

# OHIO IRISH AMERICAN NEWS

October 2020 • Volume 14 - Issue 10



**CELEBRATING FOUR GENERATIONS  
OF SWEENEY PUBLIC SERVICE**





## All at Once, Summer Collapsed into Fall

I think we are on a roll! After fourteen years of never missing an issue (we missed five, in a row during COVID), it was so good to print the September issue. We did publish the online edition during those five months, but it is definitely not the same as seeing the paper out and about Ohio as I travel the area.

I hope you caught the recent podcast. Podcast12: 9/11 on the 19th Anniversary of 9/11 was one of my favorites to date. Retired sheriff Bob Reid joined us as we looked back on where we were on 9/11,

and where we are today.

The podcasts are every two weeks, alternating with our 2x a month eBulletin, and are free. Subscribe on iTunes or WHKRradio.com to get the newest episode link emailed to you every other week.

And now, here we are with the October issue, printed, interactive and on the website too. As always, Social Media, the podcast, the eBulletin and the website will feature the current issue, as well as more and LARGER print text, more pictures and other stories that arrived to late to make the print edition.

Our cover features The Mighty Sweeney Clan, a legacy of public service four generations deep, from today's State Senator Bride Sweeney, turning heads and drilling down to the things that really matter to her constituents, and then getting them done; to her father, former Cleveland City Councilman and State Senator Martin Sweeney; Marty's sister, Fairview Park Councilwoman Maureen Sweeney; their father, retired Judge Gerald Sweeney, and Gerry's father, a State Representative in West Park, when the State Representative went by county. See the Inner View, on Page 10 & 11.

Pro Football is back and has really done a remarkable job in having no

COVID infections. Their plan, and action, shows what can be done, with planning and collaboration.

The rest of America, and the world, are not so fortunate. 200,000 of our countrymen are dead. Almost 1 MILLION have died worldwide at this writing. We mourn them; we pray for no resurgence, and the end of the scourge that is COVID-19.

*I believe in God, the father Almighty, creator of Heaven and earth...* is the beginning of a catholic prayer called The Apostle's Creed. We are all apostles of one level or another, one sort or another. I believe in you. Whether you believe similarly or not, I wish you good health. We are All brothers and sisters – this land is your land; this land is my land. The only race that matters in life or death, is the human race, with no divisions. And yes, perhaps the race to find a vaccine that works, to save us all.

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



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**About Our Cover:**  
The Mighty Sweeney Clan continues their family legacy of public service, now four generations deep.



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## BLOWIN' IN

By Susan Mangan

@SueMangan

# The Wee Woman: A Tale for Samhain

Autumn finds clusters of deep purple blackberries ready to burst along the brambles that line the path from St. Patrick's Primary School to the rolling hills above the village of Rock Strand. Petey and Paddy Corrigan know the route well as it winds through town and past all their favorite shops.

"Paddy, this time of year is surely heaven on earth. Just look, we have all the blackberries in the world ready to stuff into our mouths on one side of the lane and Big Tom's Emporium of

Sweeties on the other. Sure, life doesn't get better than this."

Now, the twins were known among the villagers for their mischievous charms, but also for their talents. Petey could sing like heaven's own cherub and Paddy was the county's five-year running spelling bee champ.

On this day, Bridie McCracken decided to allow Petey and Paddy to accompany her home from school. Bridie was as sharp as a nettle in June. She nearly beat Paddy in the spring academic challenge, but he could recite two of Shakespeare's Sonnets and she only one. Bridie and Paddy may have been rivals, but Petey's brotherly loyalty came to a halt when he thought of the grand freckles that dotted her nose. Petey reckoned those wee spots were as sweet as a pack of chocolate buttons.

"Boys, Big Tom won't like it if you smear up his window with your greedy faces pressed against that glass. Sure, ye both are slobberin' more than my collie Poppy!" WHO SAID THIS?

### SAMHAIN HARVEST FÊTE

The Samhain Harvest Fête was a mere three weeks away and Big

Tom had all his sweets displayed in true celebratory fashion. Every year, Tom hosted a homemade sweetie competition. Talented confectioners across Rock Strand vied for the win. Big Tom would give the winning sweet a proud display in the storefront window.

A miraculous confection in itself, the window was lined with carved turnip men, strange creatures with bulbous heads and hooked noses who peered into black vats teeming with wrapped candies. In another scene, branches of bog oak held willow baskets bursting with Licorice Allsorts and orange Wine gums shaped like tabby cats.

The bowed windows were draped with tattered muslin curtains. Long branches of elderflower and prickly blackberries from the wood on the Stoney Bank Road draped the borders.

"By the Banshee's howl, Bridie," whistled Paddy. "This here window is as eerie as those tales Mr. Yeats tells in his Celtic Twilight."

Bridie began to recite, "In Ireland this world and the world we go to after death are not far apart. I have heard of a ghost that was many years in a tree..."

"Aw, sure as the saints are in heaven

would ye two stop recitin' poetry or prose, or whatever tis'. Ye are both helpin' to diminish my appetite for the sweeties in yon turnip man's cauldron."

Big Tom finally took note of the three children outside his shop. "Will ye three stop droolin' on my prize window and come in to say a proper hello?" laughed Big Tom McIntyre.

"Do forgive me Mr. Tom, but I never slobber. That poorly habit is reserved for wee dogs and hungry lambs, like my companions here," chastised Bridie, with a nod toward the boys.

"Come in children," welcomed Tom. Perhaps young Petey would trade a song for a pack of sweets, the jovial shopkeeper suggested.

After three rousing choruses of the Rattlin' Bog, the children were rewarded with a bag of penny candy each.

As the children turned outside the Emporium and toward the bog road out of town, the sun was nearly tucked into the horizon for the day. Autumn nights were long in Rock Strand and the wind seemed to raise as the three children huddled closely together, hugging the heavy books to their worn

woolen cardigans.

The Corrigan Cottage lies just above McCracken's Field. A fine baker, Mrs. McCracken usually had a currant bun waiting for the boys to see their hunger through as they made the short trek across the field home to their own whitewashed cottage.

Sensing the change in weather, Bridie's da had already brought the cow in the shed for the night. Mr. McCracken would always say when the wind shifts north and the autumn wind whistles like a fairy's pipe through the furze, tis' a night for the Sidhe, the fairy folk, to arise on yon wind and traipse through the fields of Rock Strand.

### THE ARRIVAL OF THE SIDHE

As the children carefully closed the sturdy gate made from ocean reeds and field stone, they heard the shrill tune of the fairy's pipe. Shree, shree, no more shall ye traipse through the field that belong to the Sidhe

Startled, Bridie grabbed ahold of Petey's hand. On a fine day, Petey would be pleased as punch with this endearment, but on this windswept night, he was as frightened as Bridie, and grabbed tight to Paddy's arm.

The children were almost at Bridie's red half-door when a cloaked, bulky

figure seemed to creep out the cottage's side door. In the spare light of the new moon, the creature appeared hunched over and draped in dark linen.

"Bridie, I do hope that is your neighbor who lives up the road down below. Sure, its knickers must be near as big as your Auntie Nor's. I'll be railed if that t'weren't a giant from the land of the Sidhe," croaked Paddy.

"Paddy, stop your squawkin' and let's get Bridie safe to the door and the warmth of her Mammy's kitchen."

Petey took Bridie firmly by the hand with her book satchel safely tucked under his arm. Feigning courage, he was nearly faint with fear at the thought of the Sidhe creature.

"Mammy," shouted Bridie to her mother who was standing at the hearth stirring a great vat filled with a brown concoction.

Mrs. McCracken jumped and turned to look at the children with a gasp. "By Saint Anthony's donkey, ye three near gave me an early death."

Surely the look in Mrs. McCracken's eyes and stutter in her greeting was as queer as a fox cub howling at the summer sun, thought Paddy and Petey.

"Lads, I have your currant buns at the ready, but ye must be runnin' along straight away. The wind is calling for a

fairy night."

### WHEN THE WEE WOMAN GOES TO WORK

Sure enough, the rowan trees sang to their fairies all through the eve. Unsettled, Paddy and Petey huddled beneath their down blankets comforted by the dim glow of their flashlight. To pass the dark hours, they read from Mr. Yeats' Celtic Twilight and discovered the tale of the Wee Woman.

Early the next day, the lads met Bridie out in the field where she was helping her da with the cow.

"Bridie, we think t'was the Wee Woman who came to call on yer ma last night."

"Sure, she didn't appear wee too me," questioned Bridie.

"By the Baby Jaysus, the Wee Woman t'weren't really wee. She tends the Little People, yon fairies. In truth, the Wee Woman is bigger than yer' Auntie Nor," whispered Petey.

"So, ye lads reckon that humped crayture we saw was the Wee Woman payin' a visit to me ma?"

"Aye, trouble she is. She'll make yer ma work twice as hard. Mr. Yeats says that the Wee Woman slips into the family life and on Hallow's Eve will pass the night with yer ma by the hearth," explained Paddy.

"Sure, the next day, there won't be any saints at your table, only the Wee Woman who will have taken yer mammy's place," uttered Petey.

The October night was dark by the time the children finished play practice for the upcoming Harvest Fête. Mrs. Honor Jack, the music teacher, was directing a brilliant play, called, The Hound of the Baskervilles. Petey was to sing the part of the baying hounds, while clever Paddy and Bridie were Sherlock Holmes and Watson.

Pockets loaded with treacle toffees from Big Tom, the children once again found their way through McCracken's darkened field. The kitchen light glowed, but a rare scent of sea salt and golden syrup rose up from the chimney.

Feeling like Hansel and Gretel approaching the gingerbread house, the children walked entranced toward the cottage. The cow was in the shed, and the night air was unnaturally still. Suddenly, a faint creak rose from the back of the cottage.

The eerie silence turned into a loud uproar when Bridie's collie Poppy and the twins' own spaniel Blarney careened around the cottage corner, with a torn willow basket and a brown tattered shawl.

"The hounds, the hounds have taken down the Wee Woman," cried Petey.

The three children almost fainted with the terror of it all, as the humped crayture, larger than any human, made its way toward the excited dogs.

"Holy Mary, what is the racket in yon field," scolded Mrs. McCracken.

"Mammy, Mammy, watch yerself. Tis' the Wee Woman comin' to take yer place at our table," cried Bridie.

"Well, I'll be donkeyed," laughed the shawled figure. "Wee, I ne'er been called!"

The three children turned a scarlet brighter than the dawn before a storm.

"Missus, uh Auntie Nor," stuttered Petey. "We thought you was the mother of the fairies stealin' yer way into the McCracken home, and we aimed to stop ye," said Paddy.

"The only thing you children are preventin' is my winnin' the homemade sweetie competition at the Harvest Fete," laughed Mrs. McCracken. "Nor here was visitin' me as of late to share her secret recipe for treacle sweeties. Ah, with the bayin' of the hounds and children, sure the whole of Rock Strand will know that I have a conspiracy in me apron strings!"

"We beg yer pardon, but would ye mind if the hounds and us starvin' children could avail ourselves of these sweeties in the basket?"

With the full moon bright over Rock Strand, Paddy and Petey spent an hour tasting the finest sweets in the county. "Ach, surely if thon Wee Woman were to come to your hearth, Mrs. McCracken, she would never leave," exclaimed Petey with a wink at Bridie and her grand freckles. ■

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

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# VOTE FOR

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For Judge Common Pleas Court

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### ON THIS DAY IN IRISH HISTORY - OCTOBER

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

**3 October 1971** - Sean O'Riada (40), composer, notably of the music for the historical documentary *Mise Eire* (1959), and arranger for *The Chieftains*, dies.

**5 October 1911** - Brian O'Nolan, alias Flann O'Brien and Myles na gCopaleen, wit, novelist and Irish Times columnist, is born in Strabane, Co. Tyrone.

**6 October 1891** - Death of Charles Stewart Parnell, champion of tenant's rights and co-founder of the Land League.

**10 October 1918** - Sinking of RMS *Leinster* by German torpedoes. She was bound for Holyhead and went down just outside Dublin Bay. Over 500 people perished, mostly military personnel returning from leave -

the greatest single loss of life in the Irish Sea.

**11 October 1969** - Death of Louise Gavan Duffy, revolutionary, who founded Scoil Bhride, the first all-Irish school for girls, in Dublin.

**15 October 1945** - Death of Eoin Mac Neill, scholar, patriot, who co-founded the Gaelic League and was Chief of Staff of the Irish Volunteers.

**22 October 1641** - The start of the Ulster Rebellion, when rebel Catholics surprised Protestant settlers, massacring a large number.

**23 October 1921** - John Boyd Dunlop, veterinary surgeon, and inventor of the pneumatic tyre, dies.

**25 October 2002** - Richard Harris (72), actor and Oscar nominee for *The Sporting Life* (1963), and *The Field* (1990), dies.



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For Common Pleas Judge  
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### FRANCIS P. "PAT" CARR

March 13, 1962 - August 26, 2020  
FRANCIS P. "PAT" CARR, age 58, beloved husband of Michele (nee Lapinski); loving father of Ryan, Erin, Colleen and Aidan; son of the late Nora (nee McGrath) and Frank Carr; dear brother of Kevin, Sean (Kim), Brian (Maureen), Brendan (Maureen), Michael (Eric), Seamus (Julie) and Colm (Amy); beloved uncle, cousin and dear friend of many. Passed away August 26, 2020 surrounded by his family and his dogs.



In lieu of flowers, the family encourages you to consider a contribution to either St. Ignatius High School, 1911 W. 30th St., Cleveland, OH 44113 or Magnificat High School, 20770 Hilliard Blvd., Rocky River, OH 44116.

*Obituary courtesy of Chambers Funeral Homes*

### PATRICK ANTHONY SWEENEY

September 2, 1939 - September 7, 2020



Patrick Sweeney, 81, was born in Cleveland, Ohio, to Bridget and Thomas Sweeney of County Monaghan and County Mayo Ireland. He attended Saint Ignatius High School, served in the United States Air Force, and received a Master of Public Administration from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

At 28 years old, he was elected to the Ohio House of Representatives, serving his home district in Cleveland, Ohio. He remained in the State Legislature for more than thirty years, serving as House Majority Whip, Assistant to the Majority Leader, and Minority Leader. Throughout his well-lived life, he was

recognized for his dedication to public service, his commitment to the arts and education, and his ability to work across any aisle to make real progress for his community.

He was instrumental in the development of many downtown Cleveland landmarks including Playhouse Square, the Gateway District, Cleveland State University, Tri-C, and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. His influence on the City of Cleveland and the State of Ohio will last for generations to come.

Patrick loved nothing more than talking politics over a drink with friends and rivals alike, especially when those talks and drinks were on a golf course. He was always boastfully proud of his daughter Margaret Anne and simply adored her "fine lad of a husband" Tony.

Later in life he acquired his favorite title, "Grandpa," and genuinely cherished every moment he spent with his favorite person, his grandson, Elliott. Patrick was the proud husband and the great admirer of his wife of 36 years, Emily, whom he loved dearly. He will be sorely missed, and his wit, friendship, and room-filling energy can never be replaced.

Patrick is survived by his wife, Emily (Mirsky), his daughter Margaret (Tony), and his grandson, Elliott; his sister Sheila (Mohan); nieces Maureen Wlodarczyk (Brian), Kathleen O'Neill (Scott), Maureen Upchurch (Donald), and Mary Kay Murphy (Daniel); nephews Thomas Hodar (Elizabeth), Mark Hodar, John Mohan (Amanda); many godchildren and countless friends around the world. He was preceded in death by his parents, his sister Kathleen Hodar and brother-in-law Jerome Hodar, his brother-in-law John Mohan, sister Maureen Sweeney, and brother Emmett Sweeney.

Please, in lieu of flowers contributions may be made to Saint Joseph Academy, 3470 Rocky River Dr., Cleveland, OH 44111.

*Obituary courtesy of BerryMcGreevey.com*



## Irish History Contest

The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians (LAOH) have been sponsoring an Irish History Contest for over 100 years. This year, the contest is making history with the addition of new formats. Students can submit a paper, a power point presentation, a website or a documentary. We hope with this new format to engage more students in promoting our Irish History.



The topic of the 2020-2021 Irish History Contest is, "The Impact of the Irish Anglo Treaty of 1921." The contest is open to students in Grades 6, 7, or 8 and for students in Grades 9, 10, 11, or 12. Entries will be judged according to their Grade Level.

National Prizes will be awarded for each level: for Grades 6-8, 1st Place will receive \$500 and 2nd Place \$250. For Grades 9-12, 1st Place will receive \$1,000 and 2nd Place \$500. Each

state and division may also award monetary prizes.

Contest information and complete rules can be found on the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernian website [www.ladiesaoh.com](http://www.ladiesaoh.com), under the Historian information. Submissions to the contest are due to a local Division Historian by November 15, 2020. All submissions are to be submitted electronically.

The Cleveland area Division Historian is Mary Agnes Kennedy. She can be contacted at [maryagnes@mindspring.com](mailto:maryagnes@mindspring.com). Please indicate LAOH History Contest in the subject line.

There are LAOH Ohio Divisions in Akron, Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton, Steubenville, Toledo and Youngstown. Please contact JoAnn Shirer, the Ohio State Historian, for contact information, at [jshire@zoominternet.net](mailto:jshire@zoominternet.net).

This contest is open to all. We encourage all readers of the Ohio Irish American News to have their children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews and friends participate. Together, let us promote our proud Irish history. Hopefully we will have winners from Ohio announced in March 2021. ■

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## Beloved Irish Priest Drowns in a Boating Accident

Father Stephen Joseph Rooney, age 66, passed away as the result of a tragic boating accident on the Detroit River, August 16, 2020. Fr. Rooney has been described as a priest with an Irish brogue and a sense of humor, who was a wonderful role model as a Christian and dedicated his entire life to service of other people. Fr. Rooney spent many of his priestly years in Monroe County, which is just North



**Father Rooney** of Toledo.

It's ironic that Fr. Rooney died as a result of a boating accident; he did not know how to swim. He did not like being in a boat or on the water. Why was he even there?

Fr. Rooney had helped Robert Chiles through his grief after his wife, Christine Chiles, disappeared in September of 2019. Her body was found after a community wide search covering several days. Her death was



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ruled a suicide.

The couple had three children and the family grew close to Fr. Rooney in their grief. They shared meals and time together, with Fr. Rooney a guest at their home many times. On Sunday, when Mr. Chiles invited Fr. Rooney to join him and his family on his thirty-nine-foot speed boat, he accepted.

Mr. Chiles owned the boat and was at the helm at around 7:30p.m., when they hit a strong wake, flipping the watercraft and sending its fourteen passengers overboard. A passing boat rescued most of those on board, including seven children, but Mr. Chiles and Fr. Rooney remained missing.

Mr. Chile's body was recovered near the accident scene around 9:00a.m. on Tuesday. Fr.'s body was located fourteen miles south of where the accident occurred, in Lake Erie at Stoney Point, in Monroe County.

"The fact that he was found in Monroe County is very fitting," said Monroe County Prosecutor Michael Roehrig, a close friend. "It might be a stretch of the imagination to think he had a hand in it, but clearly he was very happy at St. Mike's. He put down some really deep roots."

Maureen Shelton, former National LAOH President told me, "As you know, Fr. Rooney was my national chaplain when I was LAOH National President. He was a godsend to me, a very dear friend and trusted advisor. We have remained friends for many years. He was at our parish here at Saint Michaels; he gave us permission when LAOH started in Monroe to meet in the Rectory basement with his full support. He had a wonderful sense of humor."

Maureen went on to tell me; "I can tell you what was said at the visual that happened here in Monroe is that Father Rooney came back to Monroe over 14 miles through shipping channel to come home to us, we felt. He did not like the water so this is a great thing for us. We felt he really wanted to get back to us. The other victim was found near the accident site so why did Father Rooney get away and come so far? We only believe that it was because he wanted to come home to Monroe.

His visual in Monroe was held on the feast of our Lady of Knock and as we were preparing to say the rosary and start the vigil we felt the earth move beneath us. It was an earthquake. They also don't happen in Monroe and it was a 3.2. It started out in the river where he came home and came to town."

### BELFAST BORN

Fr. Rooney was born Belfast, Ireland on February 10, 1954 to John and Catherine (nee Higgins) Rooney. He grew up in a family of fifteen children and is survived by twelve. He is preceded in death by his brothers John Jr (d.1945 aged 11 months), Billy (d.1951 aged 4 days) and his parents John (d.1999) and Catherine (d.2017).

Stephen Rooney started off his spiritual journey as a sixteen-year-old. In 1970, he entered the house of the Passionist Order at Tobar Mhuire (Mary's Well) in Crossgar, Co. Down, about twenty-five miles from his home in the Ballymacarrett area of Belfast.

After that first taste of life in the Catholic Church, Stephen returned home to work as a care giver for senior citizens in Nazareth House. He spoke fondly of his time with the residents there, and the lessons in dignity and respect that work gave him. Subsequently, he joined the Redemptorist Order, first in Clonard, Belfast and subsequently in the order's house in Esker, Galway. He worked in the St. Vincent De Paul charity shop in Galway City, and was active in a program to help young traveler children.

This was at a time when there was much anti-traveler sentiment in the city. From this early age and throughout his life, Stephen challenged racism whenever it raised its head. Coming from a background in the north of Ireland where Catholics suffered institutionalized discrimination at the hands of the state heightened his strong sense of social justice. Armed with his innate compassion, and this lived experience and knowledge, he instinctively strived to make the world a better place.

Stephen took his vows as a brother in the Redemptorist Order in St



**Father Rooney & Maureen Shelton's Family.**

Joseph's Dundalk, in 1975. He then took an unexpected detour when he decided to enter the Cistercian Order. In 1978 he entered the monastery at Bolton Abbey, County Kildare, where, with his characteristic enthusiasm, he undertook the ascetic life of a monk.

The routine of communal prayer, physical labor and solitary contemplation left an imprint on him for the rest of his life. The city boy became adept at farm work and rising at 5.00am for prayer. Stephen took his final vows while a member of the Cistercian community June 1985. His spiritual journey continued the following year when, like so many Irish people before him, he left for the United States to work as a priest in the diocese of Detroit.

Fr. Rooney was pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel parish in Temperance, Michigan, one mile north of Toledo. John Mohr recalls when he had the 9:00 o'clock daily Mass at OLMC. The Mass always started promptly, and he would just walk in at 9. He would have a twenty-eight to thirty-three-minute Mass, with about six-minute Homily; he knew people were on their way to work.

### CROSSING THE RIVER

The Mass of the Resurrection was held August 26 at St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Church in Allen Park, Michigan. More than 300 people attended the Mass, including Archbishop Allen Vigneron, bishops, and fifty clergy from the area.

The live stream of Father Rooney's funeral was viewed by those in Ireland and Britain and was overloaded by more than 5,000 viewers at one point. Father Mark Gawronski gave the homily. He said that "Father Rooney would be confused with all the fuss over his death, but he shouldn't be: The fuss is because you truly impacted our lives. He completed his crossing in, of all places, a river." ■

*Maury Collins is a Charter Member and past president of the John P. Kelly Division of the AOH and a proud first-generation Irish American. Contact him at [maurycollins61@gmail.com](mailto:maurycollins61@gmail.com).*

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Photo courtesy of Maureen Shelton

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## Bride Sweeney Continues Four Generation Family Legacy of Service to Ohio

The Sweeney family's public presence is generations in the making. Bride recalls, "Growing up, politics were always a part of our life. I remember my grandfather, Judge Gerald Sweeney's retirement party and his travels around the state as a visiting judge. When I was growing up, my dad was always helping people. Constituents would stop over the house constantly and call our landline. I remember helping my father run for election, knocking on doors and walking in our neighborhood parades. "My great grandfather, an immigrant from Ireland, was a State Representative for this same area. He started off as a carpenter; he built houses. Then he became a State Representative in West Park; the state representative went by the county then. "Seeing them throughout my life, be-

ing in the public eye - I always thought, what a great way to spend one's life - serving the public and helping people. However, the older I got the more I was exposed to the nastiness of politics.

"I felt I couldn't handle that. I didn't want to handle that. What I wanted was to have a passion for my work and to make a difference. During college at John Carroll University, I made the decision to study political science. I never saw myself running. I want to be behind the scenes.

"After college, I was fortunate enough to land a job in the state legislature working as a policy aide. I worked in the Senate, while my dad served as a State Representative. At first, I didn't tell anyone who my dad was because I wanted to earn my own reputation.

"I just soaked up the entire experience of working in the state capital. Most people learn how a bill becomes a law from a book, but I get to see behind-the-scenes. My favorite part was the constituent service, and helping people all across the state.

"I've learned so much from my dad. He is a roll up your sleeves kind of public servant. He believed you served by taking action. He is a go above and beyond kind of person; that's just who he is.

"Seeing him in action every day was so impactful to me, in our home and throughout my life. Everyone has a story about my dad. How he got things done when no one else could. He made me understand that this is definitely not a 9-to-5 job. It is 24/7 all the time. You are always on the clock.

"While working in the Senate I started to gain the confidence to run for office myself, I heard people reading my speeches on the Senate floor and seeing

my exact quotes printed in The Plain Dealer. I thought if I can write their speeches, then why shouldn't I use my own voice to represent my community?

"People discouraged me from running for office. They said this just isn't my time and I should wait my turn. But after meeting the individuals running to replace my dad in the legislature, I quickly realized I knew far more about the issues and governmental processes than they did.

"I entered into the race two weeks before the filing deadline. I knocked on doors every day from the filings to the election. I personally knocked on 7,000 doors; I had to prove my work ethic. Older constituents were supportive of seeing a young person get involved in government, and they were thankful I stepped up.

"Yes, I was the youngest person running. However, with my experience in the legislature I was the most qualified for the position. It was the toughest thing I've ever had to do. To prove I am my own person and that I had what it takes to win and serve.

"I thought about my mother a lot when things got tough. My mom, who we lost five years ago to cancer, made me promise to always believe in myself and to never let anyone make me feel



less than what I knew I was capable of. I would not have been able to do it without my mom instilling that in me. I feel like I knew I had to do this; I had to work hard to make it easier for the next woman to run.

"At the time, I was aware that people were saying I will be the first woman in this position. That was part of my sense of obligation, my calling. I think it is an important story to tell, about the need for equal representation of women in positions of power."

### WHAT IS A DAY IN THE LIFE LIKE?

"Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays I am often in Columbus because that's when the Ohio House meets.



Four generations: Bride Sweeney, next to her father Marty, next to Marty's sister Maureen Sweeney, standing around their father, the Honorable Gerald Francis Sweeney, holding a picture of his father, Michael E. Sweeney.

Mondays and Fridays, I spend time with constituents, tour local businesses, and keep in touch with local governments. I have to be out there in the community to listen to people and let them know how state policy will affect them; it's my job.

"Sometimes I have to remind myself to block off time to respond to emails and calls etc. Committee Hearings take up a lot of time. Because Ohio has term limits, out of thirty-eight Democrats, eighteen of them are freshman. When I was running for my first term, I could say, "I've worked here, I already know how this place works," because I'd been there for years. I came in ready to do the job on day one, and I dedicate a lot of time to the work.

"Many people underestimated me as a young woman, twenty-six years old. After my election, I made it onto one of the most powerful committees, the finance committee, which writes the state's seventy-billion-dollar budget.

"Finance is my favorite, especially after serving as the Ranking Member for the Subcommittee on Higher Education during the last budget. It's amazing to see something you worked on become

state law; nothing is more rewarding. I also serve on the Insurance and the Commerce and Labor Committees."

### DISTRICT CONCERN: HEALTHCARE AND RISING COSTS

"My concerns are my constituent's concerns. They care most about healthcare. I knew from the start that that was something I wanted to address. Far too many Ohioans are one bad medical diagnosis away from bankruptcy. We need to find a better way to make sure everyone has access to affordable quality healthcare"

### DISTRICT CONCERN: VOTING AND VOTING RIGHTS FOR A FAIR ELECTION

"In Ohio, if someone does not vote for six years, they are removed from the rolls. It is a very flawed process known as voter purging. We found this past year that the state does a very bad job at actually removing people who should be removed. In some cases, voters were wrongfully removed about 20% of the time.

"I offered a solution with automatic

voter registration. My bill has an opt-out system. Instead of an opt-in one, when you go to renew your license or change your address, the clerk will say, do you want me to register you? It is so simple, and makes the current process obsolete. This would ensure that every eligible voter is able to participate in our elections if they so choose.

"Fair elections are the basis of democracy. We want to make it as easy as possible for people to vote."

### DISTRICT CONCERN: COLLEGE AFFORDABILITY

"Another priority for me is college affordability. My House Bill 9, which deals with this issue, passed unanimously out of the Ohio House. General education courses, like English 101, don't always transfer between schools, even though they should.

"There are too many people who aren't graduating on time or at all; they go to school, have to leave before finishing, and they end up with nothing, because the courses they took aren't transferring to whatever school or program they are going to next. They lose all of their hard work, their money, and their credits. If I wasn't there, would this topic even be talked about?"

"Town halls let people see what is going on with their government. People come to learn if you give them opportunities.

"Part of my work is helping constituents navigate through government bureaucracy. I can reach out to the government entity or agency that can help them, from members of city council to

member of the U.S. Congress. I want people to be more aware of government and to hold leaders accountable to the people they are supposed to represent.

"I represent 110,000 people. When I got elected, some people assumed I went to Washington D.C. I encourage people to find out who their elected leaders are; call them, find out what they are doing; what are they working on? Are they doing the things that matter to you?"

"Some people say, it doesn't really affect me, so why should I care? They don't realize how much it's all connected: retirement, energy costs, and on and on. This can be a light-bulb going off in their heads. Well, this affects me; I should learn more and understand more.

"If you show up and work hard, you can make a difference. I am aware of people saying that there is a stigma against young people getting involved. I want to leverage the opportunity for the next person.

"I grew up in politics. I have worked in it for six years now. I have something to say. I can and will make a difference, for people now, and for those coming after me.

"There are people's lives at stake here; it is bigger than me or my party. I make decisions for all the people of Ohio. I represent 110,000 people; you're not going to keep me quiet!" ■

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## TERRY FROM DERRY

By Terry Boyle

# Moving Towards Change

I've been having some interesting discussions as we head toward another election. Most of these discussions are based on the daily news and, as such, they tend to reflect the opinion of the day.

Of course, we usually only have these discussions with like-minded people. However, the media frenzy over the political spectrum is enough to drive you to distraction, if you let it.

Over the past few days, I've had to distance myself from obsessively reading the news online. Since each new headline

was enough to enrage or excite me into despair or hope. One day, I'd be 'this is great', and the next 'this is bloody awful'.

In Buddhist theology, it is the attachment to something that causes suffering. We get so fixated by something or someone that we're unable to let it or them go. This inability to detach ourselves causes us to suffer greatly, even when we know it would be better to let go.

The human condition is such that we rarely are content with simply being. We keep playing out the endless scenarios of what might happen, and, predictably we miss out on what is happening right now. When it comes to the political circus of our times, I'm guilty of playing out the worst possible results of maintaining the status quo.

It's hard to live in the present, especially when the journalists are constantly forecasting lots of different outcomes. For months, I found myself swinging between hope and despair, depending on what result some journalist predicted.

There is only so much of hitting yourself on the head with a hammer before you realize that if you stop, it feels much better. In my case, the hammer is my phone. I need to stop looking at the news and get on with my life.

We miss out on the good things in life when we allow things we have no control over to dominate our thoughts. This lesson is a hard one to learn, and I'm still struggling to learn it. In one of my discussions, we discussed this symbiotic relationship between hope and despair. There are those days when you feel most hopeful. The news day, for instance, is working in your favour and all is finally right with the world. However, in the back of your mind, despair lurks, seeking to undermine your new-found hope. Then, there are times when despair reigns. The newscasting predictions are unfavourable and worrying. During those times, hope manifests itself as a defence of what we fear is unavoidable.

Since the election of 2016, and the UK vote to end its affiliation with Europe, my anxiety level has skyrocketed. The uncertainty of our future has been galvanized by the rips in our society manifested in racism and political partisanship.

When a government divides people and fuels sectarianism, you worry where what this will lead us to. My hope is that as we drift into autumn, a season of change, we will see a change in government for the better. Hopefully, the election will strip away the fascism of the present regime and provide us with a new administration that will help to heal the wounds of the past four years.

### ONE PANDEMIC LESSON

Surprisingly, the one good thing this pandemic has taught me is that no matter what happens, we should be grateful to be alive. We took so many of our freedoms for granted. It's so true, you don't miss these things until their gone.

Who would've thought we were so

vulnerable to such an attack? It happened so quickly, and in a matter of days, our reality changed, irrevocably. We may find a vaccine but we're not immune to the next virus. In our arrogance, we thought we were in control. Nature has shown us how disposable we are, and that reality will continue to haunt our imaginations.

Over the next weeks, we are going to be inundated with news stories. Some will leave us feeling more depressed while others will stir us to hope. What we need to remind ourselves of is that if we allow the news to determine our emotions, we'll constantly feel anxious.

There are times when we need to 'back off' and think about the time we're losing by becoming fretful about outcomes that have not happened. I realize that I'm preaching to myself as much as anyone else.

### THE CAULDRON OF DESPAIR

Each of us needs a mental health break from the cauldron of bad news that brings nothing but despair. Recently, I watched a movie about Anne Frank. Despite her entrapment in an attic, fearing capture by the Nazis, she writes in her diaries of the simple joys of daily life now denied to her. A young teenager living with the daily fear of capture, remembers the lost freedom to play with friends, enjoy a summer's day, walk without fear of being singled out, and instead of bemoaning her lot she celebrates these things.

In the midst of despair, hope finds a way to inspire us to believe in the best of life. For me, the only way to fully appreciate this gift of hope is to remove myself from the source of suffering. The world won't fall apart if I'm not reading the news. Life is short, and even though we're in the throes of a pandemic, we're not trapped in an attic for fear of our lives.

If we do the things we need to do to avoid infection, we can enjoy the simple things denied to Anne Frank. And, whatever the outcome of the election, whether it leads to hope or despair, we will continue to hope for change. ■

*Terry is a retired professor at Loyola University, Chicago. He writes and reviews plays. Moving from Derry, N. Ireland to Chicago in 2004 and CA in 2019, he continues to enjoy his work with the Irish American community. He can be reached: terryaboyle@gmail.com*

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## COOKING UP A HOOLEY

By Katie Gagne

# A Great New Halloween Tradition Festive Fall Nachos

Imagine the smiles and oohhs and aahhs you'll have when you make this fun and creative treat part of your Fall holidays. Sweet and simple and so gooey good.

### Ingredients

- 4 Granny Smith Apples – sliced
- 4 Red Delicious (or any favorite red apple) – sliced
- ½ cup Marshmallow Fluff – melted to a drizzle consistency
- ¾ cup Salted Caramel Sauce
- ½ cup Hot Fudge Sauce
- 6-8 oz Miniature Marshmallows
- ½ cup Mini Chocolate Chips
- ½ cup Peanut Butter or Butterscotch Chips (optional)
- ½ cup Fall Sprinkles/Jimmies

Spread sliced apples on a platter or in a shallow pan. Drizzle with Marsh-

mallow Fluff, Caramel Sauce and Hot Fudge Sauce. Sprinkle liberally with Marshmallows, Chocolate, PB or Butterscotch Chips, and Sprinkles.

Dive in and enjoy!

### The Best Homemade Caramel Sauce Ever

- 1 cup Granulated Sugar
- 6 tbsp Salted Butter cut into pieces
- ½ cup Heavy Whipping Cream
- 1 tsp Salt

Heat granulated sugar in a medium saucepan over medium heat, stirring constantly with a high heat resistant rubber spatula or wooden spoon. Sugar will form clumps and eventually melt into a thick brown, amber-colored liquid as you continue to stir. Be careful not to burn.

Once sugar is completely melted, immediately add the butter. Be careful in this step because the caramel will bubble rapidly when the butter is added.

Stir the butter into the caramel until it is completely melted, about 2 minutes. If you notice the butter separating or if the sugar clumped up, remove from heat and vigorously whisk to combine it again. (If you're nervous for splatter, wear kitchen gloves. Keep whisking until it comes back together, even if it takes 3-4 minutes. It will eventually just keep whisking. Return to heat when it's combined again.)

Very slowly drizzle in 1/2 cup of heavy cream while stirring. Since the heavy cream is colder than the caramel, the mixture will rapidly bubble when



added. Allow the mixture to boil for 1 minute. It will rise in the pan as it boils. Remove from heat and stir in 1 teaspoon of salt. Allow to slightly cool down before using. Caramel thickens as it cools.

Cover tightly and store for up to 1 month in the refrigerator. Caramel solidifies in the refrigerator. Reheat in the microwave or on the stove to desired consistency.

(I have been using this caramel sauce recipe from Sally's Baking addiction for years. It is amazing!)

- Easy Hot Fudge Sauce
  - 2 cups Powdered Sugar
  - 12 ounce can Evaporated Milk
  - ½ cup Salted Butter
  - ¾ cup Semisweet Chocolate Chips
- Place all ingredients in a medium

saucepan over medium heat.

Bring to a boil and, stirring constantly, boil for 8 minutes.

Remove from the heat and allow to cool slightly before serving. The sauce can be stored in an airtight container in the refrigerator for up to 1 month. Reheat as needed. ■

*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 mbluebows@aol.com, or find her on Facebook at @sassyssweetsandmore.*

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- 1st – Daylight Savings Time Ends  
Shamrock Club of Columbus Monthly Meeting
- 2nd – All Souls Day
- 3rd – Election Day – PLEASE Vote
- 9th – Irish American Club East Side General Meeting
- 11th – Veteran's Day
- 13th – Irish Echo Community Champion Awards  
Irish Songs, Stories & Shenanigans Podcast16 launches at 5pm
- 16th – FREE OhioIANews eBulletin arrives in your inbox @ 3:10 p.m.
- 19th – West Side Irish American Club Monthly Meeting
- 26th – Happy Thanksgiving
- 27th – Irish Songs, Stories & Shenanigans Podcast16 launches at 5pm
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**CLEVELAND COMHRÁ**  
By Bob Carney

@BobCarneyGTR

## Crann na Beatha

Most of us are familiar with the ancient celtic image of Crann na Beatha, The Tree of Life. A visit to any Irish festival or boutique and you're sure to find it's image on clothing, jewelry and any number of items. It is a beautiful link to our Irish heritage reaches back many centuries. Depicted to symbolize the forces of nature coming together to maintain balance. The roots reach into the lower (spirit) world, while the crown or branches are stretching to the heavens and the trunk remains grounded to the earth.

To the celts and most early peoples, trees were extremely important, their

very existence relied on the timber for fuel and shelter. The forest provided a home for deer and boar, which in turn provided meat and clothing.

The mightiest and most sacred was the oak. The celts believed them to be ancestors, a strong wise person was even said to have "oak wisdom."

Trees were a connection to the spirit world. The Irish word for oak is dair, believed to be the origin of the english word door. Irish mythology is full of tales of a person falling asleep next to one of these doorways to the fairy realm and waking in their world.

In early settlements a tree was usually at the center, where rituals of birth, death and rebirth would be held. The oak represented wisdom, strength and longevity.

A few years back I read a book about the migration of peregrine falcons from Mexico, through the midwest and into Canada. The author related the story of the pilot he had contracted to fly him as he followed their flight. One day the pilot remarked how beautiful America was from the sky as they flew across the breadbasket of our country. He was taken aback when the naturalist agreed with him but pointed out that, without man, it would appear very different.

### FOREST CITY

A lot takes place before agriculture on a large scale can happen. Our own state of Ohio, had it been untouched by man, would be one large forest, one of Cleveland's earliest nicknames was "The Forest City."

Ireland today is approximately 11% forested, lower than the average European country, which is 30%. (The US has 36% coverage, roughly 818,814,000 acres, due to early and continuing conservation efforts)

The Emerald Isle had near total destruction of it's forests, due to human activity and changes in the climate following the last ice age, when coverage went from 80% down to 1%. Initially the Irish State was responsible for the reforesting of Ireland to decrease it's timber dependency.

Today private individuals are doing the most to increase the coverage, government policy is to bring the number up to 17%. Co. Wicklow has the highest coverage and Co. Meath the lowest.

Most forests are 25 acres or less, and many are quite young. Timber is a re-



newable natural building material and with proper forestry management, is being looked at by property owners as a long term (think generations) investment.

Many conifers can reach maturity in a relatively short time, about twenty or thirty years. Illegal timbering is a different thing altogether; what is happening in Ireland is ecologically sound and should not be confused with the former.

A properly managed forest does not take the place of a natural occurring one, but offers many of the same benefits as far as carbon storage; an important benefit if we hope to slow climate change.

Species variety is considered as well to prevent an unbalanced ecosystem in the forest, so the mighty oak, which can take 100-150 years to mature, will still have a place in Ireland. In the book "The Hidden Life of Trees" the author, a forest manager, explains the "community" aspect of the forest.

The concept of balance in our environment is nothing new, even in more modern times. Alexander Von Humboldt observed the effects of man on the health of the land back in the early 1800s, during his five year expedition to South America.

His writings influenced Darwin, who carried copies of Humboldt's books on the Beagle, and would expand on his theories and observations in "The Origin of Species." Our farmer, naturalist,

president, Thomas Jefferson, met Humboldt and discussed the importance of balance in America's farming future.

### EFFECT ON THE ENVIRONMENT

"The road to heaven..." With a growing nation and growing industry the immediate need took precedence over long term stability. In the April 2019 Ohio Irish American News, I related the events that led to the formation of The Clean Water Act and The Environmental Protection Agency. The growth towards a cleaner world since 1970, including our own Cuyahoga River, has been an amazing thing to see.

In May of this year I read an article concerning the positive affect the pandemic has had on the environment, even as it has been devastating in most other aspects. With transportation and industry down, global emissions have also fallen. Even if it's only a temporary respite, it has given environmental scientists hope that implementing changes will slow the process of climate change down.

Since the pandemic began, however, the current administration has quietly been scaling back regulations for fuel efficiency in cars and trucks, air pollution standards from power plants, water pollution in streams and wetlands, expanded logging and drilling in Alaska and overriding state water pollution permits and liquified natural gas development. These are just a few of the things happening since the begin-

ning of this year.

Granted many of these rollbacks will be heavily contested in the courts and some will be ignored by business's with a global market (why build a vehicle you can't sell anywhere else?). The concern is for the ones that get pushed into law.

In August, Interior Secretary David Bernhardt announced he would open the Artic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas drilling. Also in August, the administration removed regulations on oil and gas companies leaks of methane at drilling sites.

Even with a change of administrations or Democratic control of the senate, it would take a great deal of time and resources to rectify these changes that promote more emissions. A friend, who supports the current administration, told me, "Even if climate change is real, the EPA has become a bureaucratic disaster and has gone to far."

As with any government agency, I suspect there is an element of truth in the second half of his statement. But I'm more inclined to think that somehow the wolf has managed to convince some of the sheep that the sheepdog is the problem.

If this issue is important to you, research your candidates and get out and vote.

### Further Reading

"The Hidden Life of Trees" Peter Wohlleben  
"The Invention of Nature" Andrea Wulf  
"Views of Nature" Alexander Von Humboldt  
"The Water Will Come" Jeff Goodell  
"On the Wing: To the Edge of the Earth with the Peregrine Falcon" Alan Tennant  
I hope we can all find balance in our lives, and with each other. ■

*Bob Carney is a student of Irish history and language and teaches the Speak Irish Cleveland class held every Tuesday at PJ McIntyre's. He is also active in the Irish Wolfhounds and Irish dogs organizations in and around Cleveland. Wife Mary, hounds Morrighán and Rian and terrier Doolin keep the house jumping. He can be contacted at carneyspeakirish@gmail.com*

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## AT HOME, ABROAD

By Regina Costello

### “And all at once Summer collapsed into Fall,” - Oscar Wilde

Fall time has many definitions and meanings that, on a personal level, fill me with an array of mixed emotions. Cooling temperatures with decreasing day light hours are usually what first comes to mind as we witness its' arrival. Fall in Ireland is not as dramatic as in northeast Ohio, perhaps because our weather is so temperate.

Driving to work and elsewhere during my first Fall in Cleveland filled me with awe, with the magnificence of the bold colors of the leaves on the trees. The colors seemed to become more pigmented with each passing day until eventually they dry up and fall to the ground.

Cool evenings nudge us to retrieve soft cozy throws to add comfort in front of the fire. New excuses to go shopping for comfy sweaters, fleece leggings and

furry boots too. Our terrier, although equipped with her own warm coat of beautiful hair, gets her own shopping list from my daughter, Fiona, that includes the latest fashion in snow boots and a flannel coat.

Many of these preparations coincide with a new school year, a new beginning of new challenges. This year will be particularly challenging as we continue to manage our lives during the pandemic.

With the arrival of Fall comes welcome changes in our food chain too. Memories of blackberry and crab apple picking from my childhood whet my appetite for a home-made tart. These days, demands for pumpkin spiced lattes from the kids follow me as I exit the house.

The aroma of seasonal pumpkin and pecan pies entering my local bakery feels good to the soul. Roasting the harvested root vegetables of parsnips and turnips make tasty sides to the Sunday dinner.

### AUTUMN, A NEW BEGINNING

Autumn can also refer to maturity and a new beginning. Wallace Stegner, in Angle of Repose writes, “Another Fall, another turned page: there was something jubilee in that annual



autumnal beginning, as if last year's mistakes had been wiped clean by summer”

Maturity brings peace, and for us humans, it comes with age and every passing Fall. As I get older, I find that I am less bothered or concerned about fruitless thoughts that plague many of us during our younger years. I find solace in this maturity with its' ability

to forgive myself and others, enabling me to turn the page.

My mind set is different, stronger and more self-reliant. I am more focused on the here and now taking comfort in the gifts I have in life with my husband. I look forward to the future and continue to rear my children as best I can, in the hope that they will continue to evolve into kind adults who function well and contribute to society.

Fall can be a sobering time for a number of reasons. Another characterization of Fall is its' reference to death in nature. My father died in the Autumn and so thoughts of him bring to mind mixed emotions at this time of year. It reminds of Patrick Kavanagh's poem “Memory of My Father.” Kavanagh writes about old men he sees, that in some capacity, bring to mind thoughts of his father:

Every old man I see  
Reminds me of my father  
....  
That man I saw in Gardner Street  
....  
He stared at me half-eyed,  
I might have been his son.

....  
Every old man I see  
In October-coloured weather  
Seems to say to me:  
“I was once your father.”

### THE COMFORT OF EMOTION

I lived that poem in the months after my Dad's death and many times since. When I see a certain expression in an old man's face, notice a particular gait in an old man's walk, or observe a glance in my direction with kind, warm blue eyes, I am filled with emotion that also provides comfort, in the gentle reminder of the loving father that I was lucky to have for so long.

As Summer once again collapses into Fall, like you, I plan to make the most of the season, before the ice cold of winter is upon us, forcing us indoors and preventing socialization. In my home abroad, our little patio is now Fall friendly, with soft cushions and throws on comfortable wickers to accompany

a roaring fire in the pit. Walks in the local Metroparks with friends and Ashley by my side, busy scurrying hither and thither, chasing the colorful leaves will continue until the weather forbids it. A new kind of Fall at home abroad. ■

Regina is a Graduate from the National University of Ireland, Galway and a Post Graduate from the National University of Ireland, Dublin. She is the former Curator of the Irish American Archives at the Western Reserve Historical Society, former Executive Director of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument Commission and former Executive Coordinator of the Northern Ohio Rose Centre. She serves on the Board of Directors of the Mayo Society of Greater Cleveland. She can be reached at rcostello@ameritech.net

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**COLUMBUS IRISH**  
By Molly Truex

## Growing Up Irish: Mike Mentel

With autumn in the air and a baby sitter in place, I donned a mask and going out clothes to head to Dempsey's Food and Spirits (currently open during the week for lunch and weekends for breakfast #eatatdempseys) to speak with Mike Mentel about his forty years in the Columbus Irish community.

I worked for Mark and Megan Dempsey for two and half years waiting tables before our son was born, and the walk from the alley to the door was very familiar and missed. Since they had just opened for the day, the building was empty and quiet, and reminded me of my weekday breakfast shift.

I took a moment to say "Hi" to the picture of Mark that now hangs on the wall next to the beautiful historical bar and took a seat to wait for Mike. Being somewhat new to the Columbus Irish community (seven or so years) I was excited to talk with Mike and was thankful he took some time off his lunch and his run for the 10th District Court of

### Mike Mentel

Appeals to tell me a little bit of history and the changes that he's seen take place in his time being active in our community. Mike's great grandfather was the first of the family to immigrate from the Dublin, Ireland area to Ohio during the WWI era. He settled in to Flytown in Columbus, found work and started sending money back to Ireland for it to be possible for his wife and Mike's grandmother to join him.

Most of the Irish in the area were around the Perry and 1st Avenue area and attended St. Francis Parrish. Some of Mike's earliest memories are of the procession to Mass and marching in the parade with the general membership, before heading to his grandparent's house to celebrate with all their Irish neighbors, listening to Carmel Quinn, Ruby Murray, The Clancy Brothers and Tommy Makem.

### KEEPING TRADITION ALIVE

There was always a celebration of St. Patrick's Day before it ever became 'popular', Mike said, remembering the Neil House dinners, and the gathering of family on March 17, a tradition he has kept alive in his family through the

years. He's not braggadocios about his Irish heritage, it's more an acknowledgement; his law office holds some Irish memorabilia and he's subtly left a sign someone put on his office door stating, "Irish Pride."  
"I don't think it's defining us once a year but it's defining us 365 days a year.

**"IRISH MEN AND WOMEN WILL HAVE EQUAL ACCESS AND HAVE ALL RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES REGARDLESS OF YOUR RELIGION AND ALL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM WILL BE ALLOWED."**

I see that here in Central Ohio."

While working on City Council, Mike collaborated with the Police and Fire departments to recognize a member of each force for their contributions to the city and surrounding community. "...for the month of March I worked with our safety department, along with Police and Fire to come up with either a firefighter of Irish descent or a police officer of Irish descent to recognize them because of the culture and heritage of the Irish community being very involved and being the foundation of that. I was proud to have that go on and to this day that is still being done."

Proclamation Day, from 1916 to Today

Along with these recognitions, Mike was also involved in making Proclamation Day in Columbus the ceremony that it is. "We always would have the Proclamation Day at City Hall, but I tried to bring more attention to it and tried to bring more, if you will, a ceremonial aspect to it than had been done in the past."

Now, instead of only a few officers of the clubs standing around the Mayor's office and them signing the proclamation of March 17 being St. Patrick's Day in Columbus, now

Proclamation Day is a longer presentation of the Irish community, including the charitable donations made by the AOH, LAOH, Shamrock Club, Greater Columbus Irish Cultural Foundation, Daughters of Erin and the Emerald Society, presentation of their officers and honorees, and performances by step dancers and the Pipe and Drums. To the Irish community, this is our day to celebrate our heritage before "everyone" comes out to party.

While St. Patrick's Day has always been the focus of bringing family together and the celebration of Irish heritage, the Proclamation of 1916 has always held



Mike's grandparents

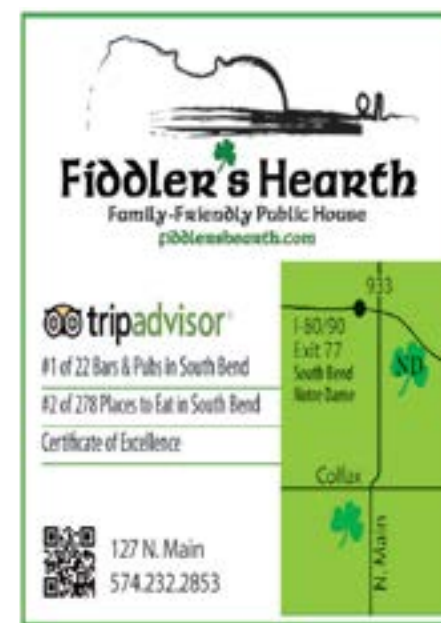
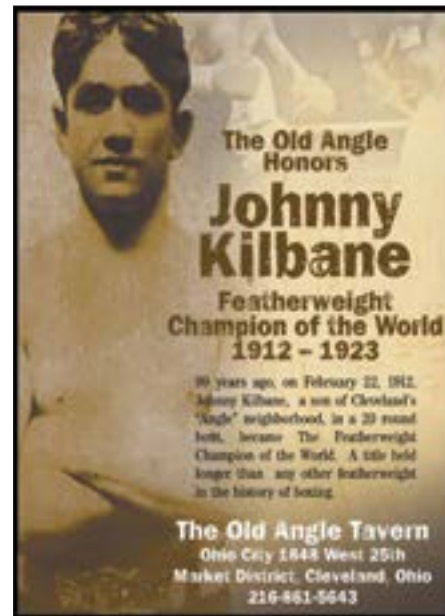
a very special spot in his heart, and Mike feels it is "among us." "When you look at the proclamation, that was largely modeled after our Declaration of Independence, but actually improved, 'Irish men and Irish women, in the name of God and of dead generations.'

"Irish men and women will have equal access and have all rights and privileges regardless of your religion and all religious freedom will be allowed. I celebrate it because, wow, how fantastic a document the Proclamation was with the fore thought that was put into it by Pearce and everyone. I don't discount that celebration of the patron saint, but as far as something that talks

about how we should look at each other because that's how the Republic of Ireland looks at everyone there."

Applauding how well the leadership in the Irish community has embraced this ideal, welcoming all that want to celebrate their heritage, or even just their appreciation of the Irish culture, Mike has high hopes for the future of the Irish community here in Columbus and will be here to support it as long as he is able. ■

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# CLEVELAND IRISH

By Francis McGarry

## Cops and Robbers

As a fellow who fancies himself a historian of some sort or degree, it behooves me to recall things. All types of things really. Practice is how you get to Carnegie Hall.

Carnegie was a Scot and a Pittsburgh guy who sold Carnegie Steel to J.P. Morgan and it became U.S. Steel. It also made old Andy richer than Rockefeller for a few years.

Rockefeller's ma was "Scots-Irish" and is buried in Lake View Cemetery. She saw the value of the protagonist and antagonist, and not just rich folks seeing who can be richest folks.

Cleveland friends of mine refuse to use Heinz ketchup.

In the previous pandemic installments of this article, we explored the introduction of the plea bargain in U.S. and world history and the role the Irish played in this history. That story also has what would appear to be oppositional positions. Cops and robbers were both necessary to make the plea bargain increase in usage, and a few lawyers. Today we look at the police in Cleveland, their role in the growth of our city and the Irish role in the growth of the CPD.

In 1898, the Cleveland Police Department published their history, with the assistance of Thomas A. Knight. His job was not simple in gathering data from old officers who had direct connection to the times of City Marshals and a "reticence only natural to men whose simple modesty is one of their many qualifications as a good officer." Other sources supplied disconnected stories that were more indicative of their matured memory than the history of Cleveland.

As Granny says, "at her age she can only remember the past." That is not the first time that quote has made it in these lines, and would wager not the last.

### THE HISTORY OF THE CLEVELAND POLICE

Coincidentally, the publication of the history of the CPD has advertisements from every brewery and saloon in the city. The Cleveland and Sandusky Brewing Company had ten branches, nine in Cleveland and one in...you guessed it, Sandusky. Standard Oil has an ad as well. E.A. Abbott was the Director of Police, appointed by Mayor Robert E. McKisson in 1895.

McKisson built five new bridges over the Cuyahoga and made the river viable for steamers. He is in Lake View as well; it's like anybody who is anybody gets buried on the Eastside.

George E. Corner was the Superintendent of Police. Corner got his street rep when he was a patrolman. He shot and killed George Foster, the head of the "notorious Foster gang." George had escaped from Columbus and his fifteen-year sentence.

A.S. Gates was Deputy Superintendent of Police and John Vanek was

Secretary. Vanek was born in Bohemia and the other three were born on the east coast and made their way to Cleveland.

### IRISH COPS

M.F. Madigan was a police Captain, born in Ireland. As a patrolman he worked in the 4<sup>th</sup> precinct, on the west end of the viaduct. M.F. arrested the Connelly gang while clubbing Mr. Connelly, who had pulled his pistol. He was acting Deputy Superintendent after Deputy Superintendent James McMahon.

Michael English was also a police Captain, born in Ireland in 1844. In 1894, English and 50 of his officers beat back a May Day parade on Scranton Avenue when the march became violent. The officers were hit with hurling bricks and general projectiles. They eventually quelled the "incipient riot."

Lieutenant John O'Loughlin of the 2<sup>nd</sup> precinct was a native Irishman, as was Lieutenant John Burns of the 7<sup>th</sup> precinct. Detective "Jack" Reeves was born in Ireland and two of his detectives, A. McMillen and James Doran, were born in Canada but of Irish descent. Detectives McMillen and Doran arrested the gang of burglars who shot and killed police Sergeant Sheehan on the West Side.

Sergeant J.J. Doyle and Sergeant Edward Corrigan prevented the robbery of the South Cleveland Bank by members of the Blinky Morgan gang. All Irish fellows, cops and robbers. Corrigan was born in Ireland in 1852, Sergeant M.J. Regan was born in Ireland in 1851,

Sergeant Cullen was born in Ireland in 1850, Sergeant Commerford was born in Ireland in 1860, Sergeant McElhaney born in 1852 to Irish parents. Adjacent to their bio's is an ad for H.F. Cavanaugh's Buffet, dealer in all kinds of imported and domestic family liquors at 257 Superior. It's open day and night. Just down the street from the Oyster Ocean Café, Hannan and McGlade proprietors, "Ladies and Gents Dining Parlors."

The CPD had 295 patrolmen in 1898, who "had to be physically perfect and mentally bright." Thomas Knight might take some literary license in comparing the Cleveland Police Department to the Praetorian Guard, but

when in Rome...

The force had come a long way since George Kirk was elected City Marshal in 1838, with 143 votes to A.N. Gray's 44 votes. Kirk was allowed to keep 2% of all fines collected. The City was home to twelve precincts each with a station house, "most of which are modern."

The city prison at Central Station, Champlain, and Seneca, had eighty seven cells: male prison, forty cells; boy's prison; ten cells; special prison, sixteen cells; female prison, eighteen cells, detention prison, two cells and a hospital cell. Champlain and Seneca is now West 3<sup>rd</sup> and Prospect geographically, but 1898 Cleveland was not built like it is today.

CPD also had a "Citizens' Squad" of officers who would dress as normal Clevelanders and "deceive crooks" who would flee when a uniformed officer is noticed. This branch is not a favorite of the department. The author notes that "there are not a few patrolmen who detest this branch of service."

No officer detested the Police Pension Fund, which was established in 1881. In 1898 the balance was \$118,085.15, or \$3,686,262.70 today, a tad bit more than 2%.

The history of the Cleveland Police Department published in 1898 illustrates the various positions that the Irish occupied on both sides of the law. That is demonstrated from the names preceded with sergeant and those followed by gang. These social and legal roles allowed for transitions in policing and sentencing. The plea bargain is one of these innovations that had shared utility for Irish with a common legal history. ■

*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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## TAKING THE FIELDS OF GLORY

By Vincent Beach

# Midwest GAA

Sláinte chugainn ar fad! Health to us all. A few news-breakers for the Midwest GAA occurred since the last writing. The Pittsburgh GAA hosted a few matches amongst their men's and ladies' teams, with those of the Delco Gaels and Buffalo GAA on August 15th. The Gaels represent Delaware County outside of Philadelphia and are an outstanding example of a youth program maturing into an adult club.

Delco brought a men's team and a ladies' team. A new Buffalo squad also came down, comprised of many former minor players, to play the Pittsburgh men. The scores mattered less than the competition. Congratulations to all the clubs. As they say in Cleveland, keep the faith.

The second notably event was the fielding of a Cleveland hurling team when they held a joint training session with the Akron Celtic Guards on September 6th in Brecksville. The last recollection of a Cleveland hurling team was the Kickhams of the 1970s? – if you have any information on Cleveland hurling and camogie, please write to the author.

Back to Brecksville, the day was quite

successful for both clubs and nothing brings players out like a little competition. After some drills, the sides moved to gameplay. Notable hurling firsts included Charles Plzak (JCU), Chris Greggila, Taylor Kolenko, Matt Margida, and Dan "Mr. Fit" Murray. The two clubs are working out plans for a few more sessions before the weather turns.

Looking ahead, the Cleveland Youth are back in action outdoors at the West Side Irish American Club. The sessions will alternate each Friday night between Gaelic football and hurling. The program is FREE for boys and girls ages 5 to 14. The WSIA also offers a dinner (4:30-7PM) and live music (6:00-8ish), so that families can take advantage of not cooking after a long work week.

The adult Gaelic Football will also continue outdoors as long as the weather allows. Each Wednesday evening starting at 6p.m. with a coed training session, and every other Saturday a coed inner squad scrimmage – all at the WSIA.

As noted above, the hurling will not only continue with some joint sessions with Akron but will also hold a standing puck-around after football training on Wednesdays and a skills training session on Sundays. If you are interested in trying either code (football or hurling) or are a veteran player wanting to dust the boots off again, reach out to [info@clevelandgaa.com](mailto:info@clevelandgaa.com).

Where Are They Now? For this month's "Where Are They Now" moment, we look east to County Carlow. The Cleveland GAA ex-coach Martin Wall is part of the management team for Rathvilly GAA's Senior Men's panel, as they work through the club championships. Best of luck to the Wall's

and Rathvilly. Speaking of Ireland, the club season is well underway, and more county champions will be crowned before this article is published. You can catch top-notch action from GAAGO, County TV (check websites and Youtube for small fees) or Club Facebook live posts, or our favorite TG4 (Irish language television). Come mid-October, the games will transition from club to county. The county championship will run up to Christmas, when All-Ireland Finals will be played.

Go raibh míle maith agaibh (thanks y'all) to our readers and supporters. We need your help and involvement but would most like to share the fun of Irish sport and Cleveland community with you. 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,



Torey Stroud Breaks Through.

fitness-minded club for all ages. Follow @ClevelandGaelic on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter for the 2020 activities for Men, Women, and Youth. Or, visit [ClevelandGAA.com](http://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.*

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## WISE CRAICS

By Maury Collins

@MauryCollins

"I punished my pupil for faking his parents' signatures. The next day, his parents sent a complaint about me to the principal. Well, I couldn't have imagined that the maiden name of his mother was Batman."

"My daughter-in-law taught my grandson to cry and shout, "Am I not good enough for you?"

And he does it every time I ask her whether she would like to have one more child."

"Today I got a strong urge to buy my wife flowers. She accepted them with tears in her eyes saying, 'Darling, you didn't forget.' The most interesting thing is that I still don't understand what she was talking about. Well, at least I know I dodged a bullet!"

On the day of my big job interview I woke up late. Frantically I threw on a suit. "OH NO!" I thought. "MY TIE! My Dad was out of town and wasn't there to help me, and for the life of me I did not know how to tie a tie! I grabbed a tie and ran out the door.

"Excuse me sir," I said to the crossing guard, "I have an important job interview, can you please help me make this tie?!"

"Sure" said the guard, "just lie down on this bench." Well if someone was going to help me I wasn't going to ask

any questions. After he finished and the tie looked good, I just had to ask why I had to lie down.

"Well in my previous job I learned how to tie tie's on other people when they were lying down. What was your previous job? I asked incredulously. "I ran a funeral home."

"You name it, we'll make it!" was the big sign outside the new restaurant on 13th Avenue. "There is no food we can't make for you!"

"Excuse me sir," said a man with a heavy Russian accent to the waiter, "I would like please, A Garden Salad vith Russian dressing."

"Russian Dressing?! Screamed the head cook, "I've never even hears of

Russian Dressing! What are we going to give this guy?"

"Don't worry," said the owner to the cook, "I'll take care of everything, you just make the salad." And that's how it happened that the waiter walked out with a big Garden Salad and a picture of a Russian man putting on his pants. ■

Maury Collins is a Charter Member and past president of the John P. Kelly Division AOH and a proud first generation Irish American. Contact him at [maury-collins61@gmail.com](mailto:maury-collins61@gmail.com)

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# SPEAK IRISH

By Bob Carney

@BobCarneyGTR

## Tús Maith Part III

Tá suil agam, go bhfuil sibh go maith. As I'm writing this month's column, the Ohio Irish American News has returned to a printed edition. This is Part III of a basic introduction to Irish, Parts I and II can be found online at [www.ohioianews.com](http://www.ohioianews.com).

We have learned how to say hello and goodbye and other phrases that can help initiate conversations. We've also talked about the verb tá in all its forms and how a basic sentence is structured in Irish, verb, noun or pronoun, and then the adjective: Tá mé go maith. (taw

may guh mah) I am good or am I good. As we add vocabulary, if you can visualize a chart that lists all of our forms of tá, followed by the pronouns and nouns and finally all of the adjectives we've encountered so far, you could choose from each category to construct an insane number of sentences. I hope you're using the Irish words and phrases in your English conversations as well; it's the easiest way to learn and the words come much faster with daily use.

We won't be adding a category for verbs this month, but will introduce a couple in some of our phrases or conversations.

### IRISH NOUNS

- An aimsir (un am-sheer) the weather
- An lá (un law) the day
- An oíche (un ee-ha) the night
- An mhaidin (un woh-gin) the morning
- Inniu (in-yoo) today
- Anocht (uh-nahkt) tonight
- Scamall (skom-ull) cloud
- Baisteach (bosh-tahk) rain

### IRISH ADJECTIVES

- Fuar (foo-uhr) cold
- Te (tcheh) hot
- Fliuch (fluhk) wet
- Tirim (tchih-um) dry
- Scamallach (skom-uh-loch) cloudy
- Griannmhar (gree-un-wer) sunny
- Deacair (jahk-er) difficult
- Dairséarach (dyne-sheer-ach) dangerous
- Togha (tahw) grand or fine
- Tógtha (toe-gha) excited
- Neirbhíseach (ner-ah-vee-shohk) nervous
- Gnóthach (gno-hoch) busy
- Tuirseach (ter-shohk) tired
- Dubh dóite (dub duh-tay) fed up
- Trí chéile (tree kay-leh) confused or upset
- Go deas (guh jass) nice
- Go hálainn (guh hah-lynn) beautiful

### IRISH BONUS PHRASES

- Buíochas le Dia. (beh-uh-uss leh dee-uh) Thanks be to God
- Tá tú an chineálta. (taw tú ahn kinn-yawлта) You're too kind.
- Cad é atá cearr? (kad ay ah-taw kyarr) What is wrong?
- Bhí sé ag cur báistí. (vee shay ag cur bash-tee) It was raining.
- Tá sé ag cur sneachta. (taw shay ag cur shnok-ta) It is snowing

### IRISH SENTENCE EXAMPLES

- Tá (verb) mé (pronoun) go maith (adjective) (taw may guh mah) I am good.
- Tá an aimsir go maith. (taw ahn am-sheer guh mah) The weather is good.
- Níl an lá go deas. (neel un law guh jass) The day isn't nice.
- An mbeidh an oíche fuar? (un vay un ee-ha foo-uhr) Will the night be cold?
- Beidh sé fuar ach tirim. (bay shay foo-uhr ach tchih-um) It will be cold but dry.
- In Irish, ach, on its own, means "but", but it is pronounced as you would the word for lake, loch. One very important tool in learning any language is the ability to hear it. My phonetic spellings are

my own interpretations of how I hear the words, and not necessarily the way another would.

Try writing out the phonetic spelling of the word orange, then ask someone else to do the same. I think you'll see my point.

The online dictionary teaglann .ie is a free dictionary that includes an audio section, where you can hear the word spoken in all three of the regional dialects. Although I have numerous Irish-English dictionaries on my desk, teaglann is the one I refer to the most; it is on my phone's home screen and is always with me.

Note our sentence structure: all we are doing is substituting our verbs, nouns or pronouns and adjectives. We have built up an amazing vocabulary in the past three months, we could use what we've learned to help "Liam and Nora" have more of a conversation than they were able to do last month.

If you refer back, you'll see other than greeting each other, finding out each other's names, asking how they were each doing and saying goodbye, it wasn't much of a conversation by our native English standards. BUT, by our new Irish language knowledge it was huge!

When we meet someone, it is common to make a comment on the weather, sometimes it's the only thing that is said, perhaps you could have "Liam and Nora" discuss that as well. We would love to see what conversations you come up with.

Slán go Fóill! ■

Bob Carney is a student of Irish history and language and teaches the Speak Irish Cleveland class held every Tuesday at PJ McIntyre's. He is also active in the Irish Wolfhounds and Irish dogs organizations in and around Cleveland. Wife Mary, hounds Mór-righán and Rian and terrier Doolin keep the house jumping. He can be contacted at [carneyspeakirish@gmail.com](mailto:carneyspeakirish@gmail.com)

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## Donnybrook



by John Myers

### THE SUPREMES

Two strong Irish names will be on the ballot for The Ohio Supreme Court this November, John P. O'Donnell and Sharon Kennedy. Kennedy hails from Butler County and attended Northwest High School and the University of Cincinnati. O'Donnell is from Cuyahoga County and attended St. Joseph High School and Miami University. O'Donnell's Irish roots are from County Mayo whose family tree includes Ohioans Fr. Jim O'Donnell and Sr. Ignatia Gavin, the co-founder of Alcoholics Anonymous.

### WHITEHOUSE 2020

"Northeast Pennsylvania will be written on my heart. But Ireland will be written on my soul," said Joe Biden on one of his visits to the Emerald Isle. The Veep's great grandfather was born in Ballina, County Mayo (The sister city to Scranton, Pa) and his Ma, Katie Finnegan's family is from County Louth. While the 2020 race will be a true

"Donnybrook" with the outcome likely razor close, we do know that come January, either Trump or Biden will be living in a house designed and built by an Irishman, James Hoban, a native of Dublin. Erin Go Braugh.

### BREXIT UPDATE

While it seems like Donkey's years since the Brits voted to leave the European Union (June 2016) the matter is still not "over & done." The next few months will be very perilous for everyone living on the Island of Ireland. The UK did formally leave the EU late last year. However, the UK stayed in the EU Trade Zone while working out the details of the divorce.

The New Year's eve, 2020 deadline is just around the corner. Negotiations between the EU and Westminster have been going poorly and if there is a "No Deal" exit, it will result in the return of a "Hard Border" between the Six Counties and The Republic of Ireland. A hard border would be contrary to the current Withdrawal Agreement negotiated by Boris and detrimental to the

historic Good Friday Accords.

Much is at stake. A strong majority of the citizens of the Six Counties voted to remain in the EU, London is dragging them out. Boris will have to face the music though; it will be the UK's top priority to have a direct Free Trade Agreement with the U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has stated that "If the U.K. violates that international treaty and Brexit undermines the Good Friday accord, there will be absolutely no chance of a U.S.-U.K. trade agreement passing the Congress."

### DAIL EIREANN

While the spring election resulted in Sinn Fein garnering the most votes, the new government formed was achieved with a return of the coalition between Fianna Fail & Fine Gael, but they added the Green party to reach a majority. FF leader Micheal Martin, from County Cork, is the new Taoiseach who will hold the position until December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at which time FG will select a leader from their party to serve as Taoiseach.

### ONE IRELAND

The Ohio "One Island One Ireland" Committee is inviting all supporters of a free and united Ireland to gather on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020 (11 AM) in the West Park neighborhood of Cleveland for "An American Cruise for a United Ireland," with support from the Cleveland Ancient Order of Hibernians and the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians. Bring your sweetest car or decorate your vehicle.

This is NOT a parade, as all traffic laws must be followed, but an old fashioned cruise that will allow one to show your support for A United Ireland in a COVID safe manner. This is a crucial time and the Brexit plans offer the best chance for progress towards a United Ireland in a generation.

For further details, check "Irish Cleveland" on Facebook, or send an email to [OneIslandOneIreland@gmail.com](mailto:OneIslandOneIreland@gmail.com). ■

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## AN EEJIT ABROAD

By Conor Makem

# Gray Matter Travel Restrictions

"That's the smell of Ireland," I said to myself as I hauled plastic bags out of the grocery store one recent morning before the sun had truly crested the horizon. Perchance it was just the scent of morning and overnight rain, but there was also a hint of smoke in the air. It made me realize how much I've missed traveling this year.

The pandemic has me pacing back and forth around the old homestead, wiping out my memories of better



times and as such, I've been trying to recall my last trip to Ireland. There are only bits and pieces of crumbling reel to reel memories left stuck inside the crevices of the dusty old cobwebs of my gray matter.

I recall the excitement of watching the Aer Lingus Airbus pull up to the gate at Boston's Logan Airport for our last trip a lifetime ago. "That's us," I told Libby, who rolled her eyes as if she were bestowing upon me the "Most Bleeding Obvious Award for Outstanding Obviousness Award (presented by the Department of Redundancy Department)."

We had planned ahead and ponied up the extra dough for the front seats near the entrance so we wouldn't have

some dolt in front of us dropping his seat into our laps the nanosecond the front wheels left the tarmac. There was the ethereal boarding music, Enya, I believe.

Then the red headed cartoon man showed all the befuddled passengers how easily they could unlock their safety belts and was shocked, himself, to find out that smoking was prohibited. He stored his briefcase in a cavernous area under the seat before him that, in reality is only big enough for the front half of your shoes?

The first thing I always do on the trans-Atlantic flight to Ireland is to check the entertainment in the latest issue of Cara. I'll not say this lightly, Cara isn't bad at all when compared to

magazines on U.S. airlines, which all seem to assume that everyone is really into golf and business acquisitions.

However, Aer Lingus is a big fan of pop music, and I'm not talking the Monkees crooning out an old Neil Diamond hit for the 98 percent of adults on the plane, no. They prefer the kind that makes even teenagers ask, "what's this load of bullocks?" But I digress, because I've been informed that I'm a crusty old man and people like all sorts of music. Ah well.

Thank the stars Aer Lingus gives you entertainment choices. Life was considerably more difficult crossing the pond when there was only the one video, but then again, they used to fill you up on all the bevy you could stomach back then and didn't ask for anything in return.

I recall one time when the flight attendant asked if I wanted another can of Guinness. I replied in the affirmative and she asked if I wanted two. I was a bit shocked, but I answered swiftly lest she see her blunder: yes.

Of course, now they sell me one, then come by to see if I'd like to purchase a second, and that's it. I suppose with all the airline rage fueled by alcohol I can hardly blame them.

When I've settled on a movie to bear the brunt of the time, I move to the grub selections. Chicken or beef lasagna? Beef lasagna or chicken? Oh, the choices! Rather than waste valuable cranium calories, I opt to wing it whenever the cart comes by.

### LIAM NEESON

I always close my eyes for a bit, but I just can't sleep on planes. Still, the evening flight for me generally rolls by pretty quickly and I start to get excited when they roll out the morning tea and snack. From the entertainment console, I turn on the route tracker and watch as the plane flies over the auld sod as it's oftentimes too dark to see out of the window. It's a glorious feeling when the plane reaches Irish airspace; the plea from Liam Neeson for Unicef on all of the tellies, the video tour of Dublin and environs.

I can only speak for myself when I say that it's truly like coming home. I've spent most of my life in the States, but I was born in Drogheda and there's something that feels natural about



being there.

And then the wheels touch down and I know it's going to be increasingly hard to stay awake, despite the adrenaline of a new trip. The direct flight from Boston lands at an ungodly hour and there's still customs and immigration lines to endure, the car rental to pick up, the drive to the hotel as the sun is beginning to peek out...and then the wait.

### A FULL IRISH BREAKFAST

Very few hotels will let anyone check in so early, so we generally leave off our bags at the hotel and head out for some breakfast. A full Irish is usually the ticket and to be truthful, it's probably the only one I'll have for the trip. That's enough arterial blockage for a couple of weeks, says I.

The juncture after eating is the hardest, knowing that there's a bed with my name on it that's not quite ready. All of the experts advise one to stay up for the first day, at least as long as you can, but I've never had much luck with that, so I hit the bricks as soon as I can with an

alarm set, so I don't sleep past 2-3 p.m.

Then, as onerous as it is, I force myself to arise and stay awake as late as I can. Honestly, that first full night's sleep might be the best thing that exists.

Staying off the booze for the day also helps...or so I've heard. It's not until the following morning that I feel awake enough to appreciate anything.

Alas, it's all but a memory. I'll have to settle for early morning trips to the grocery store for now. ■

*Conor Makem spent 22 years traveling and honing petty gripes as an Irish musician, and enjoyed a further 13 years of people not returning his calls as a journalist. He is fluent in English, American and old Kerry farmer. More of his photos are on Instagram under cb.makem.*

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## ILLUMINATIONS

By J. Michael Finn

# The First Bloody Sunday

There were four events related to Irish History known as "Bloody Sunday." The most recent one occurred on January 30, 1972, in Derry, where British soldiers killed fourteen civilian demonstrators.

Prior to that, there was the Bloody Sunday that occurred in Belfast on July 10, 1921. Loyalist mobs attacked the Catholic area of Belfast, burning homes and businesses. Nearly 200 homes were burned, seventeen were killed and over seventy were wounded.

The second Bloody Sunday occurred on November 21, 1920, when British troops opened fire on Irish football fans at Croke Park in Dublin, killing fourteen civilians and wounding sixty-five.

### THE FIRST BLOODY SUNDAY

The first Bloody Sunday related to Irish history occurred on November 13, 1887 and did not occur in Ireland, but in the center of London, England.

In 1887 the Land War had been raging in Ireland since about 1880. The Irish National Land League, founded by Michael Davitt, and presided over by Member of Parliament Charles Stewart Parnell, had been banned by the government, and its leaders, including Davitt and Parnell had been arrested. As a result, the movement made some progress in Parliament with land reform legislation, but the land reformers demanded more reform over excessive rents, a stoppage of evictions and, most importantly, Irish land ownership.

By 1886, Parnell and his eighty-five Irish members of Parliament had become a political force. They sided with the liberals in Parliament and were successful in defeating the conservatives.



A liberal government was installed in England under Prime Minister William Gladstone.

On April 8, 1886, Gladstone introduced legislation calling for a Home-Rule government for Ireland. The bill was strongly opposed by conservatives and was defeated by a significant majority of conservatives. This loss by the liberals resulted in a new conservative government under Lord Salisbury as Prime Minister.

The Land League and the Irish members of Parliament issued the Plan of Campaign Manifesto in 1886, which spelled out their strategy for dealing with high rents and abusive landlords in Ireland. This plan was not received

favorably by the conservative government.

As a response to the manifesto, the new conservative Chief Secretary for Ireland, Arthur Balfour, secured approval of the Criminal Law and Procedure (Ireland) Act 1887, an Irish coercion bill aimed at preventing the practice of boycotting and intimidation of landlords. It outlawed unlawful assembly and outlawed the organization of conspiracies against the payment of agreed rents.

### TRIAL BY JURY ABOLISHED

Trial by jury in Ireland was also abolished under the act. This resulted in the imprisonment without trial of hundreds

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of people, including over twenty Irish Members of Parliament. Also arrested was popular Irish Member of Parliament William O'Brien.

In England, the working class in British cities was composed of many people of Irish birth or origin. London had a large Irish working class concentrated in the East End.

Trafalgar Square in central London was traditionally the place where Londoners could protest and air grievances. The square was seen as the point at which the working-class East End met the upper-class West End of London, a focus of class struggle and a flash-point. The tensions in the square were becoming more frequent, with clashes between police and protesters, and the Irish began to use the square to protest (something they were not allowed to do in Ireland).

To prevent these clashes, Sir Charles Warren, Commissioner of London Police, banned all meetings and demonstrations in Trafalgar Square on November 8, 1887. A protest was scheduled for the following Sunday, November 13, 1887 in Trafalgar Square. It was called initially by the Irish National League

and the Irish Home Rule Union to protest Irish unemployment; the coercion act; and to demand the release of the Irish MP William O'Brien and others from prison.

The organizers of the march called for the demonstrators not to use violence. Unfortunately for the Irish protesters, the ban by the police on demonstrations and meetings caused the gathering to take on a wider and more violent context.

The controversy attracted the attention of the small but growing London socialist movement, which included the Marxists of the Social Democratic Federation, the Socialist League, and the reformist socialists of the Fabian Society. Police and government attempts to suppress demonstrations also brought in the radical wing of the Liberal Party and free speech activists from the National Secular Society. These groups were not concerned with the conditions in Ireland, only with testing the gathering ban and the promotion of their Socialist/Marxist and anarchist agendas.

### WHEN RADICALS ENTER THE FRAY

On that Bloody Sunday in November,

approximately 20,000 demonstrators marched to the square. Socialist radicals took over the demonstration and proceeded to provoke fights with police. Some of the radicals had brought clubs and iron bars. The London Metropolitan Police and the British Army were called in to break up the protest.

Two thousand police and 400 British Army troops were deployed to halt the demonstration. The Riot Act was read by the police, who waded into the crowd with clubs and openly fought with the male and female demonstrators.

The army units played only a small role in the riot, as one protestor was bayoneted by the army. There were a large number of injuries on both sides. Two demonstrators died of their injuries, 150 were badly injured and over 400 were arrested.

Some of the injuries were caused by the police mounted units. Two police officers were stabbed during the riot. Amazingly, the official report into the day's events suggested only that the police should order stronger clubs, because so many had broken during the riot.

None of the authorities had any reservations about the level of force

that was used. For activists, Bloody Sunday would be remembered as one of heavy-handed, violent repression. While Londoners were shocked by the events, the Irish knew that repression was standard operating procedure in Ireland.

Despite the fact that many of the seriously injured demonstrators were Irish, the real message of the Irish was largely obscured by the participation of radical protesters with non-Irish agendas. The coercion act remained in place for many years and repression in Ireland continued. Tragically, there would be more Bloody Sundays to come. ■

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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**AKRON IRISH**  
By Lisa O' Rourke

## Macnas

So, there was a big palaver going on “the parade, the craic, it’s brilliant, you have to see it!” It was powerful enough that it compelled our family to stand in the dark on a damp chilly Galway night waiting for something, something that I couldn’t quite imagine.

Would it be carnation covered floats and baton twirling girls in the streets, or the county fair style display of slow rolling tractors? And how was it that darkness was the goal of the parade and not an obstacle?

Music was the first signal that something was coming, the crowd tightening, causing the smell of damp wool blending with peat smoke to rise. An outrageously tall woman, long luminous white dress hanging off her, topped with a tall conical matching hat, glided into sight playing a long white horn. Goddess, alien, nurse, nun, or banshee, you can decide for yourself. Macnas never tells.

There followed all kinds of images, some in neon, some in lights, all colorful and exotic. There were a few floats and no carnations in sight. There were puppets, there are always puppets.



### A MACNAS TRADEMARK

A Macnas trademark are their giant paper mâché marionettes, which are animated by puppeteers inside and out of the huge armatures. There was also music. Some of it was live, some recorded, and lots of drums.

It was completely immersive, surprising and enjoyable. I could not honestly say that I felt that I understood everything, but it was a surprise, something

completely removed from the provincial. Macnas are artists and definitely sly and subversive ones, but not too much, just that kind of Irish way of taking the mickey.

That parade was the last time that it was part of the Galway Arts Festival. The Macnas parade started as a daytime event that kicked off the festival. We happened to see one of the early daytime parades which featured a beaming Charlie Haughey, waving from the back of a convertible. Only it didn’t feel normal in the political showboat way; there was a palpable layer of irony. There is often an ambiguity around who is the joke and who is in on the joke in their imagery.

That ambiguity is the point. Macnas was founded in the late 80s in Galway. It was a dark time in the country and especially in the west, always hardest hit by emigration. Macnas wanted to bring the theater and spectacle that was found in warmer climates to the cold shores of Galway.

As Leo Moran, later a Saw Doctor, and one of the first participants in Macnas’s SESs (social employment schemes) remarked: “It was 1987, the country wasn’t as colourful as it is nowadays, not as prosperous – but don’t be mistaken; there was

imagination and ingenuity and daftness and divilment.”

And all those elements were visible in Macnas’s first big effort, floating a giant Gulliver up the Liffey and resting it on a beach, a contribution to Dublin’s yearlong millennial party in 1988. The founding members: Páraic Breathnach, Tom Conroy, Ollie Jennings, and Pete Sammon, had an artistic vision that blended creativity, authenticity, storytelling, and fun.

### QUEEN MAEVE AND U2

They saw Macnas as a way to enhance the arts in their city and give it a bit of life. Their next endeavor was a Galway Black Box staged version of “The Táin,” the Celtic fable, which involves a naughty Queen Maeve, who wanted a bull and started all kinds of trouble trying to get it.

Put on by Macnas, it was a colorful, unique and very Irish production. The company moved steadily upward in popularity and success. No less than U2 commissioned them to make some big head caricatures of themselves to take on the Zooropa tour in 1993.

The name Macnas itself is an Irish word which means fun. Fun in the sense of a release of freedom, a word that would be used to describe young animals in the Spring. It is also a word that encapsulates the Irish cultural opening of the last thirty years.

While not being a household word everywhere, the company has lasted for over thirty years, while drawing crowds and winning critical awards. Success always has two sides, and it was no different in this case.

### WHEN PURISTS CHAFE

The popularity which brought grants and funding, was increasingly more often tied to commercial interests. Some of the company purists chafed at being asked to perform at corporate events even if they brought in big checks. The inevitable blow up was epic by all accounts, with no founding members involved in the company at this time. Founding members exiting vocally while the company was achieving some degree of popularity, would leave any performer open to criticisms.

The critiques of Macnas involved their vision, their integrity, and they still pop up in the news from time to time. The company has experienced some hiccups

and has regrouped a few times, but they continue on.

It was difficult to figure out just who the company really is at any given time, to put a specific face on it. A stand-out is the artistic director, Noeline Kavanaugh, who has been involved with the company for a long time and has a real passion for it. There are other directors of the strata of the specialized fields required to put the events on, like engineers, who must draw some type of salary. The rest of the group are part-time and composed of interns learning a skill and job experience, Galwegians who relish the annual chance to volunteer, and the younger people who are learning the necessary skills to contribute and carry on.

Putting on big productions like the parades are huge endeavors. The company needs the craftsmanship of painters, costume design and production, engineers, puppeteers, dancers, musicians and other street performers. Macnas is also still very involved in putting plays together too. There is a lot going on in Galway and it takes a whole city to make it happen.

Despite the talent involved, there is a “homemade, talented amateur” quality to the Macnas parade. It is both homemade and transcends that quality at the same time. Macnas, for all the accusations of being sell-outs, are still grant-funded and based in their hometown Galway. The home-made quality is to me, what shows the raw collaborative creativity of the people involved.

That rawness is where the art is, not in slick Disney-fied images. Sometimes the rawness gives the puppets and costumes a slightly creepy patina. That makes it a perfect fit for Halloween. That along with the other elements that are always present; authenticity, Celtic spirit, creativity and surprise. What could be more Halloween than that?

\*Irish Times, April 4, 2020 ■

*Lisa O'Rourke is an educator from Akron. She has a BA in English and a Master's in Reading/Elementary Education. Lisa can be contacted at olisa07@icloud.com.*

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**OFF THE SHELF**  
By Terry Kenneally

@TerryKenneally

## Freedom is a Land I Cannot See

By Peter Cunningham  
Sandstone Press

ISBN: 978-1-913207-20-5 2020 295 pp

Irish author Peter Cunningham has become one of this writers favorite Irish authors. The current selection marks his third book reviewed in this column, with the other two being The Sea and the Silence and The Trout, both Top Shelf selections.

A question surrounds the narrative in this month’s selection: did the Irish government cause and cover up news of a second famine, which occurred in Ireland in 1923 and 1924, especially west of the Shannon? The fledgling Irish Free State was barely two years old and money was in short supply. It was in a fragile position, still seeking credibility on the world stage.

As it walked a tight rope, the Meath Chronicle published an article suggesting the famine was worse than that of 1847, the worse year of “The Great Hunger.” Memories of that famine still resonated in the minds of Irish people everywhere, and still do today. The area west of the Shannon in particular was suffering from no harvest, no turf, dying livestock and people facing starvation, all conditions which existed during the famine of 1845-1850.

The story is narrated by Rose Raven, a fascinating character who is blind as the story begins and has also lost her first love. She is the daughter of an Irishwoman and a former British soldier stationed in Dublin. Her brother, Ultan, is an office boy at the Irish Independent office, in Middle Abbey Street.

The reader is not told how she went blind - that is only revealed in the novel’s final pages. The story is told cleverly in two halves, but in reverse chronological order.

Rose discovers that her brother is

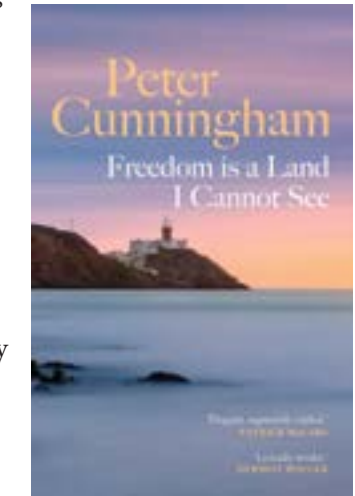
involved in anti-government propaganda; she tells no one, not even her lover. When Ultan dies, Rose is the only person who knows where the shameful truth is hidden.

As it turns out, the truth lies hidden in a package of loose, almost indecipherable typewritten pages, tied with twine, whose mysteries are eventually revealed to tell a painful story from the early years of Irish independence. The papers were meant to be delivered to the editor of the Boston Globe, who had inquired as to the truth behind the famine rumors in the area west of the Shannon.

While the book is classified as a historical novel, what makes it especially intriguing is the Epilogue, in which, in the spring of 1980, a package of papers is delivered to the School of History in University College Dublin. It was

bound with twine and consisted of outer layers of newsprint, which, when removed, revealed loose pages in the form of a typescript. The story is a web of intrigue, love, loss and betrayal that will keep you hooked, right until the end.

If you have never read anything by Peter Cunningham, you are missing out on a supremely crafted writer. I rate Freedom is a Land I Cannot See a TOP SHELF Selection. ■



*Terrence J Kenneally is an attorney and owner of Terrence J Kenneally & Associates in Rocky River Ohio. He works for insureds and insurance companies in defense litigation throughout the state of Ohio.*

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By Dottie Wenger  
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# KIDS CRAIC



## Happy Haunting!



### IRELAND'S OWN BRAM STOKER!

Abraham ("Bram") Stoker was born in Dublin, Ireland. As a young child, he was very ill and was unable to walk or even stand until he was seven years old. He overcame his illness and eventually became a gifted football (soccer, to Americans) player as a college student at Dublin's Trinity College, where he earned a degree in mathematics. Stoker later became an author and wrote many books, the most well-known being Dracula.

In Dublin, Ireland, they hold a festival in Stoker's honor each year around Halloween. This year, the Bram Stoker Festival will be held Halloween weekend, between October 30th and November 2nd. The four-day event includes interactive and fun activities for all ages.

### KIDS IN THE KITCHEN

Create this easy "Frankie" treat with just a few ingredients! Start by covering a Rice Krispie Treat with green-tinted frosting. Use candy eyes, and then black writing gel or black licorice for the other features. Chocolate sprinkles work great for Frankie's "hair"!



*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.*

## Gab in Gaelic

**Orange = Oraiste**  
(pron. oh-rah-shta)

**Black = Dubh**  
(pron. duv)



### Room on the Broom

A fun-to-read, rhyming story of a nice witch who gives some animals a ride on her broom...but is there enough room for all? Written by Julia Donaldson, illustrated by Axel Scheffler.

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## Milestone



Congratulations to Michelle and Brendan Sheehan on their 25th Wedding Anniversary!



Congratulations to John P. Joyce, Police Chief, Regional Transit System, on his retirement!

What a welcome back to print! Thanks to Conor Boylan of 5 Points Coffee & Tea for the warm reception!



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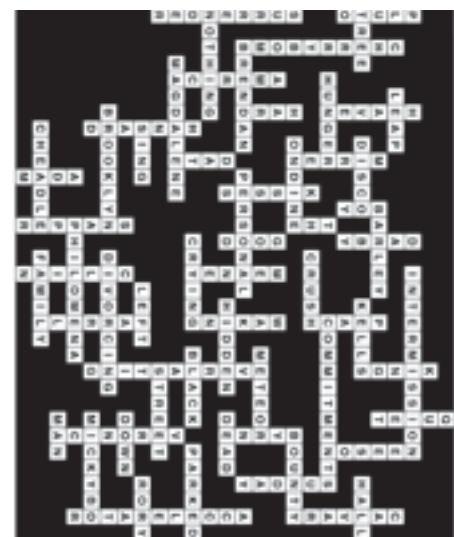
**CROSSWORD  
PUZZLE**  
By Linda Fulton Burke

**ACROSS**

- 6 \_\_\_\_\_ Colin Farrell Cillian Murphy
- 9 \_\_\_\_\_ Year Amy Adams
- 12 The Wind That Shakes the \_\_\_\_\_ Cillian Murphy
- 14 How Harry Became a \_\_\_\_\_ Colm Meaney, Adrian Dunbar, Cillian Murphy
- 15 \_\_\_\_\_ Pigs Elaine Cassidy, Cillian Murphy, Sarah Gallagher
- 16 The Secret of \_\_\_\_\_ animated
- 17 Jimmy's \_\_\_\_\_ Barry Ward, Francis Magee, Aileen Henry
- 18 \_\_\_\_\_ Michael Fassbender
- 20 The \_\_\_\_\_ Robert Arkins Angeline Bell Michael Aherne
- 23 \_\_\_\_\_ Proof Darren Healy, Viviana Verveen
- 26 \_\_\_\_\_ Colin Farrell
- 27 Perrier's \_\_\_\_\_ Gabriel Byrne, Cillian Murphy
- 32 Pete's \_\_\_\_\_ Brenda Fricker, Alfred Molina
- 34 H3 \_\_\_\_\_ Mackey, Dean Lennox Kelly
- 35 Nothing \_\_\_\_\_ Ian Hart, John Lynch, James Frain
- 38 \_\_\_\_\_ Agenda Frances McDormand, Brian Cox
- 39 Fifty \_\_\_\_\_ Men Walking Ben Kingsley, Jim Sturgess
- 40 \_\_\_\_\_ Personal Lotte Verbeek, Stephen Rea, Tom Charlfa
- 42 The \_\_\_\_\_ Game Stephen Rea Miranda Richardson
- 43 \_\_\_\_\_ '47 James Frecheville
- 44 \_\_\_\_\_ Colin Morgan, Colm Meaney, Milka Ahlroth
- 45 The \_\_\_\_\_ Sisters Geraldine McEwan
- 47 Eureka \_\_\_\_\_ Dervla Kirwan, Vincent Regan, Mark Benton
- 48 \_\_\_\_\_ Street Ferdia Walsh=Peelo
- 49 My \_\_\_\_\_ Foot Daniel Day= Lewis
- 51 \_\_\_\_\_ O'Shea Was Here James McAvoy
- 54 I Went \_\_\_\_\_ Brendan Gleeson, Peter McDonald

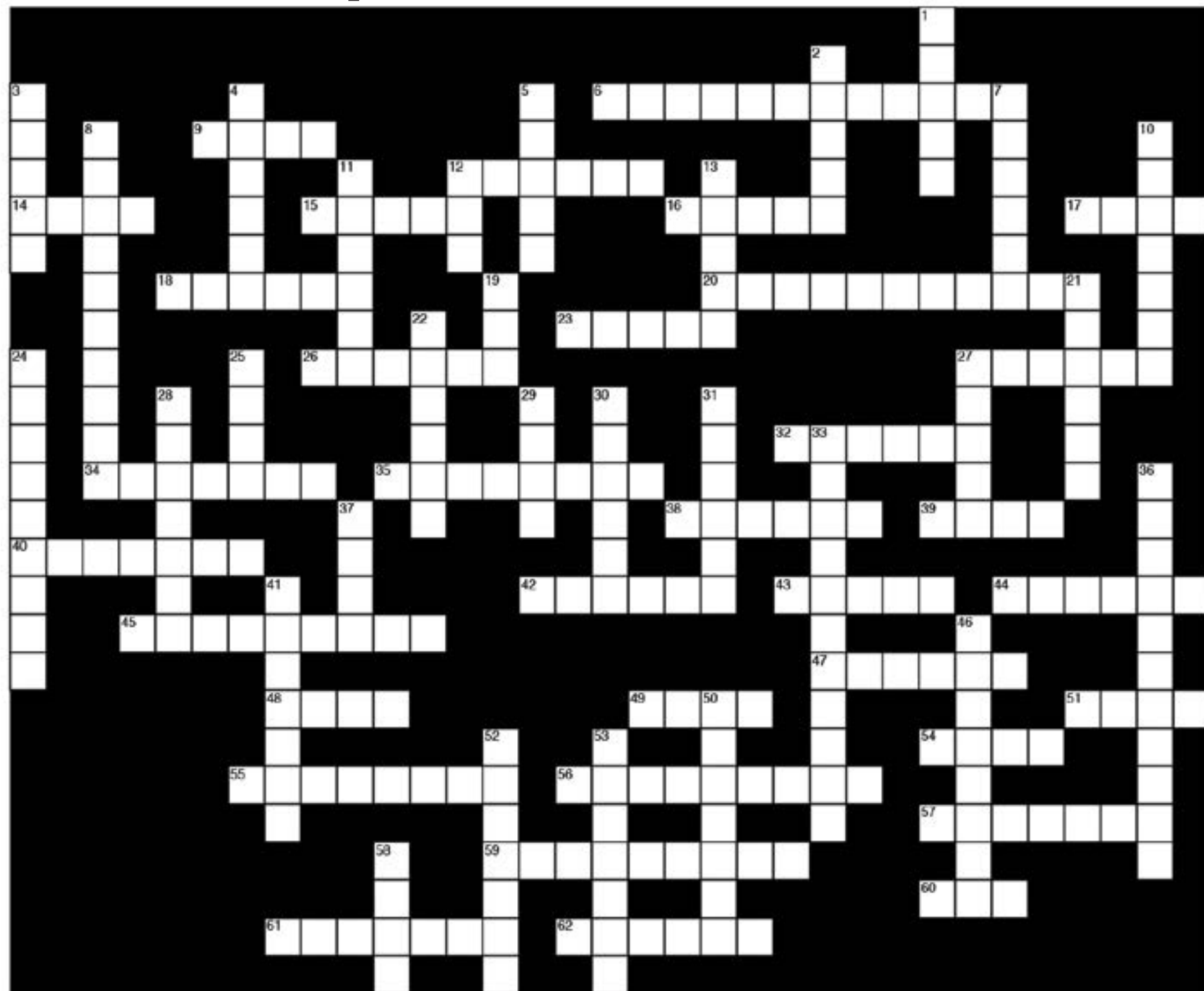
**DOWN**

- 1 The \_\_\_\_\_ Man John Wayne Maureen O'Hara
- 2 The Last of the High \_\_\_\_\_ Catherine O'Hara, Jared Leto, Christina Ricci, Gabriel Byrne
- 3 Breakfast on \_\_\_\_\_ Cillian Murphy, Morgan Jones
- 4 Five Minutes of \_\_\_\_\_ Liam Neeson, James Nesbitt
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_ O'Gill and the Little People Albert Sharpe
- 7 Michael Collins Liam \_\_\_\_\_
- 8 \_\_\_\_\_ Rupert Grint, Robert Sheehan, James Nesbitt
- 10 \_\_\_\_\_ Brendan Gleeson
- 11 Cal Helen \_\_\_\_\_, John Lynch
- 12 Borstal \_\_\_\_\_ Shawn Hatosy, Danny Dyer
- 13 Eat the \_\_\_\_\_ Stephen Brennan, Eamon Morrissey
- 19 \_\_\_\_\_ in the Ground Seana Kerslake
- 21 Bloody \_\_\_\_\_ James Nesbitt
- 22 \_\_\_\_\_ Kelly O'Neill, Shane Curry, Paul Roe



# Grab the Popcorn!

Linda Fulton Burke



- 24 No \_\_\_\_\_ Michael Angelis, Avis Bunnage, James Ellis
- 29 \_\_\_\_\_ Vibrations : Jodie Whittaker, Liam Cunningham, Killian Scott
- 36 \_\_\_\_\_ Stuart Sinclair Blyth, Gavin Kelty
- 52 The \_\_\_\_\_ Colm Meaney
- 25 Times John Lynch, Cornelius Clarke
- 30 Kings Colm \_\_\_\_\_, Donal O'Kelly, Brendan Conroy
- 37 A \_\_\_\_\_ for Mad Mary Seana Kerslake
- 53 On the Edge \_\_\_\_\_ Murphy, Tricia Vessey, Martin Carney
- 27 Into the West Gabriel \_\_\_\_\_ Ellen Barkin
- 31 \_\_\_\_\_ Ned Devine Ian Bannen David Kelly
- 41 Once Glen \_\_\_\_\_ Markéta Irglová
- 58 \_\_\_\_\_ & Paul Tom Murphy, Mark O'Halloran
- 28 In \_\_\_\_\_ Paddy Considine, Samantha Morton
- 33 An \_\_\_\_\_ Piece Barry McEvoy, Brian F. O'Byrne
- 46 Angel \_\_\_\_\_ Quilligan, Stephen Rea,
- 50 In Bruges Colin \_\_\_\_\_, Brendan Gleeson, Ciarán Hinds

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