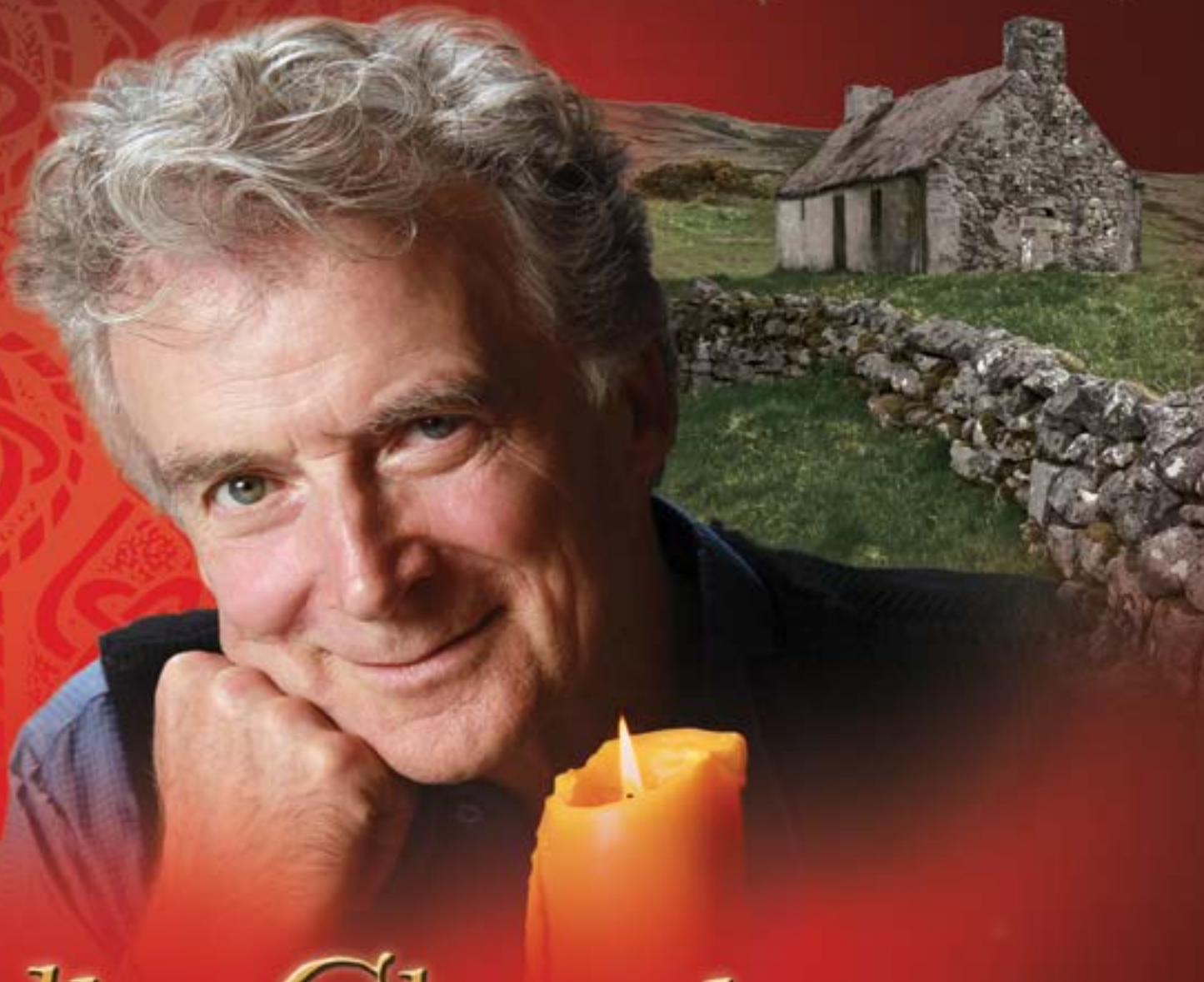




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OHIO IRISH AMERICAN NEWS

NOVEMBER 2019 • Volume 13 - Issue 11



Tomásean
Foley's

A Celtic Christmas

Music, song, dance and storytelling from Ireland

Back in Northeast Ohio for the 5th year in a row!



EDITOR'S CORNER

By John O'Brien, Jr.



'Ireland is an island, we are not.'

The Mighty Ed Ward, founder of Milwaukee Irish Fest, passed away October 13th. It is not possible to articulate all that he has done, and meant, to the Irish community, not only in Milwaukee, but across the Diaspora well beyond the Pale.

shared, a phone call away (often made) to help anyone who asked, and always, the easy laughter, marked most every interaction. His advice was always to do the right thing, to be inclusive and to not let the dogs get you down.

"Ireland is an Island, we are not," he said.

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Sandra Puskaric (Dublin IF) and Ed Ward (Milwaukee IF) after hours shenanigans at Milwaukee Irish Fest.

You were so often the light out of the darkness, my dear friend. Our world is so much poorer today. Thank you for all the heads ups, guidance, and of course, laughter; I do not have the word sufficient to the occasion; may you rest in peace.

See Colm Croffy's tribute to Ed on page 4.

This weekend, the weather flipped Winter is coming. I'm not a coffee addict, but I am challenging that assumption this week. As I read more about Ed, and the great work of others in and around this issue ~ I strive to do better; to do more; to make the world a better place, for my being here. Are you Woke?

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

John



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About Our Cover:

Tomaseen Foley's

A Celtic Christmas returns to Ohio for its 5th year in a row.

Cover by Brigid Krane

"Oh, the Green & Red of Mayo ...

Photos by John O'Brien, Jr.



The Irish Delegation and Guests.



The Green and Red of Mayo with Marys Lane.

We all know the Saw Doctor's anthem. Mayo people are by far the largest county represented among Ohio's 1.6 million Irish. It stands to reason that their influence and strength has not waned after the waves of emigrants has decreased, due to their numbers.

I also believe it is the generosity of organizations, such as the Mayo Society, that has extended their influence and their impact.

The Mayo Society of Greater Cleveland's mission is to promote cultural, charitable, scientific and/or literary exchanges between the People of the United States and the People of Ireland, with particular emphasis on County Mayo, including but not limited to research into the life and times of Irish immigration to America and the study of Irish and Irish-American history.

Organization Profile

The Mayo Society of Greater Cleveland was founded in 2004 as a not-for-profit corporation to provide a forum for information and activities of interest to individuals of Irish descent particularly those with ancestral ties to County Mayo.

The Society makes contributions to public charities in the United States that have a link to County Mayo in Ireland or to Ireland, or to public charities in Ireland, or for temporary emergency relief to indigent Irish nationals in the United States who are in urgent need of medical attention, are victims of crime, or victims of man-made or natural disasters.

Business Panel

This year, The Society hosted a business panel, filled with development experts from the Irish delegation in Cleveland for the ball. John Carroll University hosted Alan Ahearn, Director of the Whitaker Institute and Professor of Economics at the National University of Ireland, Galway; Ciaran O'Hara, who works in community development, especially in sports; Peter Hynes, Mayo County Manager, a role which became Chief Executive in 2014; and John Magee, Head of Enterprise.

Brexit was on everyone's mind and how it will affect Ireland, hard border or not as well as the Good Friday Agreement's enforcement. Development, agriculture,

tourism and overall economics fueled much of the presentations and follow up questions throughout the weekend.

Person of the Year

Each year the society nominates a person of the year. The 2019 Mayo Society of Greater Cleveland Person of the Year is Myles C. Gallagher, President of The Superlative Group in Cleveland.

A natural sales and marketing leader, the Cleveland native is a graduate of St. Edward High School and John Carroll University.

A pioneer in premium seating and sponsorship sales with the Cleveland Indians and IMG's Motorsports Division, Myles quite naturally morphed into a full-service agency, transitioning Naming Rights from a sports stadium niche to an integral part of infrastructure financing. "We saw a need and filled it."

Formed 25 years ago, The Superlative Group (www.superlativegroup.com) is

considered one of the premier consulting and sales organizations in the area of Naming Rights and Sponsorship Valuation and Sales in the U.S., Canada, Ireland and the U.K. Under Myles creative leadership, they have produced more than \$2 billion worth of corporate sponsorships and naming rights, among them the US Marine Corps, US Army, Cleveland Clinic, Twentieth Century Fox, NUI Galway, Trinity University and others too numerous to mention.

Gallagher was honored at the Society's 2019 Green and Red Ball at Cleveland's InterContinental Hotel at Cleveland Clinic September 28. He and his spouse Laura have been married 32 years, and parents of Meghan, Molly, Myles F. and Sean.

Entertainment

The food at the InterContinental Hotel was fantastic, the speeches were

funny, and at times, moving. The night moved quickly and fenthusiastic dancing from students from Murphy Irish Arts led us right into the dancing with Marys Lane. Although my roots are Roscommon, I have been to five or six Mayo Balls in support of the work they do. This was the best one yet.

Scholarships

Each year, the Mayo Society of Greater Cleveland funds a scholarship program between John Carroll University and National University Ireland Galway. For additional information regarding the scholarship, or details on how to apply, please [contact cleveland-mayosociety@gmail.com](mailto:cleveland-mayosociety@gmail.com)

Mayo Society of Greater Cleveland scholarship recipients from John Carroll University:

2019-2020

Emily Robinson

Kayla Theilan

Students from National University of Ireland Galway who have studied at John Carroll University:

2019

Robert Naughton

Kevin Mannion

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FLANNERY'S Pub LIVE MUSIC

10/5 - Kristine Jackson

10/11 - Austin "Walkin' Cane"

10/12 - Brent Kirby

10/18 - West Awake

10/19 - The New Barley Corn (things will happen)

10/26 - Chris Allen and Tom Prebish



Flannery's has live music! Let's have a pint and loosen our belts!

Down ta here!?

May the Force Be with You Ed Ward, Rest in Peace

By Colm Croffy, Executive Director
Association of Irish Festivals & Events
(AOIFE), Ballinasloe, Co. Galway

I first encountered the forcefield of humanity and culture that is Ed Ward in the summer of 2006 at The Falls Lodge Hotel at the Irish AOIFE Annual Conference. He was zig zagging between Glor, the Ennis Trad Nua and Ennistymon with a favourite West Clare Scout of his Paul Edward Keating.

However, it was the fall of 2008, I was in attendance at one of the pioneering Irish and Celtic North American producers Conference at the Celtic Colours Festival in Cape Breton, that I struck up a rapport.

The Milwaukee Mafia were there in their battle group formation led by the Ward trio including his late brother Chuck. Small suitcases, large musical instrument cases, stout of heart and melodious to a fault.

Brian Doherty, the irascible Ulsterman masquerading as a Halifax publican, was tour guide. Nan Krushinki of Pittsburgh Irish Fest and Jane Mullally Anderson, the then CEO of Irish Fest resembled two fastidious Irish Nuns in charge of a boisterous busload of fifth graders.

We were billeted in summer holiday camp alongside the stunning lake Bras d'Or, where the inventor of the telephone Alexander Bell had some stunning Holiday home.

Aside from the workshops, the concerts, the dancing, the sheer fun and impromptu music sessions, I was gravitated to this significant presence; who was charming to a fault but so generous of time, knowledge and insight to what worked with an audience, and genre, that you knew he instinctively was a master huntsman in seeking out the best of Irish, Celtic, Trad, Folk and fusion long before they got in the maw of the marketing guys.

Descended from Limerick and Meath folk; they came from a "Music house" - Ed and his late and loved Brother Chuck played in a band "Blarney" in their college days and stumbled upon the lore of the Irish tradition which though popular on the East Coast by the Clancys



Ed Ward

and countless others since the 60s, left the Mid West a little out of the loop.

The Summerfest grounds, owned by the City and richly endowed with stages and infrastructure from Miller Brewing and Harley Davidson, is on the shores of Lake Michigan. It has been and is the stunning setting and back drop for almost four decades of music making, storytelling and fun.

Ed was a gregarious man, who in his community, continually gave and sought out other cultures and tribes - he had volunteered with different nationality days and fiestas as the summer grounds to understand a little of what made the audience want to come through the gates, stay and more importantly, come back!

In 1981, Ed turned his passion for Irish music into a venture that now requires 4,500 people to run and has 125,000 annual customers. It has been the guiding force in a global movement that he inspired, shepherded, and grew -- and it will have a lasting influence on Milwaukee. Irish Fest and is arguably the world's most influential Celtic music festival.

Ward, a musician himself, has been responsible for nurturing new musicians from all over the world, discovering new groups, and inspiring other cities to follow the Irish Fest lead. To put

some things into perspective, back in the early 80s - perhaps the largest folk festival of comparable scale was Lisdoonvarna, which was begun in 1978, the Wille Clancy Week was only a 1972

ED'S KNOWLEDGE OF ALL MATTERS MUSICAL WAS VOLUMINOUS - THE WARD ARCHIVE WAS A GEM OF AN IDEA

child, Cork Folk only celebrated its 40th Anniversary this year. In the cannon of Irish (Island based festivals), The Fleadh Cheol na hEireann birthed in Mullingar (going back to roots in 2021), the Kerry Rose in 1959, Mary from Dungloe in 1967 - were all on the scene in the early 80s, but they have not been able to reach the ambition of Ed.

Not only did he pioneer a new vision in the ethos and scale of how a modern Irish & Celtic Festival should look and feel - he was uniquely responsible for sharing and curating that vision with so many others - musicians, artistes, writers and festival producers WITHOUT state or federal aid!

In 1998, he invited a few modest Irish and Celtic Festival producers for a meeting in Milwaukee and by 2005, when the Irish and Celtic Producers Conference came to gather, it was 77 of a group representing over 25 Festivals. I had the honour and privilege of speaking and attending four - Kansas City, Pittsburgh, Milwaukee and Nova Scotia, before the economic crisis put an end to that.

In 2010, when the Irish Association hosted the Bi-Annual meeting in Ballinasloe and Limerick for the first time (with Culture Ireland sponsored showcases in UL and Glor) - it was 105 and some 30 events - all still learning and being influenced by this giant of a cultured man. He really enjoyed sparring with the late Professor Michael O'Sullivan of The World Academy in UL.

He strongly believed in Walt Disney's policy of entertaining and educating an audience and he never stopped pushing the boundaries of what the 100,000 plus

attendees at Milwaukee could see and participate in.

In his outlook he strived for innovation in presentation and musicianship and was hugely encouraging to next generations of musicians. Ed Ward had experience in the Peace Corps, the military, politics, law and investing, but it's in the not-for-profit world that he made his mark as a successful entrepreneur.

He was as tough as old boots when it came to negotiations, especially with Band Agents and promoters, and was always frank with others who were gonna bite off more than they could chew when it came to taking a punt on a band.

I can still see him sitting at a table in a conference setting his Irish Fest Baseball hat - dispensing advice and wisdom to other event organisers in the room of countless meetings, of what to pay, what to split and how to deal with excessive green room demands! He was a key promoter of sharing.

Ed's knowledge of all matters musical was voluminous - the Ward Archive was a gem of an idea (I think of him and other family members) who wanted to start in the Bunting tradition of gathering up those early 20th Century recordings and 19th century music manuscripts of our ancestors, who brought little more else with them on their emigrant voyages.

He was awarded the distinguished Presidents Medal for work in the field of Music, Arts and Culture with the Diaspora by Uachtaran Michel D Higgins in a ceremony at the Aras last November.

He was and will remain a giant of a man in the pantheon of Irish Festival and Event history. He has done more than all the agencies of both States- to bring our island culture to newer and younger audiences. Ed promoted fusion, Celtic rock, folk, trad, innovations with pipes, even bag pipes, and sought sincerely to allow his lakeside arena to be a space for all Celtic folk to come together and explore the similarities, not just their differences.

I was an invited guest to two of the Milwaukee Festivals in 08, I think, and 10. On each occasion, I was made warmly at ease by Ed, wearing one his various hats - either through Founda-

Continued on facing page

Ed Ward

Continued from previous page

tion or Festival Entertainment Chair. He was the same with Bishops, Mayors, Ministers, Musicians, Media or indeed his most beloved of all - his family of volunteers.

Chuck, his younger brother who had a beautiful voice and could give as good a rendition as the late Brendan Grace of the "Dutchman," was President of the Festival in August 2010, he was in the final stages of what called him home and in some considerable distress moving around the site in his golf buggy with a serene cheerfulness.

I still remember Ed and Sister making the trek to Ireland in November, just three short months later, to attend the Producers Conference, only to be cruelly whisked back ahead of schedule with the news of Chuck's death.

Ed was one of life's generous givers - not untypical of a festival or not for profit event founder. He had an aura that compelled you to make way to his campsite fire and join in his sing song.

My enduring memory of all is my last Scattering night (the huge Come All Ye of a Jam, of everyone that is on the bill over the 3 days, where we were all enjoying the revelry - even Eamon O Cuiv T.D. was moved to song!

Ed was a huge, huge fan of Tommy Makem, loved his repertoire and style, more importantly his companionship. The haunting notes of Tommy's "Will Ye Go Lassie Go" were played on the tin whistle and big Ed turned to me with tears in his eyes and says, "Jeeze, I really miss Tommy".

He'll miss Tommy no more. They and countless others who have spent a lifetime of passing on in Heany's words, "The Given Note," are enjoying not a Scattering, but a Gathering in the next realm.

I again would like to offer my sincerest sympathies to Ed's wife Cathy, his children and granddaughter, as well as his associates, colleagues at Irish Fest, the Irish and Celtic Festival Producers world and his many, many friends. at this very sad time.

Go Raibh a HANam Dilis (He is a pure soul). ■

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SAFE HOME



EDWARD J. WARD

JULY 14, 1945 ~ OCTOBER 13, 2019 (AGE 74)

Surrounded by his family, Edward James Ward, age 74, died peacefully at his home on Sunday, October 13, 2019 after a long battle with cancer. Ed was preceded in death by son Brendan and brother Chuck. He is remembered by his wife Cathy, sons Patrick, Sean (Melissa) and Conor, daughters Caitlin (Jimmy) and Kelly, grand-daughter Moira, brother Jack (Margaret), sister Colleen Kennedy (Tom) and sister in law Cathy. He will be further remembered by his many nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Ward served in the Peace Corp from 1967 to 1969, in the Malaria Abatement program in Thailand and served in the United States Army, during Vietnam, from 1970 to 1971; he was awarded a bronze star medal for his heroic service. In 1967, he received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Marquette University of College Arts and Sciences and in 1976 earned his Juris Doctor degree from Marquette University Law School. Through his professional career he worked in politics and in financial services; he worked for the county government, state government and federal government, and as a wealth advisor for Morgan Stanley.

Ward's involvement in the Greater Milwaukee community was extensive. He founded Milwaukee Irish Fest, the

Milwaukee Irish Fest Foundation and the John J. Ward Irish Music Archives and was one of the founding members of the Irish folk band Blarney. He was a member of the Wauwatosa Rotary Club and the United Ethnic Festivals. He served on the board of directors for Catholic Financial Life, CelticMKE, St. Charles Youth and Family Services and Tosa Tonight, and as president for the Shamrock Club of Wisconsin.

Ward was a source of inspiration for Irish musicians, colleagues and friends around the world. He received various awards for his services to the community, including his A Person for Others award from Marquette University Alumnae; he also received awards for his commitments in promoting Irish culture in America, including Ireland's Presidential Distinguished Service Award for the Irish Abroad.

No amount of accolades can match the profound pride and love he had for his family. Ward was a loving husband, father, grand-father, brother, uncle, mentor and friend. Humble in nature, he was charismatic and thoughtful. Many will remember him for his infectious laugh and his zest for life that followed everywhere he went.

Donations are appreciated to the Tommy Makem Cultural Legacy Fund or to the Irish Fest Talent Development fund in care of CelticMKE.

Obit courtesy of www.BeckerRitter.com.

JAMES S. "NAILS" McNEA



(age 63), beloved husband of Shelley (nee Botson); proud father of Rory, Morgan and Shane (Leah); adored Hoppa of Finn and Keira; Son of

Bill and Amy (nee Quati); brother to Laura (deceased), Maureen, Michael, Sheila, Dan, Amy (deceased) and Margaret; the cool, favorite brother-in-law and uncle of many. Retired from Cuyahoga County in 2009. Active member of AA for 24 years. Longtime Rugby player, coach, mentor and inspiration to many friends he calls family. He fought the good fight till the end on Saturday October 12, 2019. Family suggests memorial contributions to Hospice of the Western Reserve.

Obituary courtesy of McGorray Funeral Home www.mcgorray.com

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Black 47: A Movie Review

By Patrick Conlin, Jr.

The Great Hunger, An Gorta Mor. Those who are not familiar with the transcendental event, may consult the seminal account, a book entitled “An Gorta Mor”, what else? There are scads more.

I like “Paddy’s Lament,” a bit shorter and more victim oriented. The grossly uninformed use the term, “Potato Famine.” We all know there can be no famine in a region or country that exports shiploads of food.

More like genocide, I say, but we’ll leave that discussion for another time. The reason most of us who are third generation Irish Americans are here in the U.S., is because of this tragic, criminal five-year event.

The new movie, entitled “Black 47,” brings the physical reality into our laps, but in an entertaining and informative way. A 2018 production jointly funded by Bord Scannan and Film Fund Luxembourg, the film has been running on Showtime on Demand (free if you have Showtime) for a few months.

Having done a bit of reading on the period, I am amazed at what I feel is the stark realistic settings. The scenery is harshly beautiful, filmed in Connemara as it was. The cast is first rate.

Stephen Rea, from “Michael Collins” and “The Crying Game,” plays a wily local, seemingly a “Castle Irishman,” with his own way of pulling the beards of the “lords” without their realizing it.

Barry Keoghan, who had a prominent role in “Dunkirk,” plays a young Irishman who is a soldier of the Crown, who is molded and shocked by what he sees. The star is James Frecheville, who plays another Irishman, Martin O’Feeney, who took the Kings shilling, joined the British army a few years before the worst of the hunger, and went off to fight in English foreign wars, in India (the part that is now Afghanistan).

Heroic but disillusioned, he deserts and returns to his home in Connemara to find starvation, fever, evictions, mass death and emigration, and his own family destroyed. His piercing eyes look ominously on the scene.

Also starring is Hugo Weaving, who I recognized but was not sure why. My wife

Janet informed me that he was in things like “Lord of the Rings” and maybe even Harry Potter. How could I have missed him?

He is also facially captivating, with minimal dialogue, as an Orangeman and R.I.C. detective who had also fought in Afghanistan in the same Connaught Rangers, a regiment of the British army wholly recruited in Ireland. Good performances are given by actors who play the landlord, a British army captain, the bloody R.I.C. (Royal Irish Constabulary) sergeant, and the sister-in-law of O’Feeney.

Much of the dialogue is in the Irish language, with subtitles, and other parts in English. It becomes a point of intense contention, with English characters scorning ‘that aboriginal rambling.’ As a third-generation Irish person, I had few actual first-hand connections to the old country, except a grandmother who constantly called me “PO-rik” and “Porika.” In my 40s, I was thrilled to learn that she was calling me “Patrick” in Irish.

One scene opens in a small, packed courtroom presided over by a bewigged English judge, who announces to a ragged young man, “PORik O’Reilly, you are charged with stealing a sheep from the estate of Lord Kilmichel. How do you plead?” The first two times I watched, I missed the first word, PORik. I was smiling. How many Patricks have been called PORik over the centuries?

We think some of my people came from the Galway-Mayo area, hard-hit Great Hunger places. I finally felt a direct connection to Ireland, not as much as those of you who are lucky enough to actually have direct current contact with relatives in Ireland, but a real contact nevertheless.

I recommend that you do not miss it. After six viewings, I bought a copy on Amazon for \$12.00.

One slight criticism, some of the extras playing soldiers looked too young to me. But, at age 75, everybody looks too young to me.

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Hibernian Freedom for All Ireland (FFAI) Speaker’s Tour Returns to Ohio

The Ohio Hibernians are honored to host the FFAI Speakers Tour, featuring Mark Thompson, CEO of Relatives for Justice in Belfast. Last year, the Cleveland Hibernians hosted the event on Friday November 16 at Tara Hall, 274 East Innis Avenue, Columbus, OH. 43207. Doors open at 6pm. Speaker at 7pm.

Entertainment will be had before and after the talk. Everyone is welcome and donations will be accepted at the door. All AOH and LAOH divisions are encouraged to make a donation to the National FFAI fund in order to support this event and our work in the North of Ireland. Donations should notate Ohio FFAI event. Any excess funds may be designated to programs qualified for FFAI.

This past February, I had the privilege of meeting Mark Thompson during the AOH Freedom for All Ireland Tour. He is an excellent speaker and a great advocate for human rights, peace and justice in the North of Ireland. This is a crucial time with Brexit and its effect on the Good Friday Agreement. Come hear the first-hand story of families seeking truth and justice for the loss of their loved ones.

Irish America needs to be aware and see how we can help. With this column is included Mark Thompson’s biography, provided by Danny O’Connell, AOH National Vice-President:



- 1 – West Awake
- 2 – Loch Erie
- 8 – Nathan Henry
- 9 – Andrew McManus
- 15 – New Barleycorn
- 16 – Mossy Moran
- 22 – Island Doctor
- 23 – Other Brothers
- 27 – Thanksgiving Eve w/ Music Men,
- 29 – Skinny Moo
- 30 – Donal O’Shaughnessy

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“Mark Thompson is a founder member and the CEO of Relatives for Justice. He is responsible for the strategic development and management of Relatives for Justice and has overseen the growth of the organization from a successful and dedicated voluntary campaigning group to an established professional human rights, advocacy and support organization.

Relatives for Justice sets the bar on best practice for victims and survivors of conflict in Ireland. Mark has overseen the establishment of a holistic model of support for families affected by conflict violations, ensuring effective support for redressing human rights abuses. These are partnered by a range of services, including therapeutic support.

Under Mark’s tenure Relatives for



Mark Thompson

Justice has become an internationally recognized and highly regarded human rights NGO. Mark’s experience in pro-actively holding those responsible to account and in ensuring that the needs and experiences of victims of the conflict in Ireland are identified and championed makes him one of the most recognizable and respected figures in the debate on how we deal with the past.

As an advocate in the field of human rights, Mark has been central to key strategic litigation, not least around Article 2 of the ECHR in both holding the UK to account, but also in re-established these rights, ensuring that they are upheld in all areas of legacy investigation and transitional justice mechanisms.

Mark has made representations on families’ behalf to the US Congress and the United Nations, European Parliament, European Court, as well as to governments in both Ireland, Britain and across the globe.” ■

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ILLUMINATIONS

By J. Michael Finn



Michael McGovern, the Puddler Poet

Recently, I received a phone call from the esteemed AOH historian, Richard Quinn in Youngstown. He wanted to inform me of Irish immigrant and Youngstown resident Michael McGovern, known as the Puddler Poet. Richard has been working for several years with Irish radio and TV journalist, James Fahey, researching Michael McGovern's Youngstown history. Michael McGovern was born in October of 1847 in the townland of Castlefield, near Williamstown, County Galway, to John Govern and Bridget Flynn. We don't know a lot about his early life. We know that he was educat-

ed at a Hedge School. As educating Irish children was often not permitted, secret schools were organized by itinerant teachers. These schools were often held outdoors among the hedges; hence they were known as Hedge Schools. McGovern received an education in the basics, including Latin. He also learned Irish history by the fireside, listening to the older generation tell stories of old Ireland and its fight for freedom. Leaving school behind, he was apprenticed to a shoemaker for a time, but he soon found the trade was not to his liking.



Michael McGovern

He sailed for England in 1866. He was able to find employment in Sheffield City, Yorkshire, as a steel mill laborer. In Sheffield he also met and married his wife, Anne Murphy in 1872. He also began working for the secret Irish Republican Brotherhood there. In 1880, McGovern had to flee England as his activity with the IRB had become discovered. He was smuggled into the US in order to escape capture by the authorities. He soon was able to send for his wife to join him. His history in the US picks up about 1882, when obtained work as a "puddler" at the Catasauqua Steel and Iron Company, near what is now Fullerton, in eastern Pennsylvania. What is a puddler? Along with "breaker boy"

and "gandy dancer," it is one of those occupations that no longer exist. Puddling was a method of turning pig iron into wrought iron. The puddler's job was to stir the molten metal in a furnace with an iron bar and then gather it at the end of a rod while the molten metal thickened. As you might expect, the labor was strenuous and extremely dangerous. The intense heat and fumes caused puddlers to have a very short life expectancy.

McGovern left the mill in Pennsylvania about 1888-1890, and then moved his family to Youngstown, Ohio, where he worked as a puddler in the old "Siberia Mill" of the Cartwright-McCurdy plant. But McGovern had other interests during his tenure making iron. Throughout his career and during his down time, McGovern would write poems about his work at the mill. As a member of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers, McGovern was a staunch defender of labor.

He wrote about labor's struggle against management and the importance of labor unions. He wrote about Ireland and Irish history, as well. McGovern referred to himself as, "The Puddler Poet." Of course, he did not leave behind his love of Ireland. He continued his involvement with the Irish Republican Brotherhood in the US. It is believed that he was a member of Clann na Gael. Many of his poems were published in the Gaelic American, John Devoy's newspaper. His poems were also pub-

lished in the Youngstown Vindicator and The Telegram.

McGovern's poems fall into three categories: rolling mill rhymes, labor and miscellaneous poems, and amorous verses "to show that a rolling mill man has a heart as susceptible to the purest motives of love as those who have millions wherewith to purchase a title."

McGovern was also a very active member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in Youngstown. According to James Fahy, "From an AOH point of view McGovern was deeply involved in the work of the Ancient Order and was - in a sense - Ohio's - AOH Poet Laureate."

He wrote a poem, Welcome A.O.H. Men, which may have been a greeting to those attending an AOH function in Youngstown. In it he wrote:

For Ireland's triumph
and her woes:
For virtues that enhance
her glory;
For wrongs inflicted by her foes
That go to make the
blackest story.
For love of Freedom,
- always her's;
Which love, may yet its crown
accord her
Céad Mile fáilte -Visitors -
True members of her
Ancient Order.

In 1899 the Vindicator Press published a book of his poems titled, Labor Lyrics. In the introduction McGovern wrote, "Puddlers are a boastful class of workmen. I therefore, in keeping with their dignified practice, make the boast that I consider myself the only puddler

that ever stood 'top of the earth' who had the daring to issue a volume of poems."

During a strike at the Youngstown mill, McGovern decided to leave the iron industry and he took a job with the State of Ohio as an oil inspector. He eventually retired.

Thanks to publication of his poems, McGovern became known nationally as a poet of the labor movement. But, that was not his only talent; he apparently was also an artist. He never had any artistic training but managed to produce many paintings.

In 1904, he returned to Ireland for the first time since his departure. He reportedly came back a little disappointed. "All they did was have parties for me," he said, "I didn't get a chance to see the country"

McGovern continued to write poems right up until his death of a heart attack at age 86, on April 2, 1933. He left behind a large quantity of unpublished poems that were never released. He was survived by his wife Anne, and four children. He had twenty-one grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. His wife passed away just a few years later, in 1935.

McGovern's funeral was held at St. Columba's Church in Youngstown and he is buried at Calvary Cemetery there as well. Inscribed on his grave stone are words that he wrote himself:

"Just place a rock over me
And chisel there that all may know it
Here lies the bones of M. McG
Whom people called The Puddler Poet"

There is a project underway in Williamstown, Ireland to research McGovern's life and work in Ireland, England and the United States. It is being led

by Jim Fahy in conjunction with the Williamstown Heritage Society and its chairman Leo Finnegan.

Fahy is also working on a soon to be published book regarding McGovern. Of course, the project is also being assisted by Richard Quinn in Youngstown. ■

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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ON THIS DAY IN IRISH HISTORY NOVEMBER

3 November 1917 - Conor Cruise O'Brien, writer, historian, academic and politician, born in Dublin. He figured prominently in the movie, "The Siege of Jadotville."

(43) playwright, novelist, short story writer and journalist, dies. He was known for The Weaver's Grave.

4 November 1908 - The Women's Franchise League, Ireland's chief militant suffrage organization, is established by Hanna Sheehy-Skeffington and Margaret Cousins.

16 November 1965 - Death of W. T. Cosgrave, first President of the Executive Council of the Irish Free State (1922-32).

8 November 1847 - Birth in Dublin of Bram Stoker, author of Dracula.

18 November 1922 - Court martial of Erskine Childers for his role in the Irish Civil War.

10 November 1798 - Theobald Wolfe Tone convicted for treason during the Irish Rebellion of 1798. Wolfe Tone was a leading figure in the United Irishman Irish independence movement, and is regarded as the father of Irish republicanism.

21 November 1920 - Also known as "Bloody Sunday"- 14 British intelligence officers are shot dead in Dublin by the I.R.A. Later in the afternoon, British forces shoot twelve civilians at a soccer match in Dublin. That evening three Irish prisoners are killed by their British captors at Dublin Castle.

14 November 1918 - Seamus O'Kelly

Kavanaugh (63), poet, died.

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AKRON IRISH

By Lisa O'Rourke



Seanadh

A group of women are staggering around, bent over with laughter. The cause is everything and nothing. It is the invisible thread, the shorthand of long-lasting relationships; the understanding of the ridiculous that transcends verbiage.

This last weekend felt like my friends' version of "The Big Chill." It was high school reunion time; we laughed, we cried, and we wallowed in the particular type of nostalgia that oozes out of this type of gathering. They are a great group of people that accept and enjoy each other. After such a time, how could I not think about friends.

The title of the article is a word that I stumbled across, and the meaning was



prophetic about the weekend to come. It is a word that in English would most closely mean loyalty. In literal translation, the word at the beginning, sean is the word for old and the second part of the compound is adh, which is luck.

There is no doubt in the minds of anyone acquainted with Irish culture that loyalty and friendship are traits that are highly valued. Perhaps those are rivaled or surpassed by family and spiritual life, but not by much. In a category above is the category of loyalty and old friends.

There are so many levels of friendship that exist in the world today. The digitized world has created both more connections and more loneliness among people, in direct proportion to each other. There are Facebook friends that you have never met, coworkers, neighbors, people who enjoy your interests, and real friends. The last group is the gold standard of friendships.

We have written words describing friends going back as far as Aristotle, who proposed that we humans are social by nature. He was also the man to note that there are different kinds of friendship and those ideas still hold.

There is a friendship of utility, a friendship of pleasure, and a friendship of good. While we understand the other types of friendship, the work buddies, and the weekend friends, it is the last one that is the standard. The friendship of good, the friend in need is a friend indeed, the winter spring summer or

fall, all you have to do is call friend.

Many sayings in Ireland speak to the blessing of having great friends. Of course, the Irish can also forget anything but a grudge. Both are true there as much as anywhere else, but I think that the former more so than the latter.

Ireland, being so rural so long, and still is to a point, a place where most people take care when they choose their battles. It takes a significant transgression to warrant a grudge and by the

time you are there, you have worked hard for the privilege. One of my favorite examples of Irish friendship is the movie, *Waking Ned Devine*. In the film, the population of a very small town find themselves in a large and unique situation that causes them to behave in ways that are unorthodox but have their own morality.

The character in the film who is irredeemable and reprehensible is the one who acts out of greed and self-interest. In the US, that person might be portrayed as a heroic individualist. Generations of hard times have strengthened the need to work as a community in Ireland. Friendship is also survival, acting together and sharing what you have.

Friendships are an interesting phenomenon; they are intensely personal and individual by nature and yet there are national characteristics too. Roddy Doyle, the Irish author of several well-known books set in Dublin, like *The Commitments*, once commented that Irish men are pretty dependent on their friendships. Maybe even more so than the populations of other Western cultures.

They make eye contact more and speak more to each other on the street, even if they are strangers. Pub culture is about socializing more than drinking. If you don't want to speak or be spoken to, stay home. The women in Ireland that I am friends with are more stoic and less needy than their American counterparts. You won't meet too many Irish women that you would accuse of "too much information" unless they thought that it was too funny of a story not to pass on.

The blessings of good friends are no lie. We may no longer be that rural society that depends on the help of friends and neighbors, but we do. No less than

your resilience to life's setbacks is shaped by your connections to others, even four-legged ones.

Friendships are transformational, people change through relationships. Saying that, relationships are idiosyncratic. What is the right thing to one person may be the wrong one to another. While we can be sensitive and change to an extent, we also need to find where we fit.

You may be the McDonald's of friends, a person with broad appeal or you may be a more esoteric treat with a loyal following. It is difficult to judge the relationships of others. One group may want to cry it out, and another want to laugh, forget and move on. Friendships cannot be judged by outsiders. There are not universal rules, but a cork for every bottle.

Our Irish friends are different. There is an ease in company and an expectation of hospitality. You always offer food, drink and even accommodation. We have been on both ends of this equation and I can only say I had a surprising number of guests in Akron.

I'd be terrified to move somewhere exciting. Comfort is informal, favors are taken for granted and there is an element of timelessness. It is hard to explain, but the relationships that I have with people there are very important to all of us, and they are renewed each time we meet. So, keep in mind the saying of an old auntie of mine, and keep those old friends for they are gold.

There are good ships and there are wood ships, Ships that sail the sea, But the best ships are friendships, may they always be. ■

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 Gaeilge. She runs a Gaeilge 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.

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DUBLIN DIARIES

By Margaret Mary Hicks



Finding my Niche

Last time I wrote, I was in a very different headspace and a lot of things were still very uncertain. I am happy to say that I have finally gotten the chance to be acclimated to life in Dublin. I have made some great friends, traveled to the West and gained my confidence back with living independently again.

My program has a lot of wonderful people and I am glad to be in a position similar to what many others are going through. The students in my cohort are from all over the world so I am constantly surrounded by new perspectives, cultures and diversity.

While I hoped there would be more Irish students in my program, I am grateful that Trinity is such an inclusive environment where we can all rely on each other for the unique skills and experiences each of us bring to the table. I have found a group of friends that support each other and embrace me for who I am.

Most importantly, we can all have a good laugh and be really open and honest with each other. It is wonderful to have gained that support system so quickly and serves testament to how easy it is to find your niche.

At the end of September, a few other American students and I rented a car (much to my aunt's delight... not) and drove to the west coast for the Matchmaking Festival in Lisdoonvarna. It was an entertaining trip and I loved the opportunity to see County Clare.

While at the festival, we headed over to the Matchmaker Bar to meet William Daly, Ireland's only traditional matchmaker. We were sure to touch his lucky book, which as legend has it will bring you love and happiness with one hand, and with two hands you will be married within six months. Don't worry, I only used one hand.

The festival was such a cool experience. People of all ages came from all over the country to dance, drink and have a

good craic in Lisdoonvarna. It is a more traditional view of Ireland rather than the metropolitan Dublin, which was great to be able to experience.

While I love Dublin and the opportunity here, it is lovely to escape and relax for a weekend in the countryside. My friends and I want to return to Clare soon for a trip to the Cliffs of Moher and stay at the same Bed and Breakfast we did last time. It was a wonderful stay at with a couple from Birmingham who made one of the best full Irish breakfasts I've ever had.

While I originally had big plans to travel all over Europe on my weekends, I am also excited to explore everything Ireland has to offer. I am lucky to be in one of the most beautiful countries in the world and proud to call Ireland my home now.

Before I moved to Ireland, I used to always love how Irish family and friends would ask me when I was 'home' last. By home, they meant Ireland. It made me think about what it means to be a third-generation Irish American.

While other countries might be hesitant to embrace me as their own or force me to assimilate to their culture before it becomes my home, Ireland claims me as a resident and embraces me as their own.

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Beck and I at Kennedy's Pub in Drumcondra, Dublin to watch the All-Ireland Football Championship.

I love that Ireland will always be a home to me.

When I told my program director that my grandparents were born in Ireland, the first thing she said was, "Welcome home." I am honored to be able to call Ireland my home and it goes deeper than that. I am proud to represent my grandparents in the country they loved so dearly. It is great to celebrate my Irish heritage in Cleveland, but it feels all the more worthwhile to celebrate my Irish roots in Ireland.

Most importantly, I have become comfortable living in this city. My life is beginning to unfold here, and I am so happy for all the joys to come. It feels like so long ago that I was wishing to be back home, but with time and a little Irish luck, I am more confident in myself and my abilities.

Doing things on my own like eating by

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myself or shopping alone is something I never thought I would be comfortable with but having to find and do things independently has been an unbelievably rewarding experience. I have been able to navigate this city and get what I need on my own and while I do miss shopping trips with my mom, I am glad to be able to go home and show her my new boots on Facetime.

It is amazing thinking about how my grandparents came over on the boat through Ellis Island, not knowing when they would be able to speak to their family in Ireland again. I can't imagine not being able to call my family or send them a quick message when I am missing them.

For that reason, I am so grateful for the wonders of technology. I am also grateful to be able to share this experience not only for my own self-interest, but with others who can hopefully find my diary each month entertaining. Thanks for reading, everyone!

Slán go fóill. ■

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CLEVELAND COMHRÁ

By Bob Carney
@BobCarneyGTR



“The Mighty Fitz”

“Old Michigan steams like a young man’s dreams

The islands and bays are for sportsmen

And farther below Lake Ontario

Takes what Lake Erie can send her

And the iron boats go as the mariners all know

With the gales of November remembered.”

– Gordon Lightfoot, *The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald*

Late one evening, I was listening to Christy Moore’s CD “Ride On,” in particular, the tune “Back Home in Derry.” The lyrics were penned by Bobby Sands and were set to the music of “The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald,” by Canadian singer-songwriter Gordon Lightfoot.

Lightfoot had composed and performed his tune to commemorate the sinking and loss of lives on the bulk ore carrier SS Edmund Fitzgerald on Lake Superior on November 10, 1975.

He was inspired to write the tune after reading a Newsweek article on the event, “The Cruellest Month.” He considers it to be his finest work and became the second

biggest hit of his career.

But who was Edmund Fitzgerald?

Who was Edmind Fitzgerald and why was an ore freighter named for him?

John Fitzgerald was born in Ireland in the year 1833. Like many of his generation there, he emigrated to America during The Great Hunger, eventually making his way to Wisconsin.

John found work on the water, becoming a lake captain. He married Josephine Porter, who died in childbirth a few years later. He then married Josephine’s sister Lydietta. Of the eleven children he fathered, nine perished before reaching the age of five. One of the two that survived to adulthood was William Edmund Fitzgerald, born in 1859.

William also made his living in shipping, eventually owning and operating as president of The Milwaukee Drydock Co., which built and repaired ships. His son, Edmund Bacon Fitzgerald, was born March 1, 1895.

In his professional career, Edmund became an insurance executive, becoming a trustee of Northwestern Mutual in 1933 and moved up to vice-president that same year. He became president of the company in 1947. In 1958 he was elected chairman of the board and served in that position until he retired in 1960.

Northwestern Mutual had invested in the iron and mineral industries on a very large scale. The company built the 729 ft. Edmund Fitzgerald, an ore carrier. She was the largest vessel on the Great Lakes when she was launched in 1958.

The ship’s estimated worth at that time was \$7 million (about \$48.8 million in today’s dollar). She was designed and built by the Great Lakes Engineering Works to be within one foot of the maximum length allowed for the soon to be completed Saint Lawrence Seaway. The SS Edmund Fitzgerald was the first investment of this kind by an insurance company.



A Five-Star Ship

By freighter standards, she was a five-star ship, with carpeting, tiled restrooms, guest staterooms for passengers and air conditioning, even in the crew’s quarters. She had a large galley and a fully stocked pantry.

Originally coal fired, she was converted to burn oil during the winter of 1971-72. After construction was complete, Northwestern Mutual placed it’s charter with The Columbia Transportation Division of Oglebay Norton Co., based in Cleveland. For seventeen years, the “Mighty Fitz” carried iron ore from mines near Duluth to iron works in Detroit, Toledo and other Great Lakes ports. She had earned her reputation as a reliable workhorse.

On the Day

On the afternoon of November 9, 1975, she left the port in Superior, Wisconsin, bound for Detroit (not Cleveland as Lightfoot wrote). Captain Ernest M. McSorley was a veteran mariner with over forty years experience on the oceans and the Great Lakes. He had assumed command of the Fitz at the start of the 1972 shipping season and had commanded nine ships before the Fitzgerald.

McSorley had turned sixty-three years old a month and a half earlier and was due to retire at the end of the ’75 season; he was looking forward to returning to his home in the Toledo suburb of Ottawa Hills, Ohio. He was respected as a superb heavy weather captain.

The weather turned over night, with gale force winds, 60-70mph, driving rains and thirty to thirty-five foot waves. McSorley was in contact with the freighter SS Arthur M Anderson and had reported “being in difficulty.”

The Anderson was following the Fitz-

gerald and the two ships were monitoring each other’s progress through the storm, albeit with some difficulty.

Between the weather and the constant rise and fall of the ships in the monstrous waves, radio and even radar was sketchy at best. The last message the Anderson received from Captain McSorley was “We are holding our own.”

Shortly after 7:10 pm, the Anderson lost all contact with the Fitzgerald. Search efforts were futile and incredibly dangerous, but the Anderson searched the area where they believed the ship had gone down. They found no survivors, all twenty-nine on board were lost.

Many theories have been presented as to why the Fitzgerald went down, but even to this day after extensive study of the wreck, the exact cause is unknown. The sinking led to changes in shipping practices and regulations on the Great Lakes that included mandatory survival suits, depth finders, positioning systems and increased freeboard.

Freeboard is a term relating to the height that a ship sits in the water.

Increased freeboard, increases the drag on the vessel compromising speed but reduces the likelihood of taking on water. More frequent inspections would also be required. The most well known disaster on the Great Lakes has, in this way, benefited all those that make their livelihood on our lakes.

For further information: Great Lakes Shipwrecks and Survivals by William Ratigan; The Wave by Susan Casey; or visit Steamship William G Mather Museum, also built by the Great Lakes Engineering Works, in 1925. ■

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AT HOME, ABROAD

By Regina Costello



'Dirty Bread, Thin Porridge and Tea'

Emily Brontë’s famous Wuthering Heights was required reading when I attended secondary school. It is a book that I still grab from the bookcase, and continue to devour.

Snippets from the story come to mind during my first walk of these November days with my beloved wheaten terrier, Ashy. We walk alone and uninterrupted in the damp, dark crisp mornings, with leaves crackling underfoot at the break of day. Dawn slowly emerges, and the low-lying clouds create a gently moving mist hiding evidence of the civilization that surrounds us.

I can barely make out the trees, never mind the homes I pass. I imagine myself walking across a moor and enjoy the silence, the calm and the solitude of it all. A field, called The Acre on my grandfather’s farm, is the moor of my mind that I roam.

Many aspects of life depicted in this story remind me of the life and times of generations gone by as I walk. The barrenness, misery and simplicity of life evidenced in the book provide a path for my imagination to conjure up aspects of daily lives of my grandparents, and to a certain point, perhaps my parents too.

The houses of both sets of my grandparents still stand today, one outside Claremorris, County Mayo, and one in Castlerea, County Roscommon. Both houses now abandoned, come alive in photographs and stories that my parents shared of their upbringing, and my own memories of visits.

Evidence of a harsh life is abundant. No central heating. No indoor plumbing. No material or food luxuries. The bare necessities of life were provided without sundries. Just about. The daily toll of backbreaking farm work and the running of households was carried out under cold and wet conditions all year round. A

daylong dampness likely oozed through cotton and gaberdine that probably made one cold to the bone and vulnerable to all kinds of sickness.

Standard homes of a bustling kitchen with a massive hearth, one bedroom and a loft were not conducive to much comfort. “Narrow windows deeply set allow for little sunlight” and “high backed primitive chairs” in Wuthering Heights could be said of Irish homes in times gone by. “Dirty bread, thin porridge and tea” supplemented other meals of boiled vegetables and meats.

Many Irish homes built and dotted across the landscape can be described as “wuthering” –locations surrounded by fierce winds and wild stormy weather.

While the other main house in the novel, Thrushcross Grange, is the complete opposite of Wuthering Heights, ample evidence suggests that the Wuthering Heights abode is a closer depiction of the typical Irish homestead.

Fast forward to modern living today, I look at my twin teens in wonderment. I consider how vastly different their lives are to those of their grand and great-grand parents. And along my walks, I often wonder which is better. A social media posting in March by Emma Dalmayne referenced life today inconvenienced so much by technology unfortunately comes with a price:

“With all the things that you have, the opportunities, the technology, I’d like to think it [life] could be a world of pleasure, but I fear instead| it is a world of pressure; pressure to be the perfect mother, the perfect wife, the perfect friend, pressure to be successful, a boss, a leader.

If I had my time again, I wouldn’t create a to do list, I’d create a “don’t do” list. I’d give myself the time to indulge in the things I now understand to be the



most important... the most important word is being. Being lost in the moment, being at peace with the world, being kinder to myself, being kinder to others.

If I were a young woman now, I would spend more time being.” My walks with Ash allow me to contemplate life. Meandering on my moor these foggy mornings, thinking of my ancestors’ harsh existence bring questions to mind about which lifestyle is better. Having too little is miserable.

Having too much can also bring misery. A different type of misery.

I try and share with Neil and Fiona, snippets of the dirty bread, thin porridge and tea lifestyle of their grandparents. I fear my words fall on deaf ears. Their lives are filled with pressure from all sides, but I hope I can instill in them the need to find the moment, and stay in it.

Immigrants probably dwell too much upon family and times gone by, and long for children to be interested in where and what they came from. Perhaps it

may be more beneficial to visit the moor of the past with our kids, but more important, to park in the moment and take pleasure in simply being. The contemplative life. 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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A note from the Bigleys...

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all of the people that have made this and all of our productions possible starting with our dear friends on the stage. Also, to Debbie Muniak, Matt Tomek, and all the staff at the Medina Performing Arts Center for their professionalism and expertise. To Jordan and Brooke Bewley for the fabulous photography. To Brigid Krane for her stellar graphic design work. To the local businesses, on the square and beyond, that helped us to promote the show. In Particular, Gerry Quinn, Kevin Roberts, Sean Sullivan, and The Leneghan Academy of Irish Dance. A special thanks to John O'Brien Jr. and the Ohio Irish American News for including our program! Also, this year, we would like to extend a warm 'Rambling House' welcome to The Celtic Nations Society of Northern Ohio and the Room for More group from the Brunswick United Methodist Church. Finally, thanks to you, our patrons, who are our raison d'être.



THE KBB PRODUCTION COMPANY



Tomáseen Foley's A Celtic Christmas

Now in its 24th season, Tomáseen Foley's A Celtic Christmas recreates the joy and innocence of a night before Christmas in a remote farmhouse in the parish of Teampall an Ghleanntáin in the west of Ireland – when the neighboring families gather around the fire to grace the wintry night with the haunting melodies of traditional Irish Christmas carols, to raise the rafters with the joy of their music and to knock sparks off the flagstone floor with traditional dances, and to fill the night with the laughter of their stories.

PERFORMER BIOGRAPHIES



Tomáseen Foley: Storyteller, Director

Tomáseen was born on a small farm in the remote parish of Teampall an Ghleanntáin in the West of Ireland. "Tomáseen Foley's A Celtic Christmas" and "Tomáseen Foley's Irish Times" play to critical acclaim and packed concert halls around the US. year. The Oregon Cabaret has developed a hit musical from his story "Parcel From America." He has released two CDs: "Parcel From America" and a live recording, "The Priest and the Acrobat." tomaseenfoley.com



William Coulter: Musical Director, Guitar

William is an internationally acclaimed master of the steel-string guitar. In 2005, he won a Grammy for a track he contributed to a solo guitar compilation of Henry Mancini tunes, called Pink Guitar. He has been performing and recording traditional Celtic and American folk music for 30 years. The most recent of his eight CDs on the Gourd Music label are the acclaimed solo album, "The Road Home" and "Be Happy" with guitarist Ben Verdery. williamcoulter.com



Brian Bigley: Uilleann Pipes, Irish Flute, Whistles & Irish Dance

Brian Bigley has studied the uilleann pipes for nearly thirty years as a player, as well as a maker, of the instrument. He has toured North America and Europe extensively as both a musician and a dancer, appearing in shows such as the Omaha Symphony's 'Celtic Journey' and the Apollo's Fire Production 'Christmas on Sugarloaf Mountain' - the recording of which made it to number three on the Billboard Charts. Brian competed with great distinction at the World Irish Dance Championships and has placed second in the senior uilleann piping competition at the All-Ireland Fleadh Cheoil. Recently, he has produced and is touring a brand new show called 'Rambling House.' Brian now lives near Cleveland, Ohio, with his fiddler wife, Kristen, and their dancing children, James and Kathleen. www.brianbigleymusic.com



Eimear Arkins: Multi-Instrumentalist, Singer & Irish Dance

Eimear Arkins is a multi-instrumentalist, singer and dancer from County Clare, in the west of Ireland. She holds eleven

solo All-Ireland Fleadh Cheoil titles and has competed in all Ireland, European and World Dance Championships. She has toured with Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann throughout Ireland, Britain, North America and Canada, and represented Ireland in France at Rennes Expo; in Spain in La Noche Negra, in Shanghai, China at World Expo 2010, and in Milan, Italy at World Expo 2015. Her new solo album is entitled "What's Next?" www.eimeararkins.com



Kristen Bigley: Violin

Violinist/violin teacher Kristen Bigley has been playing the violin for 23 years. She studied classical violin at University of Akron and Youngstown State. Kristen often performs with local ensembles in both classical and folk genres, but most of all loves teaching violin/fiddle to local musicians out of her home near Cleveland, Ohio. Kristen and piper husband, Brian, live near Cleveland, Ohio with their dancing children, where they have formally started a family music business, The Bigley Music Workshop LLC.



Alyssa Reichert: Irish Dance

Alyssa Reichert has been dancing since the age of five. A national medal holder, Alyssa qualified for the World Irish Dance Championships four times. After competing, Alyssa danced locally as well as an American tour with Women of Ireland. In 2017, she was chosen to dance with Riverdance at the Gaiety Theatre in Dublin, Ireland. She toured a second time with Riverdance in late 2017, this time to China for two months. Alyssa has been a private lesson teacher and assists with classes at the Leneghan Academy of Irish dance in Cleveland, Ohio.



Marcus Donelly: Irish Dance

Marcus first started dancing at the age of ten, in second-hand dance shoes his father bought for fifteen shillings in Dublin, and went on to compete with distinction in the All-Ireland and World Dance Championships before becoming a full-time professional dancer at the age of sixteen. From Ireland to Luxemburg and from Moscow to Paris, France and Paris, Texas, his leading performances with shows such as Ragús, Rhythm of the Dance, Celtic Legends, and most recently in the U.S. with Celtic Crossroads have created one of the most exhilarating, truly creative Irish dancers performing today.



Leneghan Academy of Irish Dance: Irish Dancers

Catherine Leneghan founded the Leneghan Academy of Irish Dance in 1992 after training with two Cleveland legends: Theresa Burke and Bob Masterson, as well as many prestigious instructors both at home and abroad. While steeped in Irish tradition from an early age, she is certified as a teacher, adjudicator and grade examiner of Irish dance and is accredited through Dublin, Ireland and other regional and national associations. leneghanacademy.com

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- The Kerry Christmas Carol
- Abbey Reel/Over the Moor to Maggie
- Traditional Air - Uilleann Pipes Solo
- Slán le Máighe - Farewell to the Maigue
- Christmas Stories from Teampall an Ghleanntáin
- Quarter Inch Wick/Don Oíche úd I mBeithil - That Night in Bethlehem/Cregg's Pipes

- INTERMISSION -

IN THE LOBBY:

Artist CDs are available during intermission and after the show

Act II: 55 minutes

- Come West Along the Road
- Traditional Irish Toast/Christmas Stories from Teampall an Ghleanntáin
- The Wexford Carol/Slip Jig
- Irish Fiddle and Guitar Duet
- The Wren Song
- Traditional Irish Christmas Rambling House Deadly Dance Duel
- Christmas stories from Teampall an Ghleanntáin/The Heart of Christmas
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Years of competitive Irish Dancing paved the path for my career as a fitness professional. A big congratulations and thank you to my longtime friend, Brian Bigley, for continuing to bring the magical tradition of Tomásean Foley's A Celtic Christmas to our home across the pond. Nollaig Shona agus Athbhliain faoi Mhaise Daoibh.

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TOLEDO IRISH

By Maury Collins
@MauryCollins



The Kevin Bell Repatriation Trust

Some of you know that I work part time as a Family Support Person, for Newcomer Funeral Homes in Toledo. During the last week of September, Newcomer performed their services for a relatively young (55 years old) Irish immigrant. This person's parents and siblings lived in County Armagh Ireland.

We received a call from Ireland about a service that I was not aware of, the Kevin Bell Repatriation Trust. The propose of the Trust is to alleviate the financial hardship of bereaved families repatriating the body (bodies) of loved one(s) who have died abroad in sud-

den or tragic circumstances, back to Ireland.

Kevin Bell, from Newry, died in June in a hit-and-run accident in New York. The 26-year-old dancing champion and talented Gaelic player was one of seven children, including a twin brother.

"Kevin had been out, it was a Saturday night and he returned home at about half three in the morning, he got out of a taxi and a white van came speeding and struck him, drove on and then he was hit by a second car, but apparently he had been killed instantly," his father Colin explained. "We were fortunate or God was good in that



In loving memory of Kevin Bell 1986-2013

we didn't get a cold call from America. Kevin had been out to a friends', Sheamie Toner, and Sheamie rang his parents and then Vincent and Caroline came up and broke the news to us." An August 29, 2015 article titled; "Irish Lives: Family helps bring home bodies of those who die abroad" by Mark Hilliard in The Irish Times explains how the Fund was started. To honor their son, the Bells set up a repatriation trust fund.

"I don't know if it's just an Irish thing [but] it was very important for us to get Kevin's body home," Bell says of the time. Thankfully, getting him back was relatively straightforward. The Bells had family in Manhattan and Kevin's employers paid the bills.

"When Kevin was killed, my hometown in Newry went into a frenzy of fundraising to bring him home. They amassed an incredible amount of money, about £150,000, (\$185,000)," Bell says. "We had this money and we decided that it was best used to help other families."

Often families, desperate with grief, are unable emotionally or financially to cope with the process. The trust is regularly praised for its urgency and compassion. Those behind it ask for nothing in return and yet families are quick to fundraise. No State financing has been sought and the trust has no plans to seek any.

Many have said about the support Colin gives families while this is going on. They don't know how they do it because it must bring back memories [of Kevin]. But that's exactly why they do it. It helps them deal with it. "It's Kevin's legacy. It gives us a bit of comfort that some good has come out of his death. And we will continue to do it."

Since June 16th 2013, the Kevin Bell Repatriation Trust (KBRT) have now repatriated 797 loved ones to their families in Ireland from countries worldwide, such as Australia,

Argentina, South Korea, USA, Canada, Ecuador, Cambodia, India, and Uganda, to name just a few. The Trust repatriates approximately 10-15 loved ones back to Ireland per month. The Trust operates on a 32-county basis for all sides of the community, creed, color and circumstances of death. There has been repatriation to all 32-counties of Ireland from forty-one different countries. Costs per repatriation can rise up to \$15,000, depending on the circumstances of the death, local charges and hospital release costs.

Conditions of the Trust Awarding Financial Assistance:

The Trust is available for costs of repatriation to Ireland only. Financial assistance to be offered in circumstances of sudden or tragic death (including suicide). Financial assistance to be paid upon confirmation of paid expenditure. Financial assistance to be paid for repatriation costs exclusively. The Trust is to operate on a 32-County basis. The Trust is to have a discretionary clause to cover unforeseen circumstances where it may wish to provide additional financial assistance. The Trust would grant assistance in good faith. A 'claw-back' option applies in the event of the applicant raising sufficient funds themselves to return the money back to the Trust.

In 2016/17 KBRT were the GAA's official charity and also the official charity for Cork International Airport and Belfast International Airport.

Donations are accepted online, including through Paypal. If you would like information about donating to this wonderful cause, go to: <https://kevinbellrepatriationtrust.com>.

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TERRY FROM DERRY

By Terry Boyle



Hunkering down

I remember a good friend of mine, a Benedictine monk, would use a nice analogy to show how diversity of opinion can be good thing, if we recognize/ use it to see our own limited viewpoint. It was an analogy that I would use myself in class.

When you're standing up looking down at students, your view of the room is towards the back. They are looking up or behind you. We share the same room but we each have a different perspective of that same room. I could argue that my vantage point is the right one, and they equally could argue the same point. If we trusted each other enough and shared our differing perspectives, instead of pontificating about being right, we might find ourselves sharing information that would expand our view of the room.

It's a very simple analogy but it captures the essence of diversity. Whether it's religion, politics or any other controversial subject, there are many diverse viewpoints from a lot of different angles. Once you encounter a group who claim to have the whole truth, it's time to leave them to their elitist monopoly of the truth and find a more grounded group of individuals.

In the bible there's a saying, 'the beginning of wisdom is fear of the Lord.' If I can be creative in my interpretation of this verse, I would say that the beginning of wisdom is admitting to not being completely right. Humility requires an acknowledgment of limitations.

I remember as a child, before the Troubles began in Derry, we lived beside a Presbyterian family. There was no discussion about religious differences. Economically, we were all in the same boat, hard-up and living from hand-to-mouth. Friendships were easily established and, on the surface, we were all the same. However, once it came to Sundays, things were different. After

mass, we would play football in the park, the Presbyterians were Sabbatarians, so no footie for them.

On one occasion, they invited us to come with them on a church excursion. The idea of the church providing a day out for its families was incongruous to us. It's funny how kindness and generosity can bring out the worst in our thinking. For some reason, the trip highlighted the differences between us more than not playing football on a Sunday. For one thing, I was wondering why we didn't have church outings or free lunches. Such questions led me to conclude, wrongly of course, that because they weren't part of the one true church, Presbyterians had to compensated with 'free stuff'.

My childish reasoning was, of course, indicative of a larger problem that would later escalate to even more insidious levels in Northern Ireland. Once the Troubles began, the religious and political differences became im-

possible to ignore.

Within a short period of time, neighborhoods began to change. Protestants, fearing a backlash from the marauding Catholics, moved across the river to safer areas. Mixed areas quickly became singularly territorial and homogenous.

When sectarianism sets in, it is like a disease that destroys any sense of a common humanity. Everything people do from the other side is interpreted in the worst possible way. You become blinded to the goodness in those who are different.

When you feel under attack, the natural reaction is to be defensive, and this knee-jerk response exacerbates the divisions between communities. At such times, fact rarely matters; you're willing to believe the urban myths, uncritically, because it allows you to justify your prejudice.

We all occupy the same room, but we see different things. Our vision is limited. Unless we're willing to sit somewhere else, get a different perspective, or listen to someone else's view of the room, we'll continue to think and believe our view is the correct one.

This kind of thinking leaves no space for critical thought. All of our energy is spent in demonizing the other side and defending our own position. The cycle of anger and recrimination intensifies and can lead to darker levels of violence. When those corrosive attitudes set in any hope of communicating in an honest and open way is lost.

I'm reminded of Plato, Simile of the Cave, where a group of individuals are chained and bound together in a dark cave. None of them has ever seen daylight. When one prisoner escapes, he makes his way to the sunlight. His journey towards the light is fraught with fear and trepidation.

He is venturing on a path he's never taken before. His curiosity drives him towards an experience that will change him for life.

When he realizes how much more there is to the world he returns to the cave to tell the others. They refuse to believe him. His good news is met with hatred. He is no longer is one of them, blind and bound, and must be alienated.

The quest towards enlightenment is not without risks. To step outside of one's community and experience life on the other side changes you. Such a journey makes it almost impossible to share in the ignorance and bigotry of your own collective. To be different is to appreciate those who are different and who see things from another side of the room.

Life intrudes at times, and we lose our perspective. We can get caught up with the politics or religious tribalism of the times and we stop seeing people as people but rather as, Seamus Heaney puts it, 'the other side of the house.' ■

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Cincinnati Strongman Tours Scotland to Lift Ancient Stones

By Barry Conway

Life's journey takes us down many paths, as we try and find our place in the universe. Sometimes, these turns can be unexpected. For North Ridgeville, Ohio strongman Sean Urquhart, his journey took him down the discovery of the ancient ritual of stone lifting.

Gone are the fancy workout centers or even weights with handles or bars. It is simply muscle and flesh on stone, and the right of passage into manhood.

Sean Urquhart grew up an athlete in the Cincinnati area. Nine years ago, once he finished university study, he began participating as an amateur in the heavy events at highland games. Sean was first exposed to the heavy events as a boy while visiting his grandparents at the St. Andrews Highland Games in Lavonia, MI.

Sean did well from the start, and after only a few years, became a professional, traveling to highland games as far away as Alaska, Florida and Maine. For years, Sean trained in his garage on evenings and weekends after his duties as a Physical Education and Health teacher at Euclid High School were over, then traveled throughout the summer competing at highland games. Still, he longed for something more that would connect him with his ancestors.

In early 2019, Sean watched an episode of Strongland, which is a Netflix documentary on strongman rituals throughout the world. Episode two is Stoneland, which details stone lifting in Scotland. In clan society, lifting of a weighted stone was part of a rite of passage as a boy reached manhood.

In an instant, Sean was hooked, went into his back yard, found a big stone and began training. In April, he booked flights for he and his father, Brian Urquhart, to tour the country and lift some of Scotland's most prominent stones, some which date back

centuries.

Once landed, Sean began his journey with Scotland's most famous stones, the Dinnie Stones, which are named after Donald Donnie, who was Scotland's first sports superstar. Dinnie dominated athletic events, winning the Scottish Championship in all but one year between 1856-1876.

Let the Lifting Begin: The Dinnie Stones date back to 1860, and are massive, weighing a combined 733 lbs. Sean's lift was successful, becoming the 122nd person to lift the stones, and only the 15th to lift them side-by-side.

Next was the Inver Stone, weight 265 lbs., which is considered by some to be the father of the modern Atlas Stones because of its round shape. This stone was lifted by Scottish strongman A.A. Cameron, who was Scottish Champion from 1909-1914. Sean lifted this stone to his shoulder with relative ease.

After lifting the 13th century "Clans Putting Stone," the Barevan Stone, Sean attended the Tain Highland Games, which is held at the beautiful Glenmorangie Distillery. Sean finished the day tied for first among all competitors.

Next were the Stones of Glen Roy, which date back to the Gaelic speaking culture before the defeat of the Catholic Jacobites in 1745 at Culloden Mor. The two stones are massive, with Grey Mountain weighing 302 lbs. and Big Red weighing 293 lbs. These stones were used to settle disputes, with the winner having to balance Grey Mountain on top of Big Red.

The Dalwhinnie Stone was next. Weighting a relatively light 225 lbs., Sean managed to drink a dram while holding this stone on his shoulder.

Next was the Newtonmore Stone, which sits at the base of a single ancient tree. It marks the entrance to an ancient



Cinci Strongman Sean Lifting the famous Dinnie Stones.

coffin road, where loved ones would carry the deceased along the road to their final resting place.

Legend has it that the stone lifting took place during the march down the road, with the successful stone lifters carving their name with the date into the ancient tree.

The Fianna Stone, with a weight of 280 lbs., was next on the journey. This stone is said to be the oldest lifting stone in Scotland. In order for a boy to reach manhood, he must lift the stone above the plith (which is approximately one meter).

The Puterach Stone was a relatively small stone near the grave of Rob Roy and needed to be placed on another stone. The Ardvorich Stone was Sean's favorite stone, as it was the largest single stone, weighing in at 335 lbs.

Next came the Sadlin Mare Stone of Sma Glen (218 lbs.) and the Castle Menzies Stones (255 lbs.), also known as the chieftain's stone. In clan society, being

clan chief wasn't a birth right.

A Clan Chieftain needed to prove his worthiness. So much was stone lifting intertwined into the Gaelic culture that you could not become chief until you carried this stone.

While on this journey, Sean did attempt to find information about his Clan, Clan Urquhart, but was unsuccessful. This isn't unusual, as many highland clans were moved, in mass, during the highland clearances to destinations such as Nova Scotia and North Carolina. Still, his journey did connect him with a part of who he is, a strongman from Clan Urquhart, North Ridgeville, Ohio. Sean competes annually at the Ohio Scottish Games & Celtic Festival, which will move to the Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds in Berea on June 27, 2020. ■

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The Extraordinary Stories of Northern Ireland

By Maria Kesic

This past summer, I went on the John Carroll University Ireland Peacebuilding program to study the Troubles and peacebuilding efforts in Northern Ireland, and began enchanted with the city of Belfast. Belfast had a distinctly Cleveland feeling: it was a city trying to make a comeback from its heyday as an industrial powerhouse. I felt kindred spirits with the people of Belfast; they talked a lot of smack about their city, but don't you dare disrespect it. God help you if you blaspheme this corner of Heaven.

Much like my own city of Cleveland, Belfast can be mischaracterized. The narrative of Belfast isn't one of hatred and tragedy (though it has endured plenty of hatred and tragedy during the thirty-year period known as the Troubles, when 3500 died in sectarian and political violence from 1968-1998). The narrative that I felt while there was one of resilience. In spite of the pain of those who survived the Troubles, they are moving toward peace--not always in a straight line--but forward nonetheless. Unfortunately, we think we already know the story and so we forget to listen to it in its entirety.

Chimamanda Ngozi Adiche's TED talk, The Danger of a Single Story, addresses what happens when a narrative is told through one narrow lens. Adiche says,

The Palestinian poet Mourid Barghout writes that if you want to possess a people, the simplest way to do it is to tell their story and to start with, 'secondly'. Start the story with the arrows of the Native Americans, and not with the arrival of the British, and you have an entirely different story. Start the story with the failure of the African state, and not with the colonial creation of the African state, and you have an entirely different story.

I think just as damaging can be to end someone's story without telling the last chapter, or at the very least, letting people know about the existence of an epilogue. How do we tell the stories of Northern Ireland? End with the British paratroopers killing peaceful protestors on Bloody Sunday, and not the extensive police reform and later the British



At the top of Cave Hill, Belfast, May 2019, author second from right.

government's apologies, and you have an entirely different story. End with a man's wife being killed in a bombing, and not with him moving his daughter into a diverse neighborhood because he doesn't want her to be afraid of someone just because of their religion, and you have an entirely different story.

It's very easy to never question the narratives your parents, your school, or your church told you. It makes everything so simple, to spend your entire life never examining your beliefs. Deciding that you don't want to continue as a passive actor in your own life takes great courage--courage to wonder what else is out there and courage to break the social norms you had, up until now, adhered to. I look at some of the people who lived through the Troubles who could not find the courage to question or examine their life. They could not look to see that maybe their words were flawed. They chose the easier path to live in a narrative that reinforces their beliefs.

After the academic portion of the trip concluded each day, we would go out in the evenings for dinner and to experience pub culture in Belfast. We interacted with a lot of Queen's University students our own age. I found an overwhelming sentiment that my gen-

eration has no interest in continuing or reigniting the conflict, not because they fear violence, but because they don't care about the sectarian divides. I'm not sure whether this is the work of peacebuilding efforts implemented after the Good Friday Agreement or just indicative of a twenty-year-old's desire to do the exact opposite of their parents. However, not choosing to reignite conflict is not the same as choosing to integrate with the "other". For example, one evening I was speaking with a boy from the Protestant community who stated he "would never marry a Catholic". For many, this is enough: not inciting violence against the Catholics. This boy doesn't live in a rage against Catholics, he just prefers to be separated from them.

The phrase I heard most often on this trip was, "we were just ordinary people,

living in extraordinary circumstances". These words came from the mouths of former paramilitaries recalling some of their darkest days, as well as from the mouths of peacemakers who looked beyond the violence to see a better future. At first, I did not understand this, but by the end of my trip, I started to see what they meant. No one is born hoping to bear arms and kill their neighbor, just as no one dreams of running into gunfire to save an injured person and wave a white flag. It's easy to call one side monsters and the other victims, but conflicts are rarely that simple. Sitting face to face with the people who wore every hat imaginable in this conflict, and seeing their ugliest and most beautiful parts coexisting in the same story, is the only way I can think of to understand what it means to be human.

About midway through our time in Belfast, we made our way to Cave Hill for a hike that I, from personal experience, do not recommend climbing in Doc Martens. However strenuous the hike, the view was worth it. From this perspective, you can't see where West Belfast meets East Belfast, where Catholic meets Protestant. By sight alone, this city is no different from any other; it is only my knowledge of the past that changes my perceptions. Much like the current nature of the peace process in Northern Ireland. ■

For more about the John Carroll University Ireland Peacebuilding program, check out their website at <https://jcu.edu/academics/pjhr/international-immersions/ireland-peacebuilding-program>

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TAKING THE FIELDS OF GLORY: GAA MONTHLY
By Vincent Beach



Midwest Gaelic Athletic Association

Cleveland GAA extends a big *go raibh míle maith agaibh* (thanks y'all) to all the players and sponsors to the annual golf outing held at Springdale in North Olmsted on September 28. It was our largest and most successful outing to date. Joe Coyne and his team did a wonderful job; they even got the weather to cooperate. The Beach boys of Michigan again won the scramble. Thanks for the continued support All.

Normally after the National Finals around Labor Day, the season winds

down. In Cleveland the GAA continues with a few adult co-ed scrimmages in the temperate autumn weather at the West Side Irish American Club.



The Ladies have kept the comradery and recruitment going on Thursday evenings at Impett Park while the Youth, under the tutelage of Coach Anthony Hanley, have been training

and scrimmage hurling each Sunday. Down in Akron, the annual Al O'Leary was held at Akron Indoor Soccer's outdoor fields – the same great venue as the Midwest Finals. On Octo-

ber 5th, teams from Indianapolis, the University of Pittsburgh, the Pittsburgh Pucas, and the hosts, Akron, met to Clash the Ash. This year the format was a 7-a-side competition with games beginning at 9AM and running to 4PM. Eight hurling matches and a camogie match were held. For the third consecutive year, the Indianapolis GAA raised the cup. *Comhghairdeas!*

Upcoming – Cleveland will hold its Banquet and Recognition Night on November 2nd at the WSIA. The evening is open to all players – youth, ladies, men – family, friends, supporters, and sponsors. Our own Alec Stott & Friends will be delighting our ears.

On October 26th, the Midwest clubs will meet at Buffalo's Irish Center for the Annual General Meeting. Club delegates will decide the leadership board for the Midwest Division and ratify any motions presented. The hot-topic this year is the format of the summer championship, considering teams



Indianapolis GAA

spread out from Cincinnati to Albany, and competitive disparities in junior football from A level champions down to D developmental teams.

November 8th through the 10th will see USGAA club and divisional delegates descend on San Diego for the annual convention. Like the Midwest AGM, elections and ratifications will be decided. For the first time, following the USGAA convention, the USGAA

Youth convention will take place at the same venue on Sunday.

Indoor. Both the adult teams and youth teams will hold indoor sessions November through March – stay tuned to Facebook and the website for updates on times and locations.



Ladies Practice with Four New Recruits.

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 Face-

book, 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 slangin' some engineering skills on local concrete and pipe projects.

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BLOWIN' IN

By Susan Mangan
@SueMangan



Harvest Home

November is approaching. The last vestige of pink blushes amid brown skeletal vines on a once verdant rose bush. Ivory cabbage moths flutter with dew-soaked wings searching for a parting shot of nourishment from autumn greens.

One morning, as the sun struggled to surface over a dense mist, a deluge of mayflies rose from the earth, confused by the spring of a spaniel running through the damp lawn. In answer to their flight, a flock of chattering cowbirds descended on mass to feast on this unseasonal cornucopia of insects.

People lament the early sunsets, the shortening of days, the preponderance of amber hues that slowly turn to shades of grey and black. Nature rots to give future sustenance to spring growth.

At times the unrelenting brightness of summer cajoles the weary human to savor each moment of warmth, to run with efficient steps, to plant while there is still sun. We are pressured by unremitting productivity. We are not encouraged to rest. N

November forces us to slow down, bundled by encroaching twilight. It is

during this month, before the frenzy of the holidays, that I breathe deeply of the crisp air and savor the harvest that I have been given.

There are so many ways to feast during the dark months of late fall and winter. Meaty stews bubble in vast stone pots in the oven, while golden curries of winter squash and sweet potatoes infuse the air with exotic fragrance reminiscent of long days and sultry nights.

I am partial to shepherd's pie topped with tarragon laced mashed potatoes. Slow food sustains us and reminds us of the comforts of home and firelight.

Firelight crackles in an old brick hearth. Guests walk toward the light of the front door greeted by the scent of burning cherry and hickory wood.

Mulled ciders, spiced wine, and clove scented hot whiskey warm the hands and strengthen the gullet, a most fitting remedy for the dampness of November air.

As late autumn descends, I plan to expand my repertoire of comforting dishes. I have crafted apple galettes and strudel topped pies. My grandmother's pumpkin is still not close to the deli-

iciousness that only she could create. I can make Irish soda bread, but my brown bread is as dense as a brick. Still, I will keep trying. My mother used to make quick breads and yeast breads. There is no greater fragrance than the buttery tang of white, farmhouse bread rising in the oven. Slathered with pats of Kerrygold Butter, this simple staple becomes the stuff of dreams.

There is something so comforting about the fragrances of late autumn. Morning might as well be night when my son rises for school each day. I like to think that the smell of his cinnamon toast stays with him throughout the challenges of schoolwork and everyday life. My father still reminds me about his special recipe for Malt-O-Meal and Cream of Wheat. There is indeed comfort in a bowl topped with cream and butter.

Recently, I read a cookbook by Marte Marie Forsberg, a photographer who grew up on an island off the coast of Norway. As a young woman, she traveled the world writing, studying, photographing fashion, and accruing cosmopolitan experiences about which one could only daydream. Seeking peace, Ms. Forsberg settled in an old cottage in a picturesque English village, her greatest companion, an adopted English Pointer she named Mr. Whiskey.

Through all her travels and her ultimate stop to create a home in the lanes of England, Forsberg took with her memories of her mother's porridge and hand made breads. When inevitable challenges arrived at her garden gate, she questioned her decision to live alone in a new country, starting her life from scratch.

From across the seas in Norway, Forsberg's mother offered sound advice, "Do yourself a favor and make my sour cream porridge for supper tonight. You'll know why."

From these longings, Forsberg creates not only a cookbook, but a tale of her life which speaks of the strong bond she has with her mother and the need for nourishment when winds blow, and loneliness encroaches. No matter where we hang our hats at night, the comforts and fragrances of our past reveal that which is home.

My daughter is currently studying in London, but is traveling to any number



of other destinations from Denmark to Edinburgh, from Barcelona to Budapest. For the record, her favorite foods to date have been the apple pie in a small tea shop in Loch Ness and the goat cheese in Edinburgh. This weekend she will spend time with family in Ireland.

I asked her if she is excited for her visit. Without a pause, she said, "I can't wait. I can't wait to see all the uncles, aunts, and our cousins. I am excited to smell the Irish air."

Fragrances of home are not limited to that same front door we walk through each night, but rather to those places and people who have made us feel welcome. The birds that flock to my husband's slumbering garden recognize our passion for sustenance, and so will our November guests stopping by for a cup of tea, or a clove studded hot whiskey. With a glass of red wine close at hand, I will be standing at the kitchen counter, apron covered in flour, with my spaniel lying inconveniently at my feet, offering comfort to all who enter, through the fragrance and taste of home.

Source Consulted: Forsberg, Marte Marie. "The Cottage Kitchen." New York: Clarkson Potter, 2017. ■

Susan holds an MA in English from John Carroll University and an MA in Education from Baldwin-Wallace University. She may be contacted at suemangan@yahoo.com.

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OFF THE SHELF

By Terry Kenneally
@TerryKenneally



THE MAAMTRASNA MURDERS

By Margaret Kelleher
University College Dublin Press ISBN 978-1-910820-42-1 2018 328 pp.

The Maamtrasna Murders chronicles the dramatic story of a horrific set of murders in County Galway in 1882 (at the time of the events Maamtrasna was located in Galway but was later transferred to County Mayo under official adjustment to county boundaries).

The murders and subsequent trials are notorious for their failure to provide interpretation and translated services for monoglot Irish speakers.

The impact on victims, witnesses, defendants, and prosecutors alike lead to the wrong conviction of Myles

Joyce, only recently pardoned by President Michael D. Higgins in 2018. The murders occurred on Friday, 17 August 1882 at the home of John Joyce in Maamtrasna. The victims were John Joyce, Margaret Joyce (senior), Margaret Joyce (junior), Bridget Joyce and Michael Joyce.

The potent symbolism of defendant Myles Joyce, the Irish speaker who was unable to understand court proceedings in English and was thus sentenced to death by hanging in Kilmainham Gaol, for murder, became a lasting image that fascinated a nation.

What is now best known about Myles Joyce is that he was a monoglot Irish

speaker who was asleep at home with his wife at the time of the murders and who was not awarded the services of an interpreter in the English-speaking court. Less well known is that a number of his fellow accused could speak English while two of them deployed their skill in English to turn Queen's evidence against the other accused.

A Donegal man, Constable Thomas Evans, a Protestant, was brought in as a court interpreter, but for the majority of Myles trial, during the English-language evidence given by the "approvers", Evans, the interpreter was silent.

The jury in the case retired at 3 pm on Saturday, November eighteenth and returned to court six minutes later to deliver the verdict of guilty. Evans was recalled in order to render Myles's response to the guilty verdict.

The clerk of the Crown: "What have you to say why judgement of death and execution should not be awarded against you according to the law?" Joyce

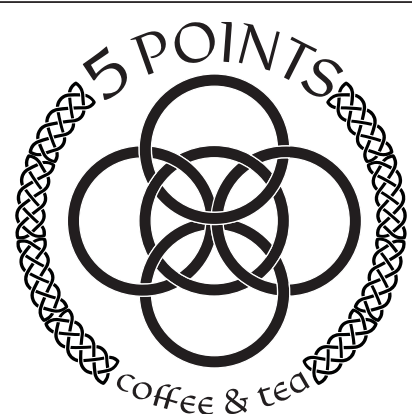
spoke in Irish to the interpreter.

The interpreter: "Whether he be hanged or crucified, he is as free and clear of the crime as can be."

Myles's last words of protest from the scaffold were, "I am as innocent as the child in the cradle." Those words reverberated strongly on 4 April 2018, when President Michael D. Higgins delivered his presidential pardon in the company of the direct descendants of the Joyce victims and relatives, too, of Myles Joyce. The Maamtrasna murders is an extraordinary story and the book of the same name is a TOP SHELF read. ■

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

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CLEVELAND IRISH

By Francis McGarry



En Fuego

Cleveland history denotes that the first fire engine was purchased in 1833, the Live Oak #1. A fire company was then formed under the foremanship of Captain McCurdy. That was eighteen years after the village of Cleveland was incorporated; the Land was a village for twenty-two years in all.

City leaders began to take precautions against the occurrence of conflagrations and a new volunteer fire company, Eagle #1, soon took over, and retained Captain McCurdy. The first chief of the volunteer department was Samuel Cook, who held that position until H.L. Noble took over in 1837. Thomas Lemmon was named chief in 1838.

There is a complete list of all those guys. There is also an advertisement for Hannan & McGlade's Café on the same pages. "Ladies and Gents' Dining Parlors" at 368 Superior Street.

Aunt Irene said never type on an empty stomach, "How you 'posed to think about this if you are thinking about that?" It is unclear if I have ever masticated at a dining parlor.

The list of fire chiefs is chock full of Irish fellows with names like Lyon, Delany and Floyd. In 1853, the City Council declined to elect a chief and for a while the people elected the Fire Chief. That is how William Cowen was made chief.

Either by election or appointment, the presence of Irish surnames indicates a patulous existence that stands in contradiction to many generalized Irish immigration storylines. The Irish had positions of power in the early fire companies and had a voice in the composition of those companies.

The early city benefitted from companies and volunteers. In 1861, two-thirds of the volunteer firemen joined the army. In 1863 city firemen became paid employees of Cleveland and by the end of the year, they operated three newly

purchased steamers. The steamers, horse carts and hook and ladder truck took part in the first Fire Department parade on the Fourth of July, 1863.

Engine Company #1 was the charge of Captain W.E. Scharf; his Lieutenants were William MacFeevers and Edward Gilman. The company had two engineers: Thomas Waters and Edward Grady. The company's firemen were: Patrick Reddy, William Snell, John Dienst, Patrick Jordan, Patrick O'Brien, John Carroll, Matthew Gallagher, Frank Stansbury, Stephen Hughes, Frank Lynch, William Koze, Hugh Manar, Lewis Earl, and J.J. Mahoney. They were stationed on Frankfort Street, between Bank Street (W. 6th) and Water Street (W. 9th).

Extensive erudition at that time determined that water was the main fire fighting necessity. The city responded and distributed water mains that began to appear in all areas of the city. The city also added the Fire Alarm Telegraph in 1864, which proved extremely successful in the communication and the operations of the department.

Neither the telegraph nor later 19th century technologies displaced Anthony's Fire and Accident Notification Agency. P.J. Anthony would relay fire information via horse and carriage to merchants including loss and damage estimates. His advertisement is adjacent to J.P. Madigan's wholesale liquor business on Sheriff Street and H.F. Cavanaugh's Buffet at 257 Superior. Cavanaugh was also a retail dealer in liquor and wines. Aunt Irene said never type on an empty liver.

The year 1873 marked the 10th anniversary of the formation of the City Fire Department. Cleveland's population had grown by some 100,000 and had 23,000 houses. The city was home to manufactories, mills, forges, factories, workshops and stores. All needed the protection of the Fire Department and



that water stuff. They did have 485 fire hydrants.

At 7pm on January 30th, 1874, it took the entire department and all its resources to fight a fire at Koch, Goldsmith & Company's four-story brick block, a wholesale tailoring business. The fire soon spread to the adjoining Worthington's Block.

The cold in Cleveland resulted in frozen hands and feet on the firemen. "Heat, smoke and cold, the two former at times unbearable to an excessive degree; the cold, piercing to their very marrow those who were drenched to the skin. Add this to the mental as well as bodily exertions; one exciting, the other exhausting; both combined testing human endurance to its fullest extent, and you have a faint idea of the firemen's work during the whole night." Damages were valued at \$380,750.69 in 1874.

In 1877, swinging harnesses were introduced to the Cleveland Fire Department. These were patented by E. O. Sullivan, Patent #171,190 if you are keeping score at home. The first swinging harness was used as early as 1843 in Loudonville, OH; in 1871 by the fire departments of Allegheny City, PA, and the St. Joseph, MO, and by the Hughes Brewery, Cleveland, OH, as well as in Louisville by Major Edward Hughes and Chief Thomas Pendergast.

Mr. Edward Sullivan invented his swinging harness in 1875 and it was manufactured by the Worswick Manu-

facturing Company and by Isaac Kidd of Cleveland. William Kidd was the captain of Steamer #1 in 1863.

The first wooden sliding poles were installed at Fire House #6 in 1881. The wooden poles were imperfect due to the heat generated by the friction of sliding down quickly. Iron was soon substituted and I do not have a date for brass.

Worswick Manufacturing also provided pipe, valves and fittings to the Cleveland Asylum for the Insane. Edward Sullivan lived at 1152 Euclid Avenue and was a driver for the East Cleveland Railroad. Edward Sullivan lived at 52 1/2 Tracy and was a grader. The City Directory has only those two Eddie Sullivans. At this point it is a 50/50 shot. Edward the grader lived at 52 1/2 Tracy with James Sullivan and Thomas Sullivan, both graders.

John Sullivan, a baggage man, lived there as well, with Patrick Sullivan, who was a contractor. They lived next door to Richard and William Lewis, a puddler and a rougher, respectfully, by trade and just down the street from Hugh Owens the huckster. Tracy is known today as West 20th Street, within walking distance to Hooples or the West Side Market. In 1877 it was full of Irish of various occupations and living situations.

It is clear that there are indicators of family chain immigration and economic diversity, as indicated by occupation, present as well on Tracey. Review of the Cleveland fire history also indicates generational participation at all occupational levels. That appears to be true from the inception of the volunteer fire companies through the 19th Century. Things may have changed on Tracy. The Cleveland area still benefits from a strong Irish American tradition of fighting fires. ■

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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SPEAK IRISH

By Bob Carney
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Tá Mé Buíoch!

As I was thinking of a topic for this month's column, perhaps something to do with Thanksgiving or fall, I got a call from my friend Al O'Leary one Saturday. It went something like this, "What are you doing?" "Nothing, I just finished yard work" I responded. "Come on over, I'll be in the driveway."

So I jumped in the Ohio Irish American News / dog van and arrived thirty seconds later. I know, I should have walked. Al and Mary had just returned from five weeks in Ireland and over tea and apple pie at the kitchen table we chatted and they told me of their time on Achill with Mary's family and the O'Leary Family reunion that took place in Galway.

Al told me he was happy to find that Irish seems to be spoken more now and he engaged people in Irish at every opportunity. They were able to attend Mass conducted in Irish, something that they can rarely do here.

While there, Al purchased a couple of phrase books and presented me with a copy, so we could practice together. The

book is published by Mercier Press and is titled "Irish Phrasebook". Al said it's the best phrase book he's come across.

As far as a topic for this column, I now have two. To share some of the content contained in the book and to express how thankful I am for the people I've met on the journey of life and the times shared over a cup of tea and a piece of warm pie. Buíochas le Dia.

Now I know I've said this before, but learning a language is much easier if you actually use it. We can't wait until we're in Ireland. We can use it here!

One word or one phrase at a time with anyone, just follow up with the english, especially if you're talking to someone you don't know, like a traffic officer or you may find yourself taking a special test on the sidewalk! Most of the following phrases we've covered before but there are some new ones.

When I include phonetics, I usually write them the way I speak them, in a Kerry dialect, today we'll use the dialect common to Achill. Start using the phrases

TUESDAY

6pm-8pm: **All Things Irish**
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SATURDAY

9am-11am: **stonecoldbikini**,
WRUW FM 91.1 w/Christine Hahn

10am-11am: **Johnson Brothers**
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SUNDAY

7am-9am: **Sweeney Astray**
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11:30am-1:30pm: **Echoes of Erin**
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today. Tá sé furasta! (taw shay fer-ahsta) It's easy!

Dia dhuit (Dee-ah gwitch) God to you (hello)

Dia's Muire dhuit (Dee-ah smorra gwitch) God and Mary to you (response to Dia dhuit)

Dia dhuit ar maidin (Dee-ah gwitch er modjin) God to you this morning (good morning)

Oíche mhaith agat (ee-ha wah ah-gut) Good night to you

Slán (slawn) Goodbye There are other grammatically correct ways to say goodbye depending on the circumstance, but this works in all situations.

Tá sé deas bualadh leat. (taw shay jass boola lyat) It's nice to meet you

Cear go leor (kyart guh lore) OK

Le do thoil (leh duh hull) Please

Go raibh maith agat (guh row mah ah-gut) May there be good at you (thank you)

Go mo leithscéal (guh muh lesh-kayle) Excuse me

Go maith (guh mah) Good

Tá mé buartha. (taw may boor-ha) I'm very sorry

Tá brón orm. (taw brawn or-um) There is sorrow at me. (I'm sorry)

Cén chaoi a bhfuil tú? (kay hee will too) How are you?

Tá mé go maith, go raibh maith agat. (taw may guh mah, guh row mah ah-gut) I'm good, thank you.

Tá sé deas tú a fheiceáil. (taw shay jass too ah ekawl) It is good to see you.

Tá fáilte romhat. (taw fawl-cha row-at) You're welcome.

Feicfidh mé ar ball thú. (feck-ee may er ball hoo) See you soon.

Níl Gaeilge agam. (neel Gayle-ga ag-gum) I don't speak Irish

An bhféadfá cuidiú liom? (un vayd-faw cudge-oo lyum?) Can you help me?

Ní thuigim. (nee hig-um) I don't understand.

Tuigim (tigg-um) I understand.

Tá mé ag foghlaim Gaeilge. (taw may egg fow-lim ayl-ge) I am learning Irish.

Cad is ainm duit? (kad iss an-im gitch) What is your name?

Is mise... (iss mee-sha...) I am...

... is ainm dom. (... iss an-im dom)... is my name.

Cá bhfuil... ? (kaw will) Where is...?

Cá bhfuil an leithreas? (kaw will an lahr-ess) Where is the bathroom?

Breithlá sona! (bray-la so-na) happy birthday!

Go n-éirí leat! (guh nye-ree lyat) Good luck

Comhghairdeas! (ka-wor-jass) Congratulations

Slán go fóill! (slawn guh fahl) Goodbye for now. ■

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EUCLID
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1 - Half-Craic'd, 3 - Arts and Craft Fair, 9 - Author Tim Carroll lecture World War II Akron and book signing, 20 - Dreams of Freedom and David Geaney \$15, 22 - Derek Warfield and the Young Wolfe Tones \$18, 25 - Vincent English lecture "Irish Landlords", 27 - Pumpkin Pie with Trivia Night, 30 - OSU vs. MI Tailgate Party. PUB: 7:30 - 10:30. IACES 22770 Lake Shore Blvd. Euclid, 44123. 216.731.4003 www.eastsideirish.org

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HOOLEY HOUSE MONTROSE
27th - Laid Back & Lazy 9:30pm. 145 Montrose West Avenue Copley, Oh 44321 (234) 466-0060 www.1funpub.com

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2nd - Chris Allen, 7th - Brennan, Atzberger & Ross, 14th - The New Barleycorn, 15th - Austin Walkin' Cane, 16th - Crosswinds, 21st - Jeff Varga, 22nd - Chris Tuma, 23rd - Pompous Arse, 27th - Katy & OC. 19500 Center Ridge Rd, Rocky River, OH 44116 (440) 990-7468 www.GormleysPub.com

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2 - Craic Brothers, 9 - Furious George, 16 - Slim N Shady, 20 - Chad Humphries, 23 - Nathan Henry, 30 - Lego Legros. Join us for Brunch EVERY SUNDAY. Great food, atmosphere, staff and fun. 6757 Center Road Valley City, 44280 www.gandalfspub.com.

WESTLAKE
HOOLEY HOUSE
7th - Ladies Night with Disco Inferno 8pm, 8th - Mourning Glory 8:30pm, 27th - Boaterhead (formerly Rock Yacht Cleve.) 9:30pm. 24940 Sperry Dr Westlake 44145. 1FunPub.com. (440) 835-2890

COLUMBUS
SHAMROCK CLUB EVENTS
3rd - Annual John Fitzgerald Kennedy Memorial Mass, 2 p.m., 3 p.m., Shamrock Club Meeting, 16 - Music in the Pub w/ the McLans 8-11 p.m, 30th- OSU/ Michigan Bash @Noon, Happy Hour every Friday from 5-7pm! 60 W. Castle Rd. Columbus 43207 614-491-4449 www.shamrockclubofcolumbus.com.

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.

LOOKING FOR IRISH NEWS AND EVENTS IN...
Columbus? Cincinnati? Youngstown?
Beyond the Pale? In Your Town?
IF YOU DON'T SEND THEM, WE CAN'T PRINT THEM!
Submit your anywhere in and around Ohio news, events, releases, memories, milestones, ads and pics for inclusion in your *Ohio Irish American News* Out & About Ohio Monthly Events List, blurb features or the Coming Next Month Save the Dates List.
Due date is ALWAYS the 10th of this month, for the following month
The OhioIANews is distributed from 208 locations in and around Ohio!

TRADITIONAL IRISH SOCIAL DANCING WITH THE CLEVELAND CEILI CLUB
The Cleveland Ceili Club promotes the musical traditions of Ireland by providing opportunities for adults to enjoy traditional Irish music and dance.
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Thursdays, September 3, 10, 24, 7-9 pm, West Side Irish American Club.
Ceili Mor! Sunday, 10/11, 4 - 8 pm, music by The Kilroys, \$10, kids free!
For more information, contact CeiliClubCleveland@gmail.com

Did you know we have a FREE TWICE A MONTH EBULLETIN that goes out to 16,000 opted-in OhioIANews fans?
For updates and reminders, or for events that came in after we went to print: Sign up at www.OhioIANews.com or our Facebook page Facebook.com: OhioIANews to get yours.
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ONGOING TRADITIONAL IRISH SESSIÚNS
BRING YOUR INSTRUMENTS AND PLAY ALONG!
Unitarian Universalist Church of Fairlawn, 3300 Morewood Dr. 7:30 p.m Wednesdays. All skill levels welcome.
Bardic Circle @The Shamrock Club of Columbus Beginner - friendly, intermediate level Irish session meeting every other Thursdays 8:00 pm - 11:00 pm
Briquette's - 1st Saturday of the month, 2 -4 pm. Ashtabula on the Harbor
The Harp - 1st Friday of every month, 9pm. 4408 Detroit, Cleveland
Logan's Irish Pub - 3rd Wednesday of the month, 414 S. Main St., Findlay, 7:30 pm
Plank Road - Every Thursday 7 - 10. All ages and experience welcome. 16719 Detroit Road, Lakewood, 44107
Tara Hall -Traditional Irish music w General Guinness Band & Friends 2nd Friday 8:00 - 11:00pm. 274 E. Innis Ave. Columbus, 43207 614.444.5949.

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**COOKING UP
A HOOLEY**

By Katie Gagne



Chili for a Crowd

It's wonderful how recipes can evolve over time. We always loved my mom's chili; it was really simple, not too exotic or spicy. Then one day we tasted the chili made by a neighbor. He sautéed the onions and peppers with lots of chopped garlic and he seasoned all the components – the ground meat and the tomatoes. It was so good.

So, my mom started making her chili in a similar way, and it really was delicious. Both my sister, Meghan and I made our chili like that when we grew up. After my sister married, her husband Matt liked kielbasa or smoked sausage along with the ground beef in his chili. She began making hers with it all the time. Eventually she added pieces of round sirloin steak to it as well. It became quite a meaty dish.

My love of spices and hot peppers added to the ever-evolving recipe and Voila! What we have is a true amalgamation of the perfect dish.

INGREDIENTS:

2 lbs. 80/20 Ground Beef	Sausage -- cubed
2 lbs. Round Steak – cubed	1 bunch of Celery - chopped
2 packages Kielbasa or Smoked	3 Sweet Red Peppers – chopped



3 Green Peppers – chopped
2 Yellow or Orange Sweet Peppers – chopped
2 Jalapeno Peppers – chopped
2 Poblano Peppers – chopped (optional)
1 Hot Banana Pepper – chopped (optional)
2-3 Small Hot Peppers – Serranos, Cayennes (optional)
6 Cloves Garlic minced
2 Medium Yellow Onions -- chopped
36 ounces Canned Diced Tomatoes
10 ounces Canned Stewed Tomatoes
2 cans Condensed Tomato Soup
1 can Water (use the tomato soup can)
6 ounces Tomato Paste
2 Cans Chili Beans
3 Tablespoons Black Pepper
3 Tablespoons Salt
3 Tablespoons Hot Chili Powder
2 Tablespoons Cumin

Additional Toppings:

Sour Cream
Cheddar Cheese
Green Onions or Chives
Oyster or Goldfish Crackers

Then: Sauté the ground beef with a splash of olive oil and season liberally with salt, pepper, cumin, and chili powder.

Sauté round steak and kielbasa until slightly browned in olive oil, seasoned liberally with salt, pepper, cumin, and chili powder.

Drain all meat and put in large bowl and set aside.

In a large soup pot, sauté all chopped veggies and garlic in a tablespoon of olive oil until soft and tender. Season these with salt, pepper, cumin, and chili powder to taste.

Add in diced and stewed tomatoes, tomato soup, water, and tomato paste. Simmer for 30 minutes.

Add in the meat and stir. Simmer for 1-2 hours.

Add in 1 -2 cans of your favorite beans (optional)

Continue using the spices to season to taste. Simmer until ready to eat.

You can make this as mild or as spicy as you wish by adding or subtracting the peppers and spices. You can include the beans or leave them out like I do.

I love mine topped with shredded cheddar cheese, a dollop of sour cream, a sprinkle of green onions or chives and some oyster crackers or goldfish crackers tossed on top.

Serve with your favorite corn bread, topped with some honey butter and enjoy!

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.

GET MORE TO THE STORY

More pics, and larger print too!
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By Dottie
Wenger

KIDS CRAIC

KNOWvember!

Ireland doesn't celebrate Thanksgiving in November, since it's an American holiday. But that doesn't mean that nothing is happening during the month. Here are some things to KNOW about Ireland, including a few November highlights.



November's average temperature in Ireland is between 42 degrees and 59 degrees Fahrenheit. (And speaking of weather... Ireland can get more than 220 days of rain a year. In 2007, Ireland saw FORTY straight days of rain!)

Do you want to see the Northern Lights? November is one of the best times to view the lights from Ireland, especially between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 1:00 a.m.

In the United States, November is known as election time. Did you know that it was an Irishman, James Hoban, who designed our White House? Another fun fact: Ireland has had two female presidents! Ireland is one of the best countries in the world for gender equality.

WORD SCRAMBLE Can you guess the word from its clue?

An Irish plant	kormshac
The month of St. Patrick's Day	crahm
Ireland's nickname	heť dalmere lesí
An Irish saint	ťáins kapcirt
An ancient Irish language	caleig
One of the colors on Ireland's flag	geonra
Ireland's capital city	nildub



ANSWERS: shamrock, March, the Emerald Isle, St. Patrick, Gaelic, orange, Dublin

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 WORD OF THE MONTH

Uachtaran "President"
Pron. ooachtar-awn

LITERATURE HIGHLIGHT



Ireland Travel Activity Book and Journal
by Lauren Kotwal

If you are planning a family trip to the Emerald Isle, this journal is a must. Within its pages, kids can draw and write about what they're doing and seeing in Ireland. Also included are fun facts about Ireland history, mythology, culture, and places to visit.



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CROSSWORD
PUZZLE
By Linda Fulton Burke



ACROSS

- 1 St Collum Cille founded _____. 563
- 7 The first megalithic _____ were built. 3000 BC
- 10 The Viking leader, Turgéis, _____ 845
- 11 Brian Bóruma was killed at _____, and Máel Sechnaill II became high king. 1014
- 13 Conchobar Ua Briain and Diarmait Mac Murchada laid siege to _____ with 200 ships. 1137
- 15 A Roman called Ptolemy created a _____ of Ireland showing rivers, towns and tribes. AD 1-500
- 16 The _____ Age began. 500 BC
- 18 Diarmait Mac Murchada _____ Dervorgilla, wife of Tigernán Ua Ruairc. 1152
- 20 An Irish fleet attacked _____ 1068
- 22 People began to speak what we call '_____ Middle Irish' 1028-1036
- 25 The Vikings founded _____ 923
- 26 The Irish and _____ went into Cumberland, Lancashire and Cheshire in England. 900-911
- 28 The first Irish monastery was founded at Aran by St _____. Irish monasteries spread and flourished for the next 150 years. 490
- 32 _____ warriors raided Roman Britain. 297-450
- 33 At this time, people were speaking 'Archaic _____ Irish'. 490
- 34 Mathgamain mac Cennétig of the Dál Cais became _____ of Cashel. 964
- 36 The year St _____s said to have come to Ireland to spread Christianity. 432
- 39 The _____ passage grave was built around now. 2500 BC

DOWN

- 40 At the Synod of Whitby, Irish and _____ Christians argued over the date of Easter. It was not until 716 that Iona accepted the Roman Easter. 664
- 42 Bardic schools set standards for _____ and poetry. 1200
- 43 St Colum Cille founded _____ 546
- 44 MacMurchada was able to capture Wexford with the help of the _____ 1169
- 45 During these years, Old Irish _____ were in force. 650-750
- 49 Ruaidrí Ua Conchobair _____ banished Mac Murchada from Ireland, and he fled to Bristol in England. 1166
- 51 John of Salisbury visited _____ Adrian IV at Rome and got permission for Henry II to invade Ireland. 1155
- 53 Seven _____ Munstermen died at Moin Mór when the King of Munster was defeated. 1151
- 54 Máel Sechnaill II _____ Dublin three times. 981, 989, 995
- 56 Diarmait Mac Murchada obtained complete _____ control of Dublin. 1162
- 58 St. _____ of Clairvaux wrote to Diarmait Mac Murchada, calling him the king of Ireland. 1145
- 59 Mac Murchada returned to Ireland with _____ soldiers and managed to get back the kingdom of Uí Chenneslaig. 1167
- 60 Máel Sechnaill II mac Domnaill, king of _____, succeeded to high kingship. 980

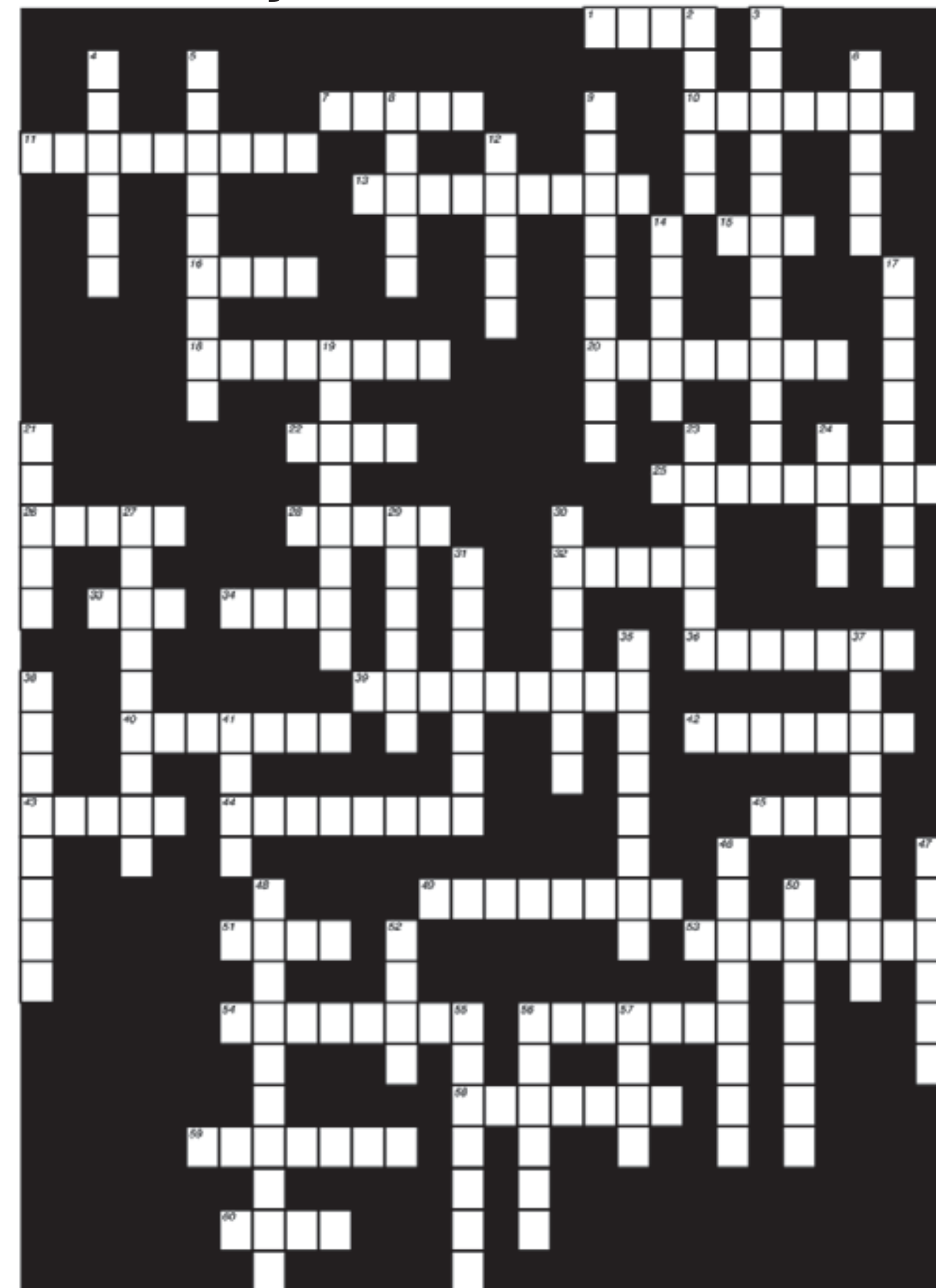
DOWN

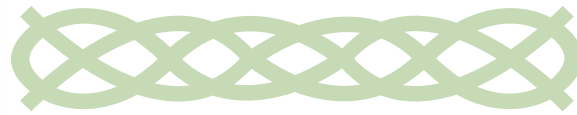
- 2 St _____ went out from Iona and founded Lindisfarne. 635-651

- 3 St Ciarán founded _____ . 547-548
- 4 This was the _____ Age. Many gold ornaments have been found from this time. 1800 BC
- 5 This was the period of ' _____ Old Irish'. 698-700
- 6 There was forty years of _____, during which Viking raids died down. 876-916
- 8 Hugh de Lacy was given _____ kingdom of Mide. 1172
- 9 Richard de Clare, also called _____, captured Wexford and married Mac Murchada's daughter, Aife. 1170
- 12 Máel Sechnaill recognised _____ Bóruma as high king of Ireland. 1002
- 14 Many books were written in _____ during this period. 580-680
- 17 In 802 and 806 the Vikings _____ Iona.
- 19 _____, hill forts and ring forts continued to be built. AD 1-500
- 21 The first _____ took place in Cashel. 1101
- 23 Palladius was the first _____ to be sent to Irish Ch500 ADristians. 431
- 24 _____ King Niall Glúndub reigned.916-919
- 27 Brian Bóruma captured Dublin, defeating Sitric _____. 1000
- 29 Mac Murchada and his Norman _____ captured Dublin. 1170
- 30 The _____ began to raid Ireland. 895
- 31 A time of severe famine and _____. 698-700
- 35 Henry II came to Dublin and the kings of Breifne, Áirgialla and Ulster submitted to him. 1171
- 37 People were speaking what we call ' _____ Modern Irish'. 1200
- 38 Henry II and Ruaidrí Ua Conchobair signed the Treaty of _____. 1175
- 41 By 837 the Vikings were starting to build _____ term bases in Ireland.
- 46 In 823 Vikings killed bishops and _____ at Bangor.
- 47 People began speaking what we call 'Early _____ Irish.' 900-911
- 48 St Columbanus began to travel on the Continent to spread Christianity and found _____s. 590
- 50 Brian Bóruma became king of _____. 978
- 52 Henry II's ten-year-old son John was made ' _____ of Ireland'. 1177
- 55 The Vikings set up permanent settlements at Annagassen and _____. 841
- 56 King Sitric and Bishop Dúnán founded _____ Church Cathedral in Dublin. 1028-1036
- 57 The king of _____ Flann Sinna, defeated Cormac mac Cuilennáin, the king-bishop of Cashel, at Belach Mughna. 908

Irish History thru 1200

Linda Fulton Burke





Milestones & Sweet Snaps



Sweet Snaps

1. North American Irish Dance Championships (NAIDC) held in Vancouver, Canada in July, we took home 13th place in a strong Ladies Over 16 Ceili Team competition. We were the only Ohio school to place in the team competitions and proud to represent the Buckeye State. Dancers pictured left to right are: **Sophie Lawler, Verena Manolis, Regan Lawler, Anna Erickson, Brigid Lawler, Kara Carr, Kate Hussey, Caitlin Stewart.**
2. Erickson Academy also sent five soloists. Three of our soloists recalled and one these three, **Caitlin Stewart**, qualified for the World Championships of Irish Dancing to be held in Dublin, Ireland over Easter 2020.
3. Lil McDonoughs Browns Roar.
4. Wolfhound picnic.
5. The Coyne men say Farewell to the Indians.



WHEN IRISH EYES ARE SMILING; BE VERY AFRAID

By Maury Collins



"Young man," said the angry father from the head of the stairs, "didn't I hear the clock strike four when you brought my daughter in?" "You did," admitted the boyfriend. "It was going to strike eleven, but I grabbed it and held the gong so it wouldn't disturb you." The father muttered, "Doggone! Why didn't I think of that one in my courting days!"

Paddy goes to the pub and spends all day and most of the evening there to celebrate St Patrick's Day. Eventually Mick, the barman says, 'You'll not be drinking any more tonight, Paddy.' Paddy agrees, 'OK Mick, I'll be on me

way then.' Paddy spins around on his stool and steps down. He falls flat on his face. 'Damn' he says and pulls himself up by the stool and dusts himself off. He takes a step towards the door and falls flat on his face; he looks to the doorway and thinks to himself that if he can just get to the door and some fresh air he'll be OK.

Paddy belly crawls to the door and shimmies up to the door frame. He sticks his head outside and takes a deep breath of fresh air, feels much better and takes a step out on to the pavement - and falls flat on his face again.

'By' Jeebers.... I'm more than a bit crocked,' he says. He can see his house just a few doors down, and crawls to the door, hauls himself up the door frame, opens the door and shimmies inside.

He takes a look up the stairs and says, 'No damn way.'

He crawls up the stairs to his bedroom door and says, 'I can just about make it to the bed.' He takes a step into the room and falls flat on his face. He says, 'Damn it' and falls into bed.

The next morning, his wife, comes into the room carrying a cup of coffee and says, 'Get up Paddy. Did you have a bit to drink last night?'

Paddy says, 'I did, Jess. I was really crocked. But how'd you know?'

'Mick phoned . . . you left your wheelchair at the pub again!'

A sweet grandmother telephoned St. Joseph's Hospital. She timidly asked, "Is it possible to speak to someone who can tell me how a patient is doing?"

The operator said, "I'll be glad to help, dear. What's the name and room number of the patient?" The grandmother in her weak, tremulous voice said, Norma Findlay, Room 302."

The operator replied, "Let me put you on hold while I check with the nurse's station for that room."

After a few minutes, the operator returned to the phone and said, "I have good news. Her nurse just told me that

Norma is doing well. Her blood pressure is fine; her blood work just came back normal and her Physician, Dr. Cohen, has scheduled her to be discharged tomorrow."

The grandmother said, "Thank you. That's wonderful. I was so worried. God bless you for the good news."

The operator replied, "You're more than welcome. Is Norma your daughter?"

The grandmother said, "No, I'm Norma Findlay in Room 302. No one tells me anything."

An elderly woman died last month. Having never married, she requested no male pallbearers. In her handwritten instructions for her memorial service, she wrote, "They wouldn't take me out while I was alive, I don't want them to take me out when I'm dead." ■

COMING NEXT MONTH: DECEMBER 2019

Bringing you the movers, shakers & music makers in our community each month.

- 1st - Shamrock Club General Meeting
- 7th - Breakfast w Santa @IACES. Reservations required Heather 440.647.2763
- 8th - Tomaseen Foley's A Celtic Christmas. Medina Performing Arts Center. This will sell out, don't wait.
- 9th - IACES General Meeting
- 13th - Celtic Angels Christmas Dinner & Concert @WSIA
- 13th - Shamrock Club Annual Statehouse Dinner honoring Tony Quinn, Ohio Statehouse
- 14th - Shamrock Club Christmas w live entertainment.
- 15th - Andy Cooney Christmas Dinner & Concert
- 18th - WSIA General Meeting
- 26th - PJ McIntyre's St. Stephens Party w/the KILROYS!
- 31st - Irish New Years' Eve: w/The Portersharks, 5-8; Ring in the Irish New Year at 7pm!
- 31st - New Year's Eve Party @ Gandalf's - All are welcome.

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