enough courage to tell his wife and walks into the bedroom. He walks over to the bed, climbs over to his wife, puts his arm around her neck, moves his face very close to hers and says, "Darling, I've got a confession to make."

She says, "So have I, love." To which

he replies, "Don't tell me, you've eaten my socks."

A man comes home and sees a note on the refrigerator from his wife. "This isn't working. I'm at my mother's." The man opens the fridge, the light turns on, and he says to himself, "What the hell? The fridge is working fine!"

Bought my wife a mood ring, and when she's in a good mood the ring turns blue. But when she's in a bad mood, it leaves a big red spot in the middle of my forehead.

"My wife is such a bad cook, the flies chipped in to fix the screens." – Rodney Dangerfield

Mom, does God go to the bathroom?" a son asked. The mom replied, "No son, why?"

The son said, "Well every morning Dad goes to the bathroom and pounds on the door and shouts, 'Oh God! Are you still in there?!'!"

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ON THIS DAY IN IRISH HISTORY

OCTOBER

1 October 1761 - The first major outbreak of violence by the "Whiteboys" begins in Tipperary and spreads through Munster and West Leinster.

2 October 1852 - Birth of William O'Brien, Irish Party MP, associated with the campaigns for land reform which would force landlords to reduce exorbitant rents.

3 October 1691 - Signing of the Treaty of Limerick, ending the Williamite War between the Jacobites and supporters of William of Orange.

4 October 1886 - Birth of Lennox Robinson, playwright and manager of the Abbey Theatre. Best known for his works The Clancy Name and The White Blackbird.

5 October 1995 - Seamus Heaney, Harvard Professor and Irish poet, wins the Nobel Prize for Literature.

10 October 1918 - Sinking of the RMS Leinster by German torpedoes. She was bound for Holyhead and went down just outside of Kingstown/Dun Laoghaire. Over 500 people perished- the greatest single loss of life ion the Irish Sea.

11 October 2002 - Geraldine Kennedy is appointed to the Irish Times, becoming the first female editor of a national daily newspaper.

15 October 1945 - Death of Eoin MacNeill, scholar, patriot, who co-founded the Gaelic League and was Chief of staff of the Irish Volunteers.

16 October 1890 - Michael Collins is born in Clonakilty, Co. Cork.

24 October 1920 - Death of Terrence MacSwiney, revolutionary and Lord Mayor of Cork. His hunger strike ion Brixton Prison attained international attention.

FIRM FOUNDATION

By Ken Callahan
@KennethRCallahanJr



Pat Campbell Owner, P.J. McIntyre's Irish Pub and Brady Campbell School of Dance

Living in Ireland in the late '70s as my brother Kevin and I did—a pre-Celtic Tiger, deeply devotional island—we could not help but to be amazed by the peculiar place that Public Houses had in the social lives of the native Irish: in Dublin, the dark and masculine décor, the snuggeries, bar-men wearing white aprons frowning in disapproval at unaccompanied women (many places would not serve a woman a pint and would bring two glasses of Guinness instead to preserve the lady's dignity); and the warmth and family atmosphere in the pubs in the West, kids with parents, maybe a fiddle and a pair of spoons in the corner.

Patrick Joseph Campbell, owner and operator of P.J. McIntyre's, the landmark at Kamm's Corners, manages to preserve the unique atmosphere of the Irish Public House in the heart of Cleveland's West Park neighborhood. Indeed, Patrick and his extended family are in many ways at the center of much of the Cleveland Irish American community.

He is the son of Patrick (Paddy) Campbell and Mary McIntire Campbell; his dad joined his siblings and Uncle Pete and Aunt Ann Campbell in the early 1960s from Ballycroy, County Mayo, to find work, as their parents died early. Patrick's mom, Mary McIntire's people, are from Newport and Achill. Paddy was a Laborer with Local 310 for over 40 years.

The couple had two other kids, Pete and Colleen Campbell, and resided in the St. Vincent De Paul Parish. (A random irrelevancy: my Great Uncle, Fr. Ken Mullholland was stationed there, and later became Pastor at St. Malachi and Chaplain for the Cleveland Fire



Department). Patrick is a 1995 graduate of St. Edward High School and attended John Carroll University. The extended Campbell and Leneghan family have celebrated their Irish heritage in a number of venues for many years, including the Blarney Stone, Stone Mad, The Treehouse, The Pride of Erin and The Colonial Boy—many Greater Clevelanders of a certain age will recall the repeated play of "The Men Behind the Wire" from the CB jukebox.

P.J.'s is the product of the hard work of Patrick and his cousin, Tom Leneghan, whose team rehabbed the old West End Appliance in 2007 and

created the bar and restaurant it is today. Indeed, he is no stranger to hard work; in addition to the pub, he is a firefighter for the City of Cleveland and teaches Irish dance, which activities combine to make a long work week.

Patrick fondly recalls dancing for Bobby Masterson, enabling him to travel to Ireland on a number of occasions for the World Championships. It was in Newcastle, England that he met his wife, Dublin - born Rebecca Brady Campbell, when the pair were auditioning for "Michael Flatley's Lord of the Dance, in 1998. They have three children, Charlie (14), Cillian (10) and Ciara(8) and are active members of Holy Trinity parish.

Growing up in an Irish American household had a profound effect on Patrick's formation as an adult. "I was always taught to use my faith to guide me in anything I did. There were some tough times growing up, but my parents always instilled in us that family is most important, and everything will be okay. We always had support from one another. To this day, our Campbell/McIntyre families are close. We were taught to never give up and try our

hardest." P.J.'s has opened up its doors to support the Irish American community in the area, a group he finds "amazing." The pub has Irish language classes, and sponsors the Great Lakes Pipe Band, West Side IA Pipe Band, Gaelic Football Club, and Brady Campbell Irish Dance School, among others. At P.J.'s, you can smell turf burning in the fireplace while enjoying the house band, Marys Lane, while sipping the porter.

Patrick Campbell is constantly in awe of the Irish American community in Cleveland, who, he claims, are "always looking out for one another and are extremely supportive."

Through hard work and with the support of family, Patrick Campbell has imported to Greater Cleveland the social cohesion of the public house which so pervades Ireland to this day. ■

Callahan is a retired Common Pleas Judge and one of the founders of the Irish American Law Society of Cleveland.

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ILLUMINATIONS

By J. Michael Finn



James J. Corbett, Gentleman Jim

James John Corbett was born to Irish immigrant parents in San Francisco, California on September 1, 1866. His father, Patrick Corbett, immigrated to San Francisco from Ballinrobe, County Mayo in 1854. Patrick supported his family of ten children by running a livery stable. James Corbett described the street of his childhood home as a dirt track whose major businesses were saloons.

Corbett's parents hoped for a life in the priesthood for their son, who was named after his father's brother, a Catholic priest in County Mayo. However,

after James was twice expelled from school for fighting, Corbett's parents had to admit that Jim was not destined for the priesthood.

At the age of 14, Corbett found work as a clerk for a local company. He did well at this job. He then found a job with a banker who was one of his father's customers. Starting out as a messenger, he rose through the ranks over the next six years to become a bank teller.

While working as a bank teller, Corbett practiced boxing in amateur matches at night. Although a right-hander, Corbett developed a powerful



"Gentleman Jim" Corbett

Olympic Athletic Club. Under the guidance of their coach, he soon became the club's middleweight champion, and at the age of 18, he was the club's heavyweight champion. He was a Golden Gloves Champion and also won seven Silver Championship Cups in amateur boxing.

At the age of 20, Corbett began his professional career in Salt Lake City. He won his first professional match in 1886, earning a prize of \$460. After winning another bout in Utah, Corbett returned to San Francisco, where he worked for an insurance company.

In San Francisco, a match was planned between Corbett and Joe Choynski in 1889, but the local police stopped it. So, they had to fight unadvertised in a barn in remote Marin County. They went five rounds before the sheriff stopped the fight (boxing was illegal in most states).

left punch. It is claimed that he invented the left hook. The young boxer began his boxing career when he joined the

County. They went five rounds before the sheriff stopped the fight (boxing was illegal in most states).

A week later they fought on a barge north of San Francisco Bay, out of the jurisdiction of local police. The fight lasted 28 rounds. Corbett won the fight with a knock-out. Corbett was so dazed by the contest that he had to be told that he had won the fight.

Corbett became known as "Gentleman Jim" because he was always elegantly dressed and well-mannered. Now firmly established as a professional boxer, he quit his job at the insurance company to devote full time to boxing. His fame spread to New Orleans, where he fought New York boxer Jake Kilrain, who had just defeated England's champion after an astonishing 106 round fight. He then defeated Dominick McCaffrey at Brooklyn's Casino Rink in April 1890.

"Gentleman Jim" was the first fighter to develop the "science" of boxing. In the ring, he combined the use of footwork and punches to defeat his opponents, instead of relying on just brute force. He studied his opponents before a match to find their weaknesses and then devised a plan on how best to defeat them.

Returning in triumph to San Francisco, Corbett added a new career. In 1890, he was cast in his first play, in a small role alongside the famous actor Maurice Barrymore. Corbett found acting an extension of his desire to be in the spotlight and pursued other acting opportunities. He eventually became a stage celebrity on the west coast.

In 1892, Corbett hired a new manager, William Brady. He began booking Corbett in plays in New York City. One play, *Gentleman Jack*, written by Charles T. Vincent, was written specially for Corbett and featured Corbett in the lead role as a boxer. Advertising posters for the play promoted Corbett as the heavyweight boxing champion of the world, much to the dismay of the person who actually was the heavyweight champion, John L. Sullivan.

Sullivan had been avoiding a fight with Corbett, but he could not pass up the opportunity to prove the posters wrong. The fight was scheduled for September 7, 1892 in New Orleans. Sullivan was older and stronger and was favored to win with 4-to-1 odds. Even Corbett's manager had placed a bet on Sullivan "just in case."

During the fight, Corbett successfully evaded most of Sullivan's blows in the first two rounds, and scored a devastating hit to Sullivan's face, breaking his nose. Corbett wore his opponent down by dancing around him, and then dashing in to place well-aimed blows before Sullivan could react. The fight lasted 21 rounds, and Corbett finally finished him off with a knockout when Sullivan was too tired to put up much of a fight.

The Sullivan-Corbett fight was the first world heavyweight champion fight to be fought under *Marquis of Queensberry Rules*. These rules required the use of padded boxing gloves. Before these rules were adopted, matches were fought with bare knuckles.

The champion defended his new title very rarely. He treasured his title and viewed it as the ultimate promotional tool for his two main sources of income, theatrical performances and boxing exhibitions.

In 1893 he began a national tour with the play "*Gentleman Jack*," which included Ohio. On January 1, 1893, he performed in Columbus to record crowds. In November 1893, Corbett fought John Donaldson in Cleveland in an exhibition bout designed to promote the play.

After defending his title in several bouts, in 1897 Corbett accepted a title challenge from Bob Fitzsimmons, the reigning middleweight champion of the world. They squared off in Carson City, Nevada on March 17, 1897.

The fight started well for Corbett. By the sixth round it had become a barroom brawl, with both fighters

swinging furiously. Corbett threw a swift right to the jaw and Fitzsimmons went down for a nine-count. By the twelfth round, Fitzsimmons had taken control.

In the thirteenth round Fitzsimmons hit Corbett with a sharp jab that sent one of Corbett's gold teeth flying into ringside seats. Fitzsimmons shot a right to the heart and a left that landed with paralyzing force to Corbett's solar plexus. Corbett was down and was counted out. Bob Fitzsimmons had won the title. The fight was filmed, which became the first feature-length movie. You can watch most of the silent film today on the internet.

Corbett made one final attempt to regain the heavyweight title, fighting James J. Jeffries in 1903, at the age of 37, but he lost this match in the tenth round. He vowed then to retire from boxing and devote himself full time to his acting career on the stage and in the movies. In 1925 he wrote his autobiography, *The Roar of the Crowd*.

Corbett, who fundamentally changed the sport of boxing, spent his final years with his wife Vera in

Bayside, New York, where he died on February 18, 1933 of liver cancer. He had no children. Corbett is quoted as saying: "You become a champion by fighting one more round. When things are tough, you fight one more round."

The movie *Gentleman Jim* was released in 1942 by Warner Brothers and starred Errol Flynn in the title role as James J. Corbett. It was based on Corbett's autobiography and was focused mainly on the John L. Sullivan fight. It is considered by some critics to be one of the best boxing films ever made. ■

J. Michael Finn is the Ohio State Historian for the Ancient Order of Hibernians and Division Historian for the Patrick Pearse Division in Columbus, Ohio. He is also Chairman of the Catholic Record Society for the Diocese of Columbus, Ohio. He writes on Irish and Irish-American history; Ohio history, and Ohio Catholic history. You may contact him at FCoolavin@aol.com.

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CLEVELAND COMHRÁ

By Bob Carney
@BobCarneyGTR



Joys and Sorrows

We lost Cian, our Irish Wolfhound to cancer this past August. He was the gentlest dog I've ever known. His passing was a time of great sorrow in our home and that weekend it was hard for us to think of anything else.

I first became interested in Irish Wolfhounds when I was a teenager growing up in West Park; we used to play ball at Gunning Park on Puritas Avenue. and someone in the neighborhood had two wolfhounds I would see on occasion there. He used to let them run in the field, they were a sight to see, and I remember thinking some day I'll have a dog like that.

Over the next forty or so years a lot happened, Mary and I met and started a family, there was always work, a house to care for, and dogs and cats. Life happened. Somewhere around 1990, I started working on Mary to give me the OK to start looking for a wolfhound, our sons were ten and thirteen.



Cian

We lived in a small bungalow in Parma with one dog and a herd of cats.

We compromised, she said no and I went along with that. A few months later, Mary gave me a Chesapeake Bay Retriever for Valentine's Day. For the next fifteen years "Chessie" was my girl, even when another dog came to live with us. She outlived the other two and when her time came, I was devastated; I swore I would never become that attached to a dog again.

Eight years later, we were at Cleveland Irish Cultural Festival; I always made it a point to stop and see Alex Adams, who was responsible for bringing the Irish breed dog program to the festival way back in it's early years. I had met Alex years before, we had a mutual love of motorcycles and knew many of the same people.

As we talked, I was making friends with one of Alex's hounds, and Alex said it was time for me to get a wolfhound. He put me in touch with Rick

and Mary Krystowski from Hounds of the Heartland and we made arrangements to get a puppy from them when we returned from Ireland in the fall.

Our lives changed drastically that fall. Living with an Irish Wolfhound comes with some things that don't necessarily happen with other dogs. Nothing is out of reach, when Cian was around six or seven months old and right around one hundred pounds, he came walking into the living room with a bag of potato chips. We kept them on top of the refrigerator!

On our evening walks, people would always stop to talk and soon everyone knew his name. He loved the attention and his extremely friendly personality drew people to him. He was especially fond of children, when our grandkids came over he was like a little kid himself.

He liked to rough house with me but was always very gentle with everyone else. When the neighbor's little five pound dog came into the yard, he would lay down and wait for her, as if he was aware of his size.

With Mary's job as the manager of animal hospital, we've always had cats that came to us as unwanted kittens. To see Cian with a kitten asleep in his front legs or curled up next to him was a testament to his nature.

A couple of years later, I let Alex easily convince me we should have a second wolfhound. Cian raised Morrighan and they were inseparable. They walked shoulder to shoulder and were usually close enough to touch when they slept. Doolin, our little Cairn Terrier, came a couple of years ago and Cian did the same with him. Watching him "lose" a game of tug of war with a dog thirty inches shorter and one hundred and forty pounds lighter always amazed me, it was as if he knew Doolin needed the play time and Cian often initiated the game.

All this time Cian was my companion, on our walks, he was always on my right side, and my hand would rest on his back. Morrighan took her cues from him, and if he wasn't bothered, she wasn't either. And he was rarely bothered. Barking dogs, loud noises, loud music, pipe bands nothing bothered him. You could see him perk up when he was around



people, whether it was a festival, parade or even the farmer's market. He was well known in the Metroparks and Cuyahoga Valley National Park where we spent our weekend mornings. Mary and I joined the Northeast Ohio Irish Wolfhound Group and have become good friends with many of the members.

About five years ago, I saw an ad in this paper offering an introductory ten week class in the Irish language. I thought it might be fun to learn a few words of Irish I could use with Cian and Morrighan and maybe meet some new people. A few of the people I met that night I now count as some of my closest friends.

I never thought I would become involved to the extent I have with Speak Irish Cleveland. Soon after, John O'Brien asked me if I could contribute a monthly Irish lesson to the Ohio Irish American News. This column followed shortly after. I've been blessed to have met, interviewed and become friends with so many people since I

became part of this family.

Cian "introduced" me to quite a few of the folks I've met, directly or indirectly, so he's still bringing me joy in all that I do, but mostly because he brought me to all of you. Thank you for listening and thanks Cian.■

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AT HOME, ABROAD

By Regina Costello



Class of 2023

My twins entering high school this year brings to mind their first days in kindergarten and their subsequent years in elementary school. For four years I drove past the high school many a time to pick them up from primary school. The high school building and entrance seemed overwhelming to me and thoughts of my little 5-year-olds one day attending such a huge school, was a source of distress.

I would delude myself by thinking that such a day would never arrive, and that they would forever be tender hearted, innocent angels who would never leave the haven that was Hilton Elementary School, under the guidance of a sincere, caring professional principal, Dr. David Martin. Parents know only too well that the passage of time accelerates as the years go by. And yes, the day I thought would never arrive is well and truly here.

My kids now take the bus to high school. The delicate teenage years are fraught with anxiety, muddled with struggles of finding their place in the world, and figuring out who they are,

who they want to be and which path is best for them. Freshmen are already encouraged to think about careers and set up online accounts to help guide them on career paths chosen by them.

New teachers, new subject choices, athletics, clubs and speech and debate, homework – their days are full and challenging. It's a transition also for us as parents. It's a reality check that our kids are growing up, and they really will leave us one day.

It makes me feel old. It makes me feel sad. It makes me wonder how I will fill that massive void when they do actually leave. Deepak has a plan in place. He hopes to drop down to part time work, and from there, perhaps he will teach a health class at middle school. Fiona informed him that he is not qualified and will have to return himself to school to qualify to apply.

Also on his bucket list is bagging groceries at Heinen's grocery store. I am not quite as organized or futuristic minded. I hope they will attend university close by and I dream that they will come home every weekend with bags of

laundry and share their ventures over dinner and bottles of wine. Yes, I do make a habit of deluding myself.

My years at secondary school in Ireland seemed simpler. The hours were kinder – 9AM-4:15PM. Yes, we did walk to school; no, Neil, not barefoot and yes, bicycles were around in our youth. We had a one-hour lunch break that enabled a good bunch of us to walk home and enjoy toasted sandwiches and hot tea.

We also had core subjects that were supplemented with electives. Physical education was part of the curriculum. We had very few clubs, and there were no after school activities. There was no drive or facilities for swim classes, soccer practice or other activities to keep kids busy.

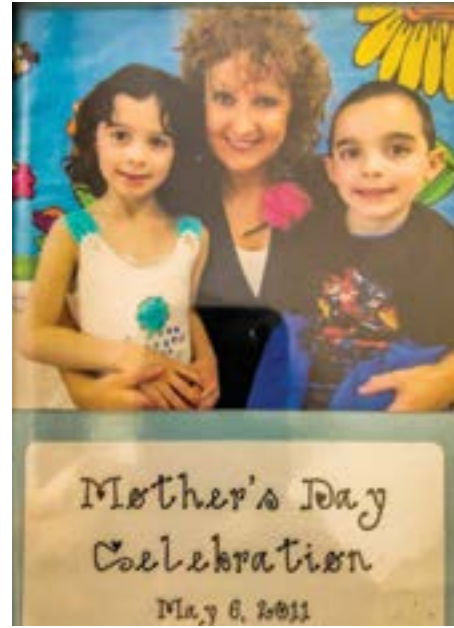
School was our life. Our job was to perform well academically. It was our full-time job. With the National University of Ireland – Galway on our doorstep, attending college was an expectation, not a negotiation.

Four years of tough work with long hours of homework each night and a good part of the weekend working on projects and writing essays felt like an eternity. We didn't even think about college until our final year. I think a lot of us had no clue regarding our futures or careers.

A good number of us completed arts or business degrees thinking that perhaps upon completion, maybe then we would have a better notion of what we truly wanted and to enter a post graduate degree from there. This was a result of no counselling from the schools then regarding real preparation for a tenable future. You were essentially on your own figuring it out. But it worked out in the end.

The majority of kids in my grade attended university and a large percentage later acquired advanced degrees. This is not unusual for Ireland. More than 50% of young people in Ireland have advanced degrees, and the Irish have more degrees than the rest of the European Union. With little or no guidance, we turned out alright.

The first week of high school for my kids required them to set up accounts with Naviance. Goodness, I thought to myself, after they explained what that was about – it's a little premature to be thinking along those lines already. Per-



haps it's not. Perhaps more of us who graduated from high school in the 80s would have chosen our electives better, maybe shadowed a number of careers and found a better path, or better avenues to a fulfilling career.

My kids are busy little bees and I love the school logo – Brecksville Broadview Heights Bees. They are solid workers and I have every confidence they will meet the challenges of High School that to my mind seem at times to be overwhelming. With access to the many resources and mentors at their school, their futures can only be bright and well planned. The journey of life continues at home abroad. ■

Regina is a graduate of History and Philosophy from the National University of Ireland, Galway and a post graduate of Library and Information Studies from the National University of Ireland, Dublin. She is the former Assistant Librarian of the Economic and Social Research Institute, Dublin; former Curator of Irish American Archives of the Cleveland History Center; former Executive Director of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument Commission and former Executive Director of the Northern Ohio Rose Centre. She serves on the Board of Directors of the Mayo Society of Greater Cleveland. She can be reached at rcostello@ameritech.net

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COLUMBUS IRISH

By Maureen Ginley
@MaureenGinley



The Trip of a Lifetime

Since I was a young girl, I had dreams of my first trip to Ireland. I'd spend afternoons in County Mayo, learning about the life my Grandma led before moving to the States. I'd drink Guinness. I'd explore the countryside, taking photos of the sheep and their different-colored markings. I had grand, elaborate ideas of what my first time in Ireland would be like, and when the time came for me to go on this journey, nothing could have prepared me for what I would experience.

I stared out the window as my plane landed in County Clare; I started to cry. This could have been because I had only half-slept on and off for the past several hours, or because I was that excited to finally, finally be in Ireland. Eventually I deplaned, grabbed my luggage, and hopped on a bus that took me to Tralee.

As I tried to take in the sites from Shannon to Limerick to Kerry, I chatted with a pair of sisters who I befriended at the bus station. I happily plopped onto my seat as the bus driver explained, in-depth, how I'd get to Point A to Point B, and not end up on the wrong side of the country – something I was initially extremely concerned about.

In these moments, I was struck by the genuine kindness of mere strangers. People I had never met before were going out of their way to ensure that I got a great first impression of the country. They were helping me without any expectation of anything in return. If these first few hours were any indication of how my trip would go, I knew I was in for a great time.

Now, I won't bore you all with a day-by-day recap of my nine days in Ireland, but I will tell you that each day was something new and fun. When I arrived to the home I was staying in with our Ohio Rose Danielle's family, I was greeted with open arms. I was asked if I wanted to rest and recuperate from

my trip, or head out with the crew to Killarney. Obviously I chose Killarney, and off we went.

That's how most of the trip went – we hopped on the coach (driven by the excellent Dermott), went on an adventure, and cracked jokes/got to know each other better/enjoyed every minute. We traveled to Galway, Clare, Cork. We saw massive herds of sheep, donuts shaped like Cookie Monster, and centuries-old establishments. I constantly had to pinch myself because I could hardly believe that this was real life. Weeks later, I still feel the same.

After trips to Dingle, the Cliffs of Moher, and Blarney Castle, where we indulged in some very tasty Irish coffee, it was time for the Rose of Tralee International Festival to begin. After a day of exploring the town and getting together with friends from the Ohio Rose Centre, I began preparations for one of the events that I was most looking forward to – the Rose Ball.

I have seen photos of the event before, but nothing could have prepared me for the event I attended. The Dome was done up!

The ceiling looked like a gorgeous night sky littered with beautiful, twinkling stars. The music was great, the food was delicious, and the craic was mighty. I will always remember stomping my feet to some old school tunes while surrounded by great friends – old and new.

From that moment on, Festival events seemed to fly by at a breakneck speed. I went to any event and every event I could. I cheered loudly for the Ohio Rose at each parade. I tried new foods and drinks I had been skeptical of before. I took photos, videos, and mental notes of everything; I wanted to remember it all.

Eventually, the day came for the Ohio contingent to head to the Dome – arms



stocked full of flags, banners, and fat heads – to cheer on Danielle as she took the stage. During her interview, we all sat in awe of what we were witnessing – a celebration of Irish heritage that had been months in the making. We laughed, we cried, we hooted and hollered. And as the announcement of the 2019 Rose of Tralee (Limerick's Sinéad Flanagan) was made, the crowd erupted in cheers and applause. That moment was magical. Seeing each of this year's 32 Roses celebrate their friend's accomplishment was amazing – that's what the Festival is truly all about.

When I returned back to the States, I cried again. This should come as a shock to no one, but I was so happy to have finally gone on the trip I'd been dreaming of for so long, and I was already yearning to return to Ireland. As I reunited with my family and pup,

got back to Columbus, and slowly unpacked my belongings and souvenirs, my heart swelled with gratitude. This experience would not have been possible without the love, help, and support of so many. I have to thank them all somehow.

First and foremost, I need to thank the Goebel Family. When I met them in February and was invited on this trip, I could have never guessed the fun and experiences we'd share while in Ireland. From the moment I booked my flights to when I got home to Cleveland, I felt included, happy, and well-cared-for. A special shout out to Rachael G., who made sure I didn't lose a finger in a wine bottle opening accident. Mr. Goebel, Danielle, and the rest of the crew treated me as one of their own during this trip, and for that I am forever grateful.

My family – particularly my parents and brother Billy – made sure I didn't have to worry about my dog Elvis being taken care of, or having mail pile up at my apartment. They kept me abreast of what was

going on at home, and with the rest of my fam, sent well-wishes and asked for loads of photos.

Members of the Shamrock Club provided me with tips, and some even loaned me a raincoat and plug converter, prayers for safe travels, and more. I felt as if they were with me on the journey, and that was an extra special aspect of the trip. I am so thankful to have that community in my life.

And finally – to the friends, family, FB friends, and more who sent a comment online, shot me a text, or otherwise reached out – thank you. Thank you, thank you, THANK you for being with me on what was truly the trip of a lifetime. ■

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SPEAK IRISH

By Bob Carney
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Oíche Shamhna

Oíche Shamhna (ee-ha how-na) or Samhain Eve (sow-in), Halloween as most of us know it, was the principal holiday for the ancient Celts. A celebration of the Celtic New Year on the first of November (Samhain), it marked the end of summer and the beginning of winter.

Much more than just a feast day, every member of the community was obligated to attend, all of the social, political, economic and religious matters of the community were discussed. Of course there was also great feasting on pork and wine flowed freely. The meat of the pig was believed to give immortality and the wine allowed a person to transcend reality and gain access to the

supernatural on the day when the community of the dead met with the community of the living. All Saints Day, the Christian legacy of Samhain, has retained that aspect with the Communion of Saints. How this pagan festival evolved into what we call Halloween in America has been covered before in the Ohio Irish American News. What I'd like to share are some of the words and phrases in Irish related to Samhain.

There's a rumour that the name Dracula comes from the Irish, droch fola (drawhk-foe-la), evil blood. A cool story I want to believe, but Bram Stoker kept meticulous notes and there is no record of him using these Irish words, so it's probably just a story.

To wish someone Happy Halloween, you would say, Oíche Shamhna shona duit! (ee-ha how-na hun-ah gwit) or Oíche Shamhna shona daoibh! (yeev) if you are wishing it to more than one person.

Oíche shamhna shona daoibh go léir (guh lare) is the equivalent of Have a happy Halloween y'all.

Black cats are considered lucky in Ireland. The Irish for cat is cat, but pronounced dog. I'm kidding, it's pronounced kaht.

Cailleach (kayell- ach) witch or hag
Scuab chaillí (skoo-ab hall-ee) witch's broom
Cailderu (call-de-roo) cauldron
Nothing! Dada! (da-da) tastes better with pumpkin spice!
Púca (poo-ka) is a hobgoblin

"An rud a scriobhann an puca léann sé féin é" (ahn rud skree-vahn ahn poo-ka layn shay fayne ay)

"What the pooka writes the pooka can read" used when coming across indecipherable writing or a statement that makes no sense. Something tells me we will get a lot of use out of this one in the next year!

Spiorad (spyr-ud) is a spirit

Creatlach (krat-luhk) is a skeleton

Asarlaí (ass-ur-lee) is a wizard or sorcerer

"NÁ hOSCAIL AN BEART AG AN mBORD!
(nah hosk-el ahn bayrt egg ahn mord)

Is éard atá ann do Nimbus nua Dhá Mhíle,
(iss ayrd ah-taw ahn duh nimbus noo-ah gah vee-la)

Ach b'fhearr liom nach mbeadh a fhios ag na daoine
(ach barr lum nach may a ees egg na dee-na)

Go bhfuil scuab eitilte agat nó beidh ceann ó gach duine.
(guh will skoo-ab eh-tilt-eh ah-gut no bay kyann oh gahch dih-na)

Buailfidh Oliver Wood leat anocht
(bool-fih Oliver Wood lyat ah-nohkt)

Ar an bpáirc Quidditch ar a seacht a chlog
(ar ahn bark quidditch ar a shohkt a clog)

Don chéad seisiún traenála.
(don kayd sehshoon tray-nul-ah)

An tÓllamh M. McGonagall"

"DO NOT OPEN THE PARCEL AT THE TABLE!
It contains your new Nimbus Two Thousand, but I don't want everybody knowing you've got a broomstick or they'll all want one. Oliver Wood will meet you tonight on the Quidditch field at seven o'clock for your first training session.

Professor M. McGonagall"
From Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone by J.K. Rowling

Is breá liom beith ag éisteacht leis na scéalta taibhsí um Shamhain.
(iss bra lum veh egg aysh-chocht lesh nah shkale-ta tiv-shee um how-inn)
I like to hear ghost stories on Halloween.

Ní fhaca mé púca nó taibhse riamh. Tú féin?
(nee ahk-ah may poo-ka no tiv-sheh ree-uv. Too fayne?)
I've never seen a goblin or ghost. Have you?

You could put a sheet over your head and tell everyone, "Is taibhse mé!" (iss tiv-sheh may)

I'm a ghost!
Tabhair féirin dom, nó buailfidh mé bob ort. (toh-er fayr-een dom no bool-fih may bub ort)

Give me a gift or I'll play a trick on you.

"Trick or Treat!"

Oíche Shamhna Shona Daoibh! ■

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OFF THE SHELF

By Terry Kenneally
@TerryKenneally



Charlie Savage

by Roddy Doyle
Jonathan Cape Pub.
ISBN 9781787331181 2019 202 PP.

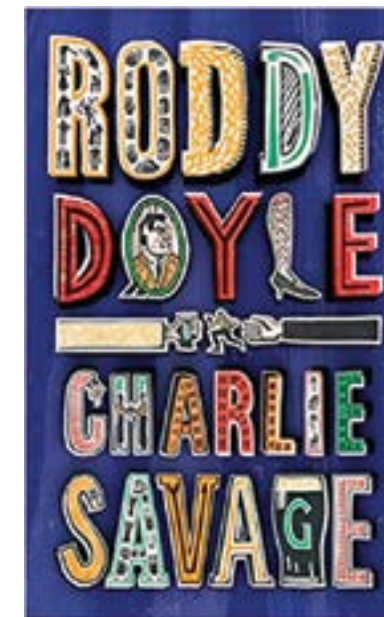
Roddy Doyle is best known as the author of The Commitments (1987)- his debut novel that was made into the hit film, and Paddy Clarke Ha Ha Ha (1993), which won the Booker Prize when Doyle was 35. Charley Savage is a collection of his weekly columns for the Irish Independent in Doyle's eponymously- title new book.

The book is written in colorful Dublin vernacular ("gobshite: and "bollix" abound pleasingly), the columns explore ageing, family and friendship. Charlie gets a tattoo of the cartoon character Sponge Bob Square Pants to please his grandson, reluctantly attends a spa with his wife, and falls in and out of friendship with his best pal The Secret Woman.

This is Roddy Doyle at his best. There is a similar comic style to those classic early Barrytown novels (The Commitments, The Van and Snapper), but this time it's the life and thoughts of a sixty-year-old man in a changing world. Consider the following:

"There are things that we give up on as we get older, and things that give up on us. Eyesight, hair, self-respect; they all walk out the door. Memory strolls out too, and it leaves the door wide open."

Doyle's stories are topical. Charlie dislikes Ireland's government. On Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar, he says: "Economically, Varadkar is a Tory, but I agree that he's doing a good job in regard to the Brexit nightmare. I love the north and a return to the hard border would be hideous. There are people in Westminster creating dangerous circum-



stances. It's based on ignorance. Half of them don't know what they're talking about when they go on about the backstop." (And that was written before Boris Johnson became Prime Minister).

Doyle's writing is witty and insightful. Charlie Savage offers moments of humor swiftly chased up by sheer heartbreak. It has been shortlisted for the Bollinger Essayman Wodehouse Prize for comic writing in 2019. I loved this book, full of wit and laugh out loud moments, everyone needs a Charlie Savage in their life. I rate this a TOP SHELF read. ■

Terrence J. Kenneally is an attorney and owner of the Kenneally Law Firm in Rocky River Ohio. He represents insureds and insurance companies in insurance defense litigation throughout the state of Ohio. He received his Masters from John Carroll University in Irish Studies and teaches Irish literature and history at Holy Name High School where he is also the President.

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TAKING THE FIELDS OF GLORY: GAA MONTHLY

By Vincent Beach



Midwest Gaelic Athletic Association

The Midwest Division sent six teams to the USGAA National Finals in Leesburg, Virginia August 21 through the 23rd. Men's Junior A Football representative Pittsburgh Celtics won their first match against Boston Donegal 5-11 (26) to 3-15 (24). The Midwest Men then went on to dismantle Dallas Fionn MacCumhaill 7-19 (40) to 0-13 (13) on Saturday. In the final on Sunday, they met Madison, handily beating them 3-14 (23) to 2-10 (16) to claim the Junior A National Championship.

In Ladies football, the Banshees of Pittsburgh drafted a bye on Friday and faced a familiar foe in Philadelphia's Notre Dames. In heartbreaking fashion, the screaming ladies lost by a point to the Domers 3-10 (19) to 3-9 (18).

In Men's Junior C football, Cleveland fell in their first match to the eventual grade winner, San Diego Na Fianna, by the score of 0-9 (9) to 2-15 (21). On the hurling side of the Junior C level, the Pittsburgh Pucas beat Richmond 7-14 (35) to 2-8 (14). On Saturday, they lost to the eventual national champions, Na Toraidhe of Philadelphia, 2-10 (16) to 5-8 (23). Side bar - na toraidhe (pron. Nah tore-eh) here means the "fruit" or offspring, as the club began as Philadelphia's all-American club and are the sole representatives of the sport in the city.

For the Junior D's, Buffalo represented the footballers from the Midwest. They had a bye on Friday and came up against the Delco Gaels (Delaware County / Philadelphia) on Saturday.

The Gaels are a newer adult club assembled their dominant youth club players coming of age. The Fenians were able to overcome Delco by the

score of 4-13 (25) to 3-3 (12). Advancing to the final, Buffalo met club powerhouse Charlotte James Connolly's, falling 1-7 (10) to 3-10 (19).

The Connolly's had a special weapon up front in Cleveland's own Pat Hayes, who knocked in a goal and a couple of points. Comhghairdeas, a Pháidí.

The hurlers were represented by the Celtic Guards of Akron, who squared off against Twin Cities (Minnesota). The Robert Emmett's club chipped away at the Guards lead in the final minutes of the Friday match to beat the Akron 3-13 (22) to 3-10 (19).

Outside of the Midwest Clubs, the



Enjoying the Games at the USGAA Finals - Maura English, Chris McAndrews, Vincent Beach, and Marcelina Sladewska.tif

final results were as follows. Men's Football: Senior - Boston Donegal 3-21 (30) over Philadelphia Young Irelanders 5-11 (26); Intermediate - San Diego Setanta 1-18 (21) over Chicago Pearse 4-5 (17); Junior A - Pittsburgh Celtics 3-14 (23) over Madison 2-10 (16); Junior B - LA Cougars 1-12 (15) over Delco Gaels 0-12 (12); Junior C - San Diego

Setanta 3-11 over Raleigh Cuchulainns 1-11 (14); Junior D - Charlotte James Connolly 4-8 (20) over Buffalo Fenians 2-4 (10).

Ladies' Football: Senior - Chicago St. Brigid 4-16 (28) over San Francisco Fog City Harps 3-10 (19); Intermediate - Vancouver 5-20 (35) over Toronto Durham Emmets 0-5 (5); Junior A Chicago Na Aisling Gaels 3-6 (15) over San Francisco Clan na Gael 3-3 (12); Junior B - San Diego Na Fianna 3-10 (19) over Philadelphia Notre Dames 3-2 (11); Junior C - Dallas Fionn MacCumhaill 4-12 (24) over Madison 0-2 (2).

Hurling: Senior - Vancouver JP Ryans 1-33 (36) over San Diego Na Fianna 5-20 (35); Intermediate - Boston Offaly 8-19 (43) over DC Gaels 0-12 (12); Junior A - Madison 1-16 (19) over Orange County Wild Geese 2-9 (15); Junior B - Worcester 0-16 (16) over Milwaukee 1-10 (13); Junior C - Philadelphia Na Toraidhe 3-13 (22) over New Hampshire 1-11 (14); Junior D - Madison 5-7 (22) over Indianapolis 1-5 (8).

Camogie: Senior - San Francisco Cu Chulainn 3-20 (29) over Toronto Le Cheile 3-9 (18); Intermediate - Twin Cities Robert Emmett 3-12 (21) over Baltimore Bohemians 1-5 (8); Junior - New York Annie Moores 2-5 (11) over

Philadelphia Na Toraidhe 1-2 (5); Side Bar - Annie Moore was the first immigrant to the USA to pass through the new (1892) federal immigrant inspection at the Ellis Island station in New York Harbor.

Back Home: The inaugural Hudson Cúl Camp was held on August 31 under the leadership of Andrew



Cleveland Coach Anthony Hanley and his Young Hurlers.

Kender. Andrew brought his Atlanta GAA experience of football and hurling to the local kids. The children enjoyed a full morning of Gaelic Football and Hurling, taking breaks for lunch and a session of Irish Language from Múinteoir Bob (Teacher Bob Carney) of Speak Irish Cleveland. Andrew was joined by Akron Coaches Pat "Junior" Taylor, Jenny Scarry-Garthwaite, and Keith Knott, and Cleveland Coach Vinnie. The Hudson community are planning on a few more events throughout the year - stay tuned.

Upcoming - October 5 is the Al O'Leary 7-A-Side tournament at Akron Indoor Soccer, featuring Hurling, Football, and Camogie. November 2 - Cleveland Gaelic Athletic Association Banquet for all members and supporters at the WSLA, doors at 5PM, November 8-10 - USGAA Convention

(annual general meeting) in San Diego. November 10 - USGAA Youth Board Convention in San Diego.

Cleveland GAA Youth: Beginning September 8th, the Youth began learning the fastest game on grass - Hurling. Hurling combines the skills of baseball and field hockey while the games flows with scores similar to Gaelic football. Visit the website. This is again open to boys and girls, new and current players, ages 5-8 and 9-14. Contact us to join anytime - clevelandyouthgaa@gmail.com. Also, Cleveland will again hold Free football sessions in November and December.

Akron Youth Hurling: Bring your kids out to Akron Youth Hurling practice with three certified coaches, to make sure that your children learn the skills necessary to play the game safely while having fun. Practices are held from Monday nights, September through October, 6:30 to 7:30 @ 800 Hawkins Ave, Akron Ohio,



Akron Cul Camp Mini-Hurling.

44320. If practice is cancelled due to bad weather, the announcement is made via our Facebook page: "Akron Youth Hurling." No special equipment is necessary. Contact Jenny Scarry at scarryjl@gmail.com with any questions. Everyone is welcome!

Cleveland City Series: Still want to give football a try? Both the Men's and Ladies teams are organizing local games in the fall for past, present, and future players. All are welcome. Contact info@clevelandgaa.com for more information. The Ladies will also continue with indoor sessions in November and December for those interested in a new sport and club atmosphere.

Go raibh míle maith agaibh (thanks y'all) to our readers and supporters. Consider getting involved at any level. Fáilte (welcome) to all. The Gaelic Athletic Association is Ireland's largest sporting organization and a bit of home for the Irish abroad here in the US of A. Beyond sports, the Association also promotes Irish music, song and dance, and the Irish language as an integral part of its objectives. Cleveland GAA is open to

all who want to play competitive sports, meet new people, and join an athletic, fitness-minded club.

Follow @ClevelandGaelic on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter for the 2019 activities for Men, Women, and Youth. Or, visit ClevelandGAA.com.

Vincent Thomas Francis Xavier Beach is a proud Greater Clevelander and emigrant of Michigan. He joined the St. Pat's Gaelic Football Club in 1999 and, with much help, is the current caretaker of the Cleveland GAA. His Irish is a cross of dialects from the University of Cincinnati and An Cheathrú Rua. With his wife, Michelle, he enjoys watching time absolutely fly by as their children, Ambrose (10), Bernadette (8), and Cedric (5), grow. His other hustles are teaching Irish at PJs, coaching CYO basketball at St. Mary of Berea, coaching soccer in Olmsted TWP, and slingin' some engineering skills on local concrete and pipe projects.

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DUBLIN DIARIES

By Margaret Mary Hicks



Faces New and Old

These last couple of weeks have been a whirlwind, but I am glad to say I have packed some meaningful experiences in the short time I have been in Dublin. I arrived in Dublin on August 24th, and the first few days were very overwhelming.

While I knew it would be challenging moving to a new country, I expected myself to feel completely at home in the beginning, given my previous visits to Ireland and how well they went. That was not the case. With a combination of no sleep, homesickness, culture shock and stress about navigating this big city on my own, I was left with panic and several calls to my very worried family in the middle of the night.

Going through it all, I prayed and relied on God and my wonderful family, at home and right here in Ireland. Talking to my family and friends about how I was feeling helped me to take a step back and remember why I wanted to do this all in the first place.

Chasing this dream was never going to be easy, but with time and a new perspective, I have started to fall in love with Dublin again. I am reassured that choosing Trinity College was the right decision and I am right where God wants me to be.

While those who study abroad may seem like they have the perfect life with their glamorous Instagram feeds and amazing travel stories, I know now that it is not always perfect. Everyone struggles with experiences of their own and what you see, online in particular, may not always show the big picture of someone's life. Each day gets a little better though, and I am blessed beyond belief to have family right here in Ireland that I can rely on.

In my short time here, I was able to meet with several family members, both from Cleveland and Ireland. Some of my American cousins were on holiday at the same time as I was arriving in Dublin, so I got to spend a couple days with them exploring the city and it reminded me of home, which I was missing very much.

Then, after my orientation activities were over, I took the train with my aunt to Mayo to visit Irish cousins and their new babies. It was a great trip and it went by way too fast, but it was lovely to see them and meet the new little cousins.

While there I also got to see my great uncle and meet many people who knew my grandfather. It was so great to chat with them and it felt like my papa was right there with me through it all. The last time I visited Mayo was about seven



years ago with him, so it was tough visiting back and being reminded of the great time we had together on that trip. I have no doubt that the beautiful weather was sent from him and all of his brothers and sister in heaven.

These visits helped me to feel more at home. In the first week it felt as though my life was still in Cleveland, but my body was in Dublin. Now, I get to enjoy my classes, classmates and family right here before me and be surrounded by a vibrant, diverse community in Dublin.

While staying with my great aunt, I am able to do simple tasks for her and I am so happy to have that opportunity. All of my grandparents have passed so being able to spend time with her is something I have learned to cherish and this opportunity to be with her is something I will never take for granted.

My Aunt Nora is truly a marvelous woman and it is an honor to be living with her, spending time with her and even cooking for her. She has a very traditional Irish palate, with Irish roasts, bacon and cabbage and potatoes being her staples. Bit by bit, though I have managed to broaden her diet and get better at cooking.

In my undergraduate at Ohio University, I cobbled things up in the kitchen very quickly with what was available. Now that I am cooking for others, I get to really take time to prepare and think ahead of what I will make each night for dinner. It is refreshing to have so many healthy options at my fingertips and it

is so nice to have so many supermarkets right near where we live. So far, I have cooked lots of pasta and I made burgers the other night, which she enjoyed.

It is exciting to think that I have a purpose other than to study and although Aunt Nora is perfectly capable of handling her own dinners, it is something I will enjoy doing for her whenever I can.

In addition to spending lots (if not most) of my time with family since I have arrived, I also managed to figure out transportation in Dublin and make new friends at Trinity. For now, I am sticking with the buses as it is pretty reliable despite some traffic-heavy periods during the day.

This Saturday, I will be watching the Kerry vs. Dublin match and cheering on Kerry from a Dublin pub. It will be a great game and I am excited to wear my vintage Kerry jersey despite the guff I might get from the Dubs. Up Kerry!

My first column got more attention than I expected, so I hope you all enjoy reading and thank you again for following along. If you have any suggestions for traveling in Ireland and throughout Europe, give me a shout at margaretmaryhicks@gmail.com. I'm open to all suggestions and any advice you may have for making my experience better or even making your experience as the reader more beneficial. ■

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BLOWIN' IN

By Susan Mangan
@SueMangan



Blackberry Time

For a full week, the blackberries would ripen . . .

You ate that first one and the flesh was sweet
Like thickened wine: summer's blood was in it
Leaving stains upon the tongue and lust for
Picking . . .

Each year I hoped they'd keep, knew they would not.

"Blackberry-Picking" by Seamus Heaney

I will always think of fall as blackberry time. My mother died a year ago in October. We shared a love of autumn: trees displaying a riotous show of flame red and sunset orange; sumac gleaming with vermilion light amid the dimming sun; curls of steam rising from mugs of fragrant spiced coffee as the mist settles on Crooked Lake at sunrise.

I will never think of autumn again without remembering my mother's last words to me, unspoken, but texted, "I was just thinking about your blackberry column. So interesting to me. Remind me to tell you about the blackberries that grew in the red clay of southern Missouri." My mother sent me those words before she took her last breath.

I will never hear her retelling of Missouri blackberries, but her words will weave their way into my fiction, my non-fiction, into the telling of my life. In September of 2018, I wrote of the dichotomy of the blackberry, how the sweetness of life is often armored by the thrust of painful thorns. I wrote of human longing and the inability to control nature, human or otherwise.

Little did I know, my words would prove prophetic. On that night, one year ago, my mother died, comforted by my father's last kiss, but thinking of blackberries and her native soil.

The first berry that I ever picked was not a blackberry, but rather, a plump strawberry. Despite the unrelenting heat of the Ozark sun, my mother and



aunt piled the car with the children and matching tin pails. For hours we picked strawberries, ripe and fragrant from squat bushes.

With fingers as fat as the ruby fruit, I would place one berry in the bucket and three into my mouth. Greedy with the sun-warmed sweetness of the berries, I could not get enough of the fruit.

Just as my gluttony was getting the best of me, I reached out for that last strawberry, ignoring the first waves of abdominal pain, when I drew my hand back, startled by the sight. A black and yellow spider stared at me through blank, bulbous eyes. She was so large and so protective, that I still remember her fur clinging to the wild vines of the

strawberry plant, daring me to take one more of her treasures. Despite this moment of fear, I always longed to grow fresh berries, and so, a year ago I wrote the story of my husband's blackberries.

When my husband began his garden, he wanted to try his hand, or burgeoning green thumb, at raising berries. Sentimental about late summer fruit, I was insistent that we grow blackberries. Surely, the trestle tables at the local farmer's markets were stacked with jams and preserves, syrups and fruit butters, all made from these enticing dark berries. How hard could it be to raise our own?

After the first two years, the berry brambles rose to magnificent heights, and we witnessed the metamorphosis of white flowers into tightly packed green balls, and then at last into min-

ous summers I walked down country lanes in Ireland to see tangled brambles of blackberries, still green, growing against ancient stone fences and clusters of fuchsia. Without the help of human hand, spade, or toad, the blackberries knew what to do and how to thrive.

Truly, each time I witness the ever-growing hedges of blackberries lining every road in Ireland, I am in awe of the bounty. I can only imagine how beautiful the blackberries must be in mid-fall after they arrive to fruition in all their plump, deep purple glory. Before I die, I will see the blackberry bushes in full bloom and eat with abandon of their luscious fruit.

This story is not so much about gardening, but rather about cultivation, establishing dreams, and then putting your vision into action. We do not know when we will eat our last berry or how many scars life's thorns will tattoo upon our vulnerable flesh. We do not know when we will draw our last breath, and for this reason, we must relish the first tart fruits of life and appreciate the glory of our dreams in full bloom, no matter how great or simple they may be.

Perhaps the blackberry is not meant to be harnessed, pruned, and nurtured according to the demands of the greedy gardener. Much like the apple in Eve's Eden, maybe the blackberry is born to grow wild, primal, with rebellious thorny brambles, tempting the human with its deep purple juice, reminding us of our limitations and failings.

Perhaps this is what my mother meant to tell me as she reflected upon her blackberry years. Even the harshest of soil can bear fruit if we open our eyes to its promise and accept the tangled chaos of life, in realization that fulfillment may lie just below a surface seemingly covered with thorns. ■

Susan holds a Master's Degree in English from John Carroll University and a Master's Degree in Education from Baldwin-Wallace University. She may be contacted at suemangan@yahoo.com.

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TOLEDO IRISH

By Maury Collins

@MauryCollins



A Very Special Trip to Ireland

My Father immigrated from Mullintoura, Ballyhooley in Co. Cork to Toledo, Ohio. Over the years, he married, and had a family of four children. He also had some health issues over the years. By 1954, he had accumulated thirty days of vacation.

It was decided that my Father would go back home, taking one of his children. Since I was the only son, they decided that I should be the one to go. We spent the month of August in Ireland.

I have returned to Ireland twice since that time. Penny and I went on a tour with Larry Minor's group in 2003. Most of the group consisted of fellow Toledo Hibernians. When we went to Kinsale in County Cork, my cousin Mick and Eileen Collins met us. They took us

back to the homestead and held a dinner for us in Fermoy with over forty cousins welcoming us back to Ireland. In 2010, I won a trip to Ireland in the Toledo Hibernian raffle. The cousins took turns every day taking us around to different sights. We spent time at the homestead and there was another dinner of the cousins. It was a wonderful time but there were still places in Ireland I had not been to.

Earlier this year, my son Moe Collins told me that he and his wife Roxanne were thinking about going to Ireland to celebrate their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary. At first, I thought there was no way Penny and I could afford to go, but we were given a gift, which made it possible. Plans were made for

the last week of August.

Roxanne was working on an itinerary. She asked me if there were any places I wanted to visit? The first thing, which we all wanted, was to spend a couple of days with family. I then told her about the four items on my "Bucket List" The four of us sat down and worked out our visit.

Now what made this trip more special than the others? It was sixty-five years to the month from when I went to Ireland with my Father, and now I was going there with my son.

One of the things on my "Bucket List" was the Rock of Cashel in Co. Tipperary. I have seen pictures of the castle. I have even written articles for the Hibernian newsletter. Nothing prepared me for the actual visit.

It is majestic. On the inside we found an ancient tapestry, statues and a sculpture named the Cross of St. Patrick. Outside we found cemeteries with beautiful Celtic crosses.

Penny and I went to church in Rathcormac, which is the church my father attended. We visited the graves of my Grandparents and the two of my aunts and uncles we stayed with in 1954. I



Church in Rathcormac

said a prayer for each of you reading this.

On our way to Galway, we made a stop in the Burren to see the next item

Photo by Maury Collins

Photos by Roxanne Collins

on my Bucket List. Situated on the high Burren limestone plateau, the Poul-nabrone Dolmen is one of Ireland's most iconic archaeological monuments and is the second most visited location in the Burren after the Cliffs of Moher.

It is the oldest dated megalithic monument in Ireland. The radiocarbon dates from Poul-nabrone indicate that the burials were deposited at regular intervals over a period of 600 years between 3800 and 3200 BC. Again, I have seen pictures and written articles, but actually being there was just magnificent. You could feel the history and the reverence of the place.

The next item on my "Bucket List" was Newgrange. I booked a nine hour tour out of Dublin with Sacred Irish tours. The tour guide was Liam Lawlor. I recommend that you use him for your tour of Newgrange.

The tour also included Trim Castle and the Hill of Tara. The passageway in Newgrange was very narrow. Liam pointed out different items carved into the stones to look for before we went in.

We walked around the outside where photography was allowed. Newgrange was built around 3200 BC, making it older than Stonehenge or the Pyramids. Looking at the size of the kerb stones, especially the one at the entrance makes one marvel at how it could have been built back then.



Cobh St Colemans

From there we went to Trim Castle. The largest Anglo-Norman castle in Ireland; it was built by Hugh de Lacy when he was granted the Liberty of Meath by King Henry II in 1172. It was a powerful seat at one time. There was a set of stocks at the castle. A large board with three holes, one for the head and

two for the arms. I was selected to be the person put in the sticks; imagine that!

The next stop was The Hill of Tara in the Boyne Valley. It is a ceremonial site associated with kingship rituals. From the time of the first Celtic influence until the Norman invasion in the 12th Century, the Hill of Tara was Ireland's political and spiritual capital. A standing stone known as the Lia Fáil (Stone of Destiny) at which the High Kings were crowned.

According to legend, when the true King held the stone, it would let out a screech that could be heard all over Ireland. I held it but nothing happened. The "Mound of the Hostages" is a megalithic 'passage tomb' and is the oldest monument on the hill of Tara, dating to about 2,500BC. The name "Mound of the Hostages" derives from the custom of overkings like those at Tara retaining important personages from subject kingdoms to ensure their submission or death.

The last item on my "Bucket List" was to visit Glasneven Cemetery and Michael Collins' tomb. We had a short time on our way to return the rental car and get to the airport. The museum and visitor's Center would not open until

eleven, so we were on our own.

We found Michael Collins' grave. We also found a large Brown marble plaque dedicated to the people involved in the Easter Rising 1916.

Just the enjoyment of being there with my wife, my son and my daughter in law was a highlight of the trip;

It was a blast. Seeing my Irish relatives is always a joy. The things on my "Bucket List" were special and each one was even better than I had imagined. Going to Galway, home of the Claddagh Ring, where Moe and Roxanne bought silver Claddagh rings for their twenty fifth anniversary was memorable.

We stood by the cam near the Temple Bar. Roxanne called her son, Brendan (my grandson) to bring up the cam. We all waved at him. It is a small world.

One last thing. We were in a pub in Dingle listening to traditional Irish music. The band asked for volunteers to come up to sing. My son volunteered and we went up on stage to sing "Dirty Old Town." I'm waiting for a recording contract. ■

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The Poul-nabrone Dolmen

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CLEVELAND IRISH

By Francis McGarry



Peace, Cigars and Whiskey

I had the occasion to make my way to New York City and drop my boy at college. His dorm room was nicer than any dorm room at which I was ever accused of violating parietals. We made it to the Apple store and Bed, Bath and Beyond. His roommate is from Hawaii and his family was really pleasant. Then we got down to brass tacks.

The Church of Notre Dame is due east from his dorm, and they have a grotto behind the altar. Linda Walsh's family went to that church. Jean Walsh recognized the pic immediately. We were able to meet with Monsignor John Paddack, who is assisted at the parish by Father Michael Holleran. It did not take long to broach the Hibernians and denote that my son has years of experience serving at Mass. The polyglottic tintinnabulation begins at 10am Mass, which is in French. The 11:30am Mass is in English. The 1pm Mass is in Spanish. Inquiry was made as to the Gaelic Mass time? Monsignor had a perspicacious chortle.

We were unable to attend Mass at the Church of Notre Dame, but did make it farther uptown to the Church of the Good Shepherd. Mass in English and Spanish if you are keeping score at home. Franciscan Friars and a halfway to St. Patrick's Day Ceili sponsored by the Irish Pub directly across the street. The Ceili is preceded by the celebration of the Virgen del Cobre, the patron saint of Cuba. She is also known as Our Lady of Charity, or Oshun, if you are really keeping score at home. Visions of sugarplums danced in my head, if sugarplums are cigars and whiskey. It was cigars and rum when I visited the town of El Cobre in southwest Cuba. All Masses at the Basilica de Nuestra Senora del Cobre were in Spanish. The priest at Good Shepard was an Italian. He did the English Mass.

Father Tom Faiola's homily discussed Hebrews 12, the second reading. "Strive for peace with everyone" and "all disci-

pline seems a cause not for joy but for but for pain, yet later it brings the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who are trained by it." It was in these churches one could see the vastness of the Catholic faith, the languages and cultures it includes and how, no matter the diversity, the message is the same: we should all strive for peace and righteousness.

"We are all God's people," Aunt Irene would say, "but they are not all our people." I will have to say that the statue of Saint Patrick in the back of Good Shepherd made me feel connected to a parish that I had never set foot inside. I had a similar feeling at the pub across the street after Mass. The cultural milieu of Cleveland included more and more Catholic peoples; however, they did not yet share their parishes like the two visited in upper Manhattan. Clevelanders of all backgrounds did not share their jobs.

Foreman John Sullivan worked the coal, iron and ore docks on the river. He called the police department the morning of Saturday, April 7th, 1888 for assistance. John anticipated trouble on the docks. The call was answered by Sergeant O'Laughlin just after 7am. Mr. Sullivan shared that last year he employed nine or ten Irishmen to transfer iron and coal on the docks. He continued to explain that during the winter the docks do not employ as the docks are not open. The week before Mr. Sullivan requested the assistance of Sergeant O'Laughlin because 18 to 20 German laborers were engaged to do the work that the Irish fellows had done the season before. This piqued the Irish of the Irish labors and there was rumor that they would make way to the docks and correct this mendacious human resources blunder.

Mr. Sullivan was nervous that if these nine or ten Irish fellows "got to drinking" it would get ugly on the docks. Sergeant O'Laughlin retorted "But can't a gang of twenty men protect themselves for a gang



of nine or ten?" He then went on his way.

It was not just the Irish and the Germans collectively competing for jobs on the docks. Each year brought more immigration to Cleveland, both domestic and international. The international immigration that the Plain Dealer was concerned with was the Italians. Not those like Father Fiaolo, who stayed in the Big Apple, but the "gangs of Italian laborers" who found their way "other cities." Cleveland was one of those cities.

Not everyone was pleased with these new Italian immigrants. "Whilst there has been a decided improvement in the character and condition of other immigrants, who come better provided and who have a clearer idea of where to go and what to do, there is no change in the character or class of the Italians." It is the opinion of many the Italian immigrant is a result of misrepresentations of steamship agents who get paid a commission of \$3 per head for each steerage ticket.

Cities on the east coast were beginning to witness Italian immigration that was equal to the aggregate of Irish, Scotch and Welsh immigration and four fifths of German immigration. This initial east coast immigration did find its way to the Midwest. The United States had yet to reach its peak in European immigration. In 1907 almost 1.3 million Europeans entered the US. In 1888 there were almost 2 million Irish born living

in the United States.

According to the *Plain Dealer*, they came better prepared and with better character than others.

Character notwithstanding, it is clear that by 1888 the Irish had established themselves as foremen and police sergeants. It is also clear to the *Plain Dealer* that the Irish had established a network of family, friends and county affinities that allowed the immigrant of the 1888 a more direct path to economic stability. They knew where they were going and had a clear understanding of what to do. It was the discipline of the Famine immigrant that bore fruit in the 1880s, a term seldom applied to those who were described in similar terms as their Italian counterparts years later. Peace, cigars and whiskey.■

Francis McGarry holds undergraduate degrees from Indiana University in Anthropology, Education and History and a Masters in Social Science from the University of Chicago. He is an assistant principal and history teacher. Francis is a past president of the Irish American Club East Side. He is the founder and past president of the Bluestone Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians.

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Cleveland Crowned Champion at International Piping Festival in Glasgow

North Royalton resident Anne Gallo won Piper of the Day Honors in Glasgow, Scotland in the Competition League for Amateur Solo Pipers, (CLASP), in the Grade 2 event held during the Glasgow International Piping Festival August 10th through the 18th. Ms. Gallo is the first and only player from Ohio to compete and win this event.

"My goal was to play well," said Ms.

Gallo, "I never thought I would win the entire event."

A student of Barry Conway, Anne's playing peaked at the right time. "She's been improving all year," said Conway, "but to win such a prestigious event was a pleasant surprise."

Ms. Gallo competed in three separate events, finishing first in the Strathspey/Reel, second in the 2/4 March and third in the Piobaireachd

event to accumulate the points needed to win the honor. Piobaireachd is an ancient, more classical genre of the bagpipe.

Ms. Gallo also competed with the Great Lakes Pipe Band at the World Pipe Band Championship, held in Scotland on August 18th.

When not playing bagpipes, Anne attends Cuyahoga Community College, where she is a Logistics Major. ■



A Cleveland Knight?

Congratulations to our founder, George Fisher (left) and Clevelander John Staunton (far right) from Merchant du Vin (right) who were knighted by the Knighthood of the Brewers Mash Staff in Brussels, Belgium this week.

The Belgian beer community pays tribute to their rich history every September, celebrating in the Brussels Grand Place. The 3-day beer festival centers around a ceremony honoring Saint Arnold, the patron saint of brewing. During this ceremony, the honorary knights are "enthroned." The Knighthood of the Brewers Mash Staff is comprised of direct descendants of the Belgian Brewers Guild, the heirs to the original Brewers Guild from the 14th century. Annually, the guild recognizes a small number of honorary knights for their contributions to the Belgian beer industry and culture.

Honorary knights are individuals who have "rendered loyal services to




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AKRON IRISH

By Lisa O'Rourke



Aoife

Aoife O'Rourke dances around the ring as light on her feet as Ginger Rogers. She never stops moving, regardless of what else is happening around her. Her long arms are tough to avoid and she knows it, as she lures the competition in and then jabs them into corners of the ring. She is surprisingly tough, competitor's blows bounce off her solid frame. The lady in question is my niece, Aoife O'Rourke.

On August 31st, Aoife became the second young Irish woman to win the European Elite Boxing Gold Medal.

The other who shares this accomplishment with Aoife is the world champion Irish boxer, Katie Taylor, who won it in 2012.

That win set in motion the series of events that brought Aoife where she is now. Katie Taylor's achievements sparked Irish national interest in boxing in a way that has not happened before. Boxing clubs began luring more and more women in to have a go or just train with them. And why not?

Aoife and her sisters went to the Castlereas boxing club and found that they liked the intense level of the workouts.

Skipping rope, running, jumping and lifting produced better results than anything else they had tried. Aoife started sparring in the ring for fun and found that she was good at it.

Aoife has five sisters. Their father owns and operates a cattle and sheep farm. At least a few of those girls were going to have to get involved with the farm and help out. Since around the age of seven or so, Aoife has been moving bales of hay, hefting tubs of feed, and even assisting in Caesarian cattle births.

One of my favorite memories is of her sitting on a phone book so she could see to drive a pick-up truck down the field. There is no doubt that she is tall and strong. She loves animals. Sure, I am biased, but honestly, she is a sweet, shy girl. She has always been athletic, bright and kind. The transition to boxing competitively did not come easy.

It was a progression of her passion for fitness.

Boxing is a tough sport and no one in the family was a fan. But like many other things, the passion of a loved one can bring the others along. Her parents



Aoife with devoted Uncle Gerard O'Rourke.

and all of the family started to see how much Aoife enjoyed it and how much it seemed to do for her.

In five short years, Aoife grew as a person and a competitor. Most of the girls that Aoife has fought against have years more training on their side.

While contact is part of any sport, it is an integral part of boxing. It is hard to see your lovely niece with a black eye or watch her get hit.

But, just like their male counterparts,

Irish women are good fighters. Their style is different from many of their European competitors, especially those from Eastern Europe and Russia, who dominate the sport. The Eastern European style involves strength, stillness and conservation of energy, imagine an immovable tree. The Irish style is loads more Riverdance with boxing gloves.

The woman Aoife beat for the gold

Continued on facing page

Akron Irish

Continued from previous page

was Russian and had lost two out of 116 fights.

While five years is not a long time to fight, Aoife has seen some disappointment. She has not won every match and some of the judgements have not seemed fair. Politics and subjective opinions are part of how fight outcomes are decided.

She has not let those few setbacks bother her though; she emerges more determined to show them who she is. The European matches are streamed on YouTube, so we were all watching, holding our breath, terrified of jinxing her. I did not breathe fully until she won the last match for the gold medal.

Unbelievable was the first word that sprang to mind when she did win. Not that I doubted her ability for a minute, but it is hard to trust the world to see things the way that you do. She is amazing competitor, but honestly all the girls are amazing in their own right.

For me, what I enjoyed was watching her sportsmanship in the win, shaking hands, giving hugs all around, and acknowledging how hard everyone worked to be there. The very best moment was seeing her stand on the podium, gold medal, big boxer belt and bouquet in hand. She was so happy to represent Ireland and hear the national anthem, The Soldier's Song, played while the tri-color rippled in front of her. It was pride of self, family, town and country.

You have to wonder what is next for her. She wants more and she believes that it is possible. Her quick rise in the sport may have surprised her and everyone else, but each win has increased her confidence. She wants to qualify for the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo. There are a few critical matches to determine that between now and then.

Aoife's rapid rise may have caused her to not receive the full support and funding from the Irish government parallel to some of her peers. Hopefully, this gap will be mended. She works part-time in a local deli to support herself when she is not training. Her discipline and focus are extraordinary. She is always focused on her sport, even to the point of giving up trips to the local chip shop.

Three thousand people showed up on that mercifully sunny Sunday evening to welcome Aoife home from the finals

in Madrid. She rode in the back of a pick-up truck, much like the one she drives on the farm. Beside her was her trainer Paddy Sharkey. The Castlereas Brass Band marched ahead of her. The stage that is set in the town square for the Rose Festival was hastily erected. The proud family were seated on the stage just beaming, waiting for her. Aoife smiled, shook hands, and took photos like a pro as she made her way to the stage. There were speeches and stories. It was an individual achievement on one hand, but all those people had their share in it too. The whole town was with her in that ring in some capacity as they were watching, holding their collective breath, having a few, saying silent prayers; united in sport, united in community, united in hope. ■

Lisa O'Rourke is an educator from Akron. She has a BA in English and a Master's in Reading/Elementary Education. Lisa is a student of everything Irish, primarily Gaelic. She runs a Gaelic study group at the AOH/Mark Heffernan Division. She is married to Dónal and has two sons, Danny and Liam. Lisa enjoys art, reading, music, and travel. She enjoys spending time with her puppy, cats and fish. Lisa can be contacted at olisa07@icloud.com.

Please send any Akron events to my email!

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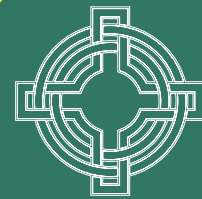
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AN EEJIT ABROAD

By CB Makem



Notes on Broken Backs, Loud Music and F Troop

I realized I was getting old last week when an episode of The Love Boat came on the telly and I groaned under my breath because it was a “new one.” By new I’m referring to one with Captain Stubing’s daughter, Vicki. I mean, why didn’t she go to school? Didn’t they have child labor laws in the 80s?

I know I don’t qualify as old yet, but I’ve reached the age where random pains present themselves once a week or more and remain throughout the day. I worry about the first one arriving that will decide to stay for the rest of my life.

Already I have what seems to be a unique ailment—at least among people I know—where arthritis in my hands is relieved by eating an orange. What in the world do the truly aged go through? I imagine there’s some woman in her nineties who cures herself of excess gas by humming the tune to F Troop, or perhaps by spinning around four times, three or five doesn’t do the trick, just four.

There’s over seven billion people on this planet. Surely some grizzled

wrinkly fellow somewhere wakes up every morning and fakes a sneeze to guard against walking with a limp or to prevent his eyes from seeing everything in shades of purple.

And this brings us to this month’s topic: the worst things about traveling while old.

First up on my griping list are stools. Didn’t see that one coming, did you? Ireland has pubs littered with these things. Granted they’re better than standing, but only slightly. How about some back support? Unless you can secure the bench seat against the wall, you’re out of luck. You’ll be leaning your elbows on the table or on your knees for the entirety of the evening. I watch my hunched-over elders with a modicum of disdain for the pub owner who made them this way through a lifetime of leaning in.

What’s next? Obviously, airline seats need to be placed on the list, but I don’t think I can add anything here you don’t already know and there are only so many column inches I can donate to seats.



Look at these poor excuses for seats in a Galway pub. My back aches just thinking about them.

Without hesitation, I’ll put pop music right up there near the top of the list. How many of us have stopped into a restaurant, pub or shop anywhere in Ireland, glanced around at a clientele averaging retirement age and pondered why the music blaring over the speakers is bubblegum pop? I recall a time not so long ago that Aer Lingus greeted its mostly very adult flyers with pop music upon entrance. I think by my last trip they’d upgraded to Enya or something ethereally similar, so kudos to them.

Don’t despair, I have an associated complaint for Irish pubs in old Amerikay, as well. It’s rare to find one that plays actual Irish music, strange as that is. I find it to be mostly plain rock and roll. My father used to say he liked to hear Chinese music when he went into Chinese restaurants. I think he was

onto something. Hey, it’s a free country, but what’s the sense in picking an establishment theme if you’re not going to stick to it?

I also enjoy places sans televisions. My eyes are a bit like a moth to firelight when it comes to TVs. It doesn’t matter what is on, my attention is drawn to the infernal devices. I find myself losing track of conversations because the flickering flat screen is always on. I don’t want it that way, my brain just isn’t capable of tuning it out.

The absolute best pub in which I’ve ever luxuriated was in Sligo town. I seem to recall the name as being “The White Horse” or something similar, but I have a terrible memory. There were no TVs, no background music, just a centuries old pub with snugs and low

Continued on facing page

Eejit Abroad

Continued from previous page

lighting. It was one of, if not the oldest continually running pub in Ireland.

People went in, talked with other people and had a pint or two. I sat at the bar one evening and met an older man, who was later joined by his daughter and her daughter. By the end of the night, they were insistent I stay with them, that the B&B I’d booked simply wouldn’t do. I declined as graciously as I could. I’m a huge fan of waking up in my own place and of B&Bs in general.

But the moment stuck with me. It’s a scene I don’t expect will ever play out again for me, especially since I generally have a hard time speaking over the volume of the music in most places. And after centuries of serving patrons, that pub closed.

I guess it couldn’t compete with the noise, hustle and bustle of modern life.

I’m a bit confused as to why people gravitate toward excessive noise in bars. Maybe it’s to conceal the disappearing art of conversation.

Of course, a lot of this is based on the younger version of me anyway. As I’ve aged, the night doesn’t hold what it used to. This doesn’t ring true for everyone, but once the clock strikes eight, I’m usually settling in for the evening. I used to have fun at night. What happened? Today when a friend invites me out for a couple of drinks, my first thought is that it had better start no later than 6 p.m.

A number of years ago I began going to sleep earlier than I previously had. My friends or bandmates would stay up after a night of music or general carousing and I’d beat a hasty retreat with an Irish exit. ■

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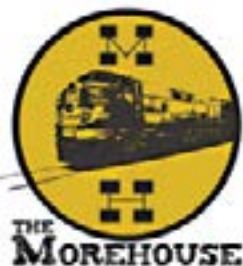
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MADIGAN
MUSES
By Marilyn Madigan



Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians History Contest

The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians (LAOH) have been sponsoring an Irish History Contest for over 100 years. The History Contest this year is to recognize the many contributions of the LAOH, the largest Irish Catholic Women's Organization in the United States.

We have a long proud history; Students can write about an individual woman, an individual Division or the various special projects of the LAOH, such as Nuns of the Battlefield.

2019-2020 National LAOH Irish History Writing Contest Student Information:

Eligibility & Information: Students in grades 6-12, enrolled in parochial, private, public schools or who are home schooled, are eligible to participate in the 2019-2020 National LAOH Irish History Writing Contest, sponsored by the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc.

The National LAOH Irish History Writing Contest is comprised of two levels: LEVEL 1 is for students in Grades 6, 7, or 8 and LEVEL 2 is for students in Grades 9, 10, 11, or 12.

Each student entering the 2019-2020 National LAOH Irish History Writing Contest should be given a copy of the Student Information and Contest Rules as well as a copy of the 2019-2020 National LAOH Irish History Writing Contest Judging Criteria. Information is on the website: www.ladiesaoh.com

2019-2020 National LAOH Irish History Writing Contest Theme:

The theme is the same for LEVEL 1 and LEVEL 2, as follows:

"History of LAOH in the USA (honoring the 125th Anniversary)"

We will accept entries written about any person, event, or structure that

has to do with the LAOH in America during the past 125 years.

2019-2020 National LAOH Irish History Writing Contest Information:

Each student participating is to follow the LAOH National Irish History Writing Contest Information and Contest Rules.

Each student is required to submit four copies of their submission to the LAOH Division Irish Historian by November 15, 2019.

Each student, through their participation, gives permission to the LAOH to use their essay at LAOH meetings, events and/or in LAOH publications, or on the website.

Schools should receive packages and students begin writing papers October 1, 2019.

Division Level Submissions are to be received by November 15, 2019 County Level Submissions are to be received by December 15, 2019 State Level Submissions are to be received by January 15, 2020 National Level Submissions are to be postmarked by February 15, 2020 National to announce winners by March 30, 2020

2019-2020 National LAOH Irish History Writing Contest National Awards:

Students can search *Chronicling America* and *Newspapers.com*. Sample topics are: Nuns of the Battlefield, Ellen Ryan Jolly, Mary McWhorter etc.

First Place, Second Place, Third Place, Honorable Mention, Honorable Mention

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By Dottie
Wenger

KIDS CRAIC

Halloween Time!

Did you know... Although many people think of Halloween as an American holiday, its beginnings go back to Ireland, long before the colonists first arrived in America! Long ago, the Catholic Church designated November first as "All Hallows (Saints) Day" in commemoration for saints that didn't have a specific day of their own for remembrance. The night before was known as "All Hallow's Eve". The original spelling of this holiday is Hal-lowe'en, which is the contraction of the three words.

The origins of the jack-o-lantern: There is an Irish fable about a wicked blacksmith named Jack, who wandered the Earth carrying a candle carried in a turnip which he had carved out. This earned him the name Jack-of-the-Lantern, or Jack-o-Lantern. The Irish would carve turnips and place them in their windows to keep wicked "Jack" away on Halloween night. When the Irish immigrated to the United States, they substituted pumpkins – since they were more available – to continue this Halloween tradition.

Halloween Traditions in Ireland: Irish children dress in costume on Halloween night and go from door to door like kids do in America. This tradition goes back to early Ireland, when people dressed in disguise on Halloween night believing this prevented them from being carried off by evil spirits.

Many Irish families have feasts on Halloween! A traditional dish often



Wicked "Jack"

QUIZ

Q: What is the top-selling Halloween candy in Ohio?

A: *Charms Blow-Pops*

Q: What was the first wrapped penny candy in America?

A: *Tootsie Rolls*



Dottie taught kindergarten and second grade for a total of thirty-two years, and she now handles marketing and promotions for Yorktown Service Plaza in Parma Heights. In her spare time, Dottie is a baker extraordinaire, and also enjoys participating in 5K events in order to offset collateral damage from this hobby.

IRISH WORDS OF THE MONTH

Pumpkin **puimcin**
(pron. pimkeen)

Cat **cat**
(same pronunciation)

Candy **milseain**
(pron. milshawn)

Ghost **taibhse**
(pron. tiv-shuh)

Vampire **vampir**
(pron. vampeer)

enjoyed on Halloween is Colcannon, made with boiled potatoes, kale or cabbage, and onions. Another is Barnbrack: this is similar to fruitcake. Sometimes items are baked into the cake: a bit of a rag, a coin and a ring. If you end up with the rag, you'll most likely be poor; if you get the coin, you'll be wealthy, and the ring means you can expect romance and happiness.

A traditional drink on Halloween is "Lambswool", which usually is made up of roasted, crushed apples that have been added to milk or cider.

A popular game for kids in Ireland to play on Halloween is "Snap Apple," similar to bobbing for apples; an apple is suspended from a string and the kids are blindfolded with their hands behind their backs. The first to take a big bite out of the apple wins. ■



Literature Highlight: How to Catch a Monster – This picture book was written by Adam Wallace & Andy Elkerton, best-selling author and illustrator duo who brought us How to Catch a Leprechaun. This story is about a boy "ninja" who goes on a mission to confront a monster.

Check this out: A cute, three-minute video is called "Irish Kids Explain an Irish Halloween" <https://bit.ly/2miuaTU>

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TARA HALL

Traditional Irish music w General Guinness Band & Friends 2nd Friday 8:00 - 11:00pm. No Cover. Tara Hall 274 E. Innis Ave. Columbus, 43207 614.444.5949.

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Logan's Irish Pub - 3rd Wednesday of the month, 414 S. Main St., Findlay, 7:30 pm

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TERRY FROM DERRY

By Terry Boyle



The Man Who Would Be King

So all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah.⁵ They said to him, "You are old, and your sons do not follow your ways; now appoint a king to lead^{us} us, such as all the other nations have."

⁶ But when they said, "Give us a king to lead us," this displeased Samuel; so he prayed to the LORD. ⁷ And the LORD TOLD HIM: "LISTEN TO ALL THAT THE PEOPLE ARE SAYING TO YOU; IT IS NOT YOU THEY HAVE REJECTED, BUT THEY HAVE REJECTED ME AS THEIR KING. (NIV I SAMUEL)

The bible, like any ancient text, offers us incredible insights into the human condition. Not satisfied with depending on their God, or reasoning, the people are willing to trade their unique autonomy in favour of a king. It was a decision they would later come to regret.

Saul, their long sought-after king, is an egotist, a narcissist, and obsessed with power. Had he been alive today, his twitter account would list his military, economic, and political prowess. He would claim to predict the weather, become the 'chosen one', and ultimately ruin the planet for future genera-

tions by lying through his teeth. It did not take the people of Israel long to realize that it's a case of be careful what you wish for, or, in our case, who you vote for. Recently, I read an interesting article in Politico in which Shawn Rosenberg, a professor at the University of Irvine, gave a paper that, for me, draws parallels with the biblical story of Saul. Democracy is hard work. When it comes to self-rule, the level of responsibility is greater, and this burden of making the right choices becomes increasingly unfavourable to those who want to be led.

People, Rosenberg speculates, do not want to think too deeply about political topics. When it comes to complicated issues such as international affairs, environmental issues, immigration et al, Rosenberg proposes that voters want simple answers. They do not want to be cajoled into thinking about the complexities of modern life.

His theory is disturbing, and his prediction that democracies will eventually shrink and be extinguished by right-wing policies, is quite chilling. What is even more unsettling is his assumption that the human brain is not capable of sustaining democracy since it is not designed to deal with the many demands a democratic system asks of the individual.

True democracy requires the individual to make informed choices. It requires that we tolerate those who are different from us. We are asked to question supposed facts and determine what is true. All of these things, Rosenberg determines, make it impossible to maintain a vibrant democracy. The human brain, he claims, is not built to meet these responsibilities.

And, the recent moves towards the right-wing policies of exclusion, and racism appear to agree with him. We find ourselves now in a position where 'we the people' have been replaced by an administration that follows the whims of a man who would be king. The erosion of our democratic principles has, over the past few decades, become a reality.

Many of the freedoms that our forefathers gave their lives for, are under threat. The pessimism, engendered by this idea that democracy is dying, does have merit. There are signs all

around us that 'we the people' have opted to value the whims of a king, and abandon the responsibility of self-rule.

When I read the article on Rosenberg's paper, I was appalled, but I was also fighting against the horrible feeling that he might be right. Every day we read the complete absurdity of the present administration's double-dealings and it is becoming less and less disturbing to us. We have become acclimatized to policies that separate families, treat outsiders with complete disrespect, and rules in favour of the rich.

The question of truth does not appear to be of value anymore. What is more important is a protection of the right of some over others. The right to discriminate against those who are not like us is validated by those in power, and it does not rankle our conscience.

When it comes to 'who's pulling the strings', we have given that right over to those who will make us dance to their merry tune. If Rosenberg is right, we, like the people of Israel, will see the end to self-rule. However, since, unlike Rosenberg, I believe that there are enough of us to stand against this trend and fight against the decline of democracy. The human brain can evolve to deal with the demands of a democratic system. If our brains can cope with the numerous demands of new technologies, then, I'm sure it can be trained to reach the lofty goals of fairness and tolerance.

There is no doubt that our society is changing, and the new technologies have, ironically enough, made even greater demands on us as humans. We can allow the truth to be dumbed down and allow ourselves to be treated as if we had half a brain, or we can take seriously the call to be active members of our community. Democracy is not easy to sustain.

There will always be challenges, but the alternative is too ghastly to contemplate. Can we allow ourselves to find another Saul, Hitler, or Stalin? Yes, we can. We have already opened the door to the man who would be king. ■

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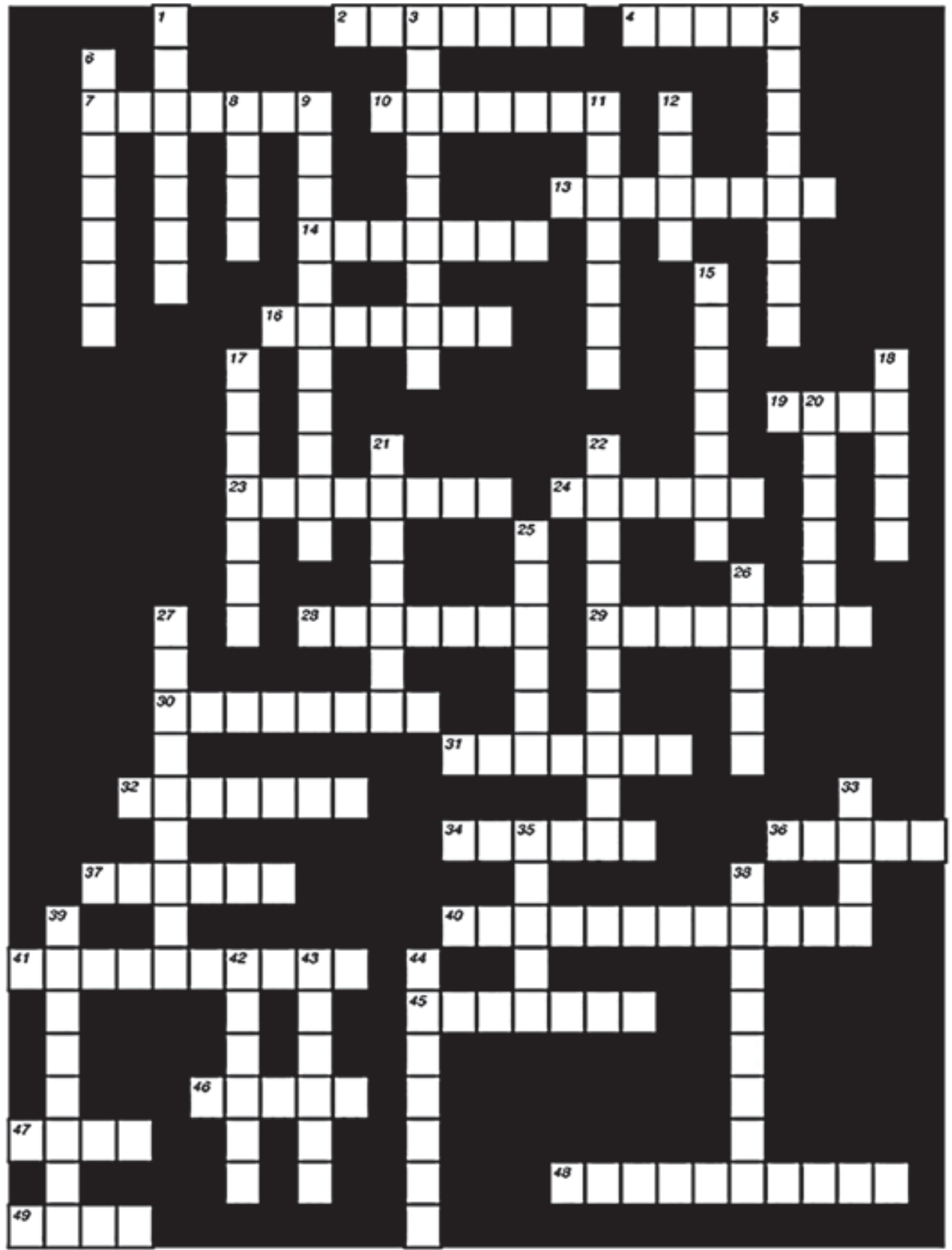
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Spirits of Ireland

Linda Fulton Burke



DOWN

- 1 _____ is a female spirit in Irish mythology who heralds the death of a family member, usually by wailing, shrieking, or keening
- 3 Ballybunion Beach in County Kerry is home to the tale of the Nine _____ Hole.
- 5 The _____ is depicted as a headless rider, usually on a black horse, who carries their own head under one arm.
- 6 _____ Castle, Co. Galway is said to be haunted by the spirits of the poor and deprived who sheltered in the castle grounds during the blight.
- 8 Clonony Castle, Co. Offaly has a ghost known as 'The _____ Man' that has appeared in the past atop its tower.
- 9 _____ Castle, Co. Offaly, has many ghosts including a little girl called Harriet, who died after a fall in a staircase
- 11 Miles Corbett was given Malahide Castle by Oliver Cromwell. His ghost appears as a whole _____ and then suddenly crumbles into pieces.
- 12 _____ is the ghost of a jester who fell in love with Lady Elenora Fitzgerald at Malahide Castle.
- 15 A spectral _____ haunts the grounds at Duckett's Grove in County Carlow.
- 17 The _____ Gaol's legend has it that those who died there still roam within the gaol's walls.
- 18 Ballinagarde House, Co Limerick has a sinister figure on horseback, said to be the _____ or one of his dark apostles.
- 20 Castle _____ Co. Monaghan is said to be haunted by the ghost of Norman Leslie who died during the First World War.
- 21 Coolbawn House, Co Wexford is haunted by Francis Bruen's _____ girl
- 22 _____ Hill home of The Hellfire Club, Co Dublin where devil himself appeared to grant their wishes.
- 25 A "Blue Lady" ghost haunts the Workhouse _____ in Derry.
- 26 Castle _____ her husband to his death from their bedroom window on their wedding night
- 27 Loughmoe Castle, Co. _____, is said to be haunted by someone who died there in the mid-1900s.
- 33 _____ Castle, Co. Kerry, where O'Donoghue was sucked out of the window of the grand chamber into the waters of the lake where he keeps a close eye on everything that he sees.
- 35 A _____ is a supernatural double or an apparition of a living person in Irish folklore and sightings are regarded as omens, usually for impending death.
- 38 _____ Castle, Co. Cork is said to be haunted by several spirits, with the most famous being the faceless ghost of Lady Margaret Hardnett
- 39 Castle Co. Dublin is haunted by Sir Walter Hussey, killed in battle on his wedding day.
- 42 Irishman Desmond _____'s ghost is believed to haunt the airfield at RAF Montrose in Montrose, Angus, Scotland
- 43 _____ Hall is a large country house on the Hook peninsula, County Wexford's said by locals to have been haunted by the devil.
- 44 _____ Boyd's ghost haunts St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin

ACROSS

- 2 Leamaneh Castle, Co Clare is haunted by the red-haired girl, _____, whose taunting cackles and screams are sometimes heard echoing from the walls.
- 4 Ballyheighue Castle, Co Kerry is haunted by a person holding a _____ and dressed in 18th century clothing, complete with thigh boots and hat.
- 7 Cork District _____ Asylum is haunted by those that were subjected to Hallaran's chair.
- 10 Seafeld House, Co Sligo where Owen brought home Egyptian _____ that brought out a powerful poltergeist that would shake the house and shatter the ornaments
- 13 The Abbey of the _____, Co Limerick is haunted by a Fitzgerald Lady who was into the black arts.
- 14 The Sharon _____ is also said to be haunted by a "Blue Lady" ghost.
- 16 On the grounds of Blarney Castle. The 600-year-old Witch's _____ holds the ghost of the Blarney Witch, who first told the Irish people of the talkative powers of the Blarney Stone.
- 19 Monkstown Castle in Co. Cork said to be haunted by a "Blue Lady" ghost,
- 23 _____ Castle is said to be haunted by a "Blue Lady" ghost.
- 24 Loftus Hall in Co. Wexford is also the home of a ghost of a young _____.
- 28 _____ Fort, Co. Cork, is haunted by a ghost known only as The White Lady who was due to be married there but committed suicide after her husband was murdered on the night of their nuptials.
- 29 Portlick Castle Co Westmeath is reputed to have a ghost _____, who has been known to appear in the dungeons below
- 30 Lady Maud _____ chases her husband's ghost through the hallways of Malahide Castle.
- 31 Glenuilin Co Derry is haunted by Abhartach, the original male _____.
- 32 The Countess _____ was supposedly buried alive at The Abbey of the Black Hag. Today her screams can still be heard long into the night.
- 34 Loftus Hall, County _____ is haunted by a young girl by the name of Anne Tottenham who thought she met the devil there.
- 36 At Duckett's _____ the somber phantom music of an organ or harmonium can be heard.
- 37 Fishermen near Ballyheighue believe they have seen the ruined walls of an old _____ beneath them in the water, and the flick of the sea king's tail in the waves
- 40 In early Irish folklore, the bánánach were preternatural beings, described as spectres which haunted _____.
- 41 Lady Isabella Shaw's ghost is said to walk the corridors of the _____ Castle, Co. Antrim and even knock on doors.
- 45 _____ battlefield, 1691, has its Jacobite ghosts, Co Galway
- 46 The _____ Lady is a painting of an unknown beautiful lady. It is said she leaves the painting to haunt the Malahide Castle grounds at night.
- 47 Hunt Seeing the _____ was thought to presage some catastrophe such as war or plague, or at best the death of the one who witnessed it.
- 48 _____ also known as Jack the Smith, Drunk Jack, Flaky Jack, and Jack of the Lantern, is a mythical character apparently associated with All Hallows Eve.
- 49 _____ Castle, Co. Offaly, Ireland's most haunted castle was home to some brutal atrocities in centuries gone by the O'Carroll clan.

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