

OHIO IRISH AMERICAN NEWS

April 2021 • Volume 15 - Issue 4

The Many Stages of
**Melissa
Fitzgerald**



EDITOR'S CORNER
By John O'Brien, Jr.
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Do Tell: What's the Craic in April?

When you are this close to the fire, you can't always see who is getting warmed. You usually hear the screams of those getting burned, but we are a celebratory paper - not the scorched earth discussion of divorces, defeats and incendiary dialogue some relish and run amok with on social media. That is obviously in overdose level supply, even though it accomplishes absolutely nothing in making the world a better place.

Instead, we have tried our best to focus on preserving, presenting, and promoting all of the good things of our rich heritage and our people. Though I am probably biased toward our work, I am struck by how strong, insightful, and entertaining our issue is this month. We have continued to grow, evolve and get better, thanks to the work of our columnists, both

in life experiences and writing, that affect their columns each month.

I won't rehash what is within; what is filling the website, podcast and eBulletin; the content continues to speak for itself, and surprises are good for the soul and the sedentary. Rest and recovery are the plan, with a great cup of Barry's, Reilly's Brown Bread, Casey's via Winston's Black Pudding and Bangers, Larry Kirwan's too close to home but very insightful new book, Rockaway Blues, and the pup glued to my ankles like a great pair of always warm slippers. Feed her and weep.

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 Many Stages of Melissa Fitzgerald, from West Wing to leading non-profit Justice for Vets, Irish Roots fuel the Fire. See Part 1 on pages 4-5



THOMAS BODLE

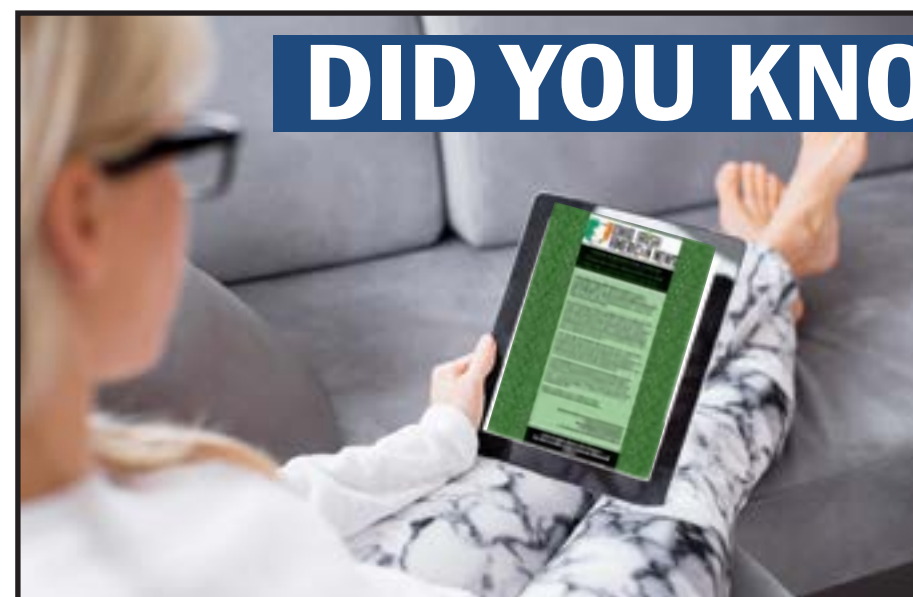
February 1, 1952 - March 5, 2021
THOMAS M. BODLE "Coach Bodle," age 69. Beloved husband of Margaret A. "Margie" (nee Lackey); loving father of Nori (Lydia) and John; brother of Ken (deceased) (Patricia), Larry (Joan) and Jim (Barb) (both deceased); dear uncle of many. Coach Bodle was a longtime math

teacher at both VASJ and St. Edward High School. He was a devoted basketball coach, educator and dear friend to many student-athletes throughout the years. Passed away unexpectedly due to complications from COVID-19 on March 5, 2021. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions are suggested to Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School, 18491 Lakeshore Blvd., Cleveland, OH 44119 or St. Edward High School or St. Mark Church Outreach Program, 15800 Montrose Ave., Cleveland, OH 44111. *Obituary courtesy of ChambersFuneral.com*

BEVERLY CONNOLLY

May 4, 1946 - March 3, 2021
Beverly June Connolly, age 74, of Toledo, Ohio passed away on Wednesday, March 3, 2021. She was born on May 4, 1946 to Eugene and Maxine (Harbaugh) Braun in Toledo, Ohio. She loved to travel and lived for her children and grandchildren; Beverly was an avid reader, highly educated and loved to learn and research genealogy. She was a strong, pure, funny, youthful, kind, and loving woman. Beverly was an RN who returned to school at age 43 with 5 children at home to earn a BSBA


from the University of Toledo where she graduated Magna Cum Laude. Beverly is survived by her loving husband of 53 years, John J. Connolly; daughters, Ann Connolly, Laura (Cliff) Cranston, Beverly "Jackie" (Mike) Kiss, Breda (Michael) Osburn, Kathleen Connolly; grandchildren, T.J. (Ashlee) Dietz, Amber Kiss, Dakota Dietz, Haley Connolly, Mikey Kiss, Eve and Isla Osburn, Jacob Rodriguez; great-grandchildren, Taylor, Cameron and Tucker Dietz; siblings, Shirley Schwake, Sharon Dietrich, and Gene Braun; along with many nieces and nephews in the U.S. and Ireland. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to the Hickman Cancer Center. Online condolences may be made to www.walkerfuneralhomes.com



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The Many Stages of Melissa Fitzgerald, Part I

From West Wing to the Non-Profit Justice for Vets, Irish Roots Fuel the Fire

You know Melissa Fitzgerald. Your mind immediately snaps to The West Wing when you see her face. The West Wing veteran, and now, Director, Advancing Justice, lives a life of passion and persuasion, whether on the West Wing stage as Carol Fitzpatrick, or on the world stage, fighting for life changing justice for our veterans.

When did you know that you were Irish?

That's a really good question. I don't remember when I knew I was Irish, certainly before I went to visit Ireland. We are very fortunate to have that type of rich culture.

I think how important education was in our family gave me a hint. That was true on both sides of the family. That felt Irish to me, maybe just because they were Irish, in my family, my parents, my grandparents, their parents were all Irish. They all valued education and that felt Irish to me, I guess because my Irish ancestors were educators.

Also, storytelling, that is something that I identified with as being Irish. My father is a great storyteller, and my mother too actually. They enjoy people, and they want to be around people. They are very charismatic and entertaining. I always felt that was an Irish quality, the gift of gab.

Singing too, I remember when I went to Ireland and travelled around. I like to sing. In every sort of bar or place, somebody would just stand up and start singing. I really appreciated

that. There is a joy to that, and a melancholy and sadness to that, that feels Irish to me. I carry that with me.

So, you are a sap?

Total sap. I agree, I agree. Tyrone is part of my family's [roots]. We're really from all over [Ireland], like Galway, Dingle and Cork.

I did an Irish play many years ago with Leo Penn, Eileen Ryan, James Gandolfini, Robin Lange, Laura Salvato We did this modern Irish classic called *Remembrance*, by Graham Reid. It takes place in Ireland in the North.

There is a Catholic family and a Protestant family, kind of like a Romeo and Juliet, but in reverse. It is the older, the mother of the Catholic family and the father of the Protestant family, that fall in love, while they are tending their children's graves. They've each lost children to the other side, and yet they fall in love. Their remaining children can't accept the relationship.

It's a beautiful play, really, really lovely play. That was nice to have that opportunity to do that and kind of get inside the skin of an of an Irish family, an Irish person.

You know I was talking with some friends and we were talking about how, as we've gotten older, we really appreciate kindness so much more than we ever have. It is such a rare quality, pervasive kindness. Being kind to people you don't agree with, being kind to people you don't know, and really trying to understand people who maybe are different than



Melissa Fitzgerald

you are and who think differently than you do. I just think that is such an important piece; I think it is really the only thing. [I wish] that we had a little more of that.

As a true SAP, I do feel hopeful, I really do feel hopeful. I think it is important to give other people grace, and hopefully they will give me the same when I need it, when I'm not on my best behavior.

Was it a big leap to go from Fitzgerald to Fitzpatrick?

No. It's funny because it was a few episodes before I got a first name! I was just grateful. I don't think I realized that I had a last name until I saw it on screen in Season 5.

I wanted to be an actor, so I took

Shakespeare, I studied literature and I thought, why go to a University if you're not going to study in one of their better departments? Their [The University of Pennsylvania's] English Department was really strong. Nobody I knew was an actor. My dad is a judge, and my mom is a non-profit executive director; she worked at universities too.

I moved to New York right after I graduated from college and I really had nothing. I got the backstage newspaper, the acting newspaper, and I looked for like an open audition. I really was green. I met somebody there and they told me about a class at HB Studio. I got to study with

Herbert Bergoff and a bunch of other

really great teachers. Sandy Dennis recommended *The Neighborhood Playhouse*.

I went there (Neighborhood Playhouse School of Theatre), in what was an intense two-year Conservatory Program, wonderful. It was full time; you couldn't work professionally while you were there, because they don't want you [to continue] your old bad habits. I am so glad I went to that, [I learned] so many incredible life lessons and acting lessons.

It was intense: the first year we had almost 100 in the class, then the second year we had twenty-four or twenty-five. Almost 3/4 of our class got cut. It was really great training.

Are there a lot of similarities between you and the character Carol Fitzpatrick?

I think she's more organized than I am! I think there are actually some similarities. I was definitely drawn to The West Wing. First of all, it's the best writing I've ever seen. Secondly, I just felt that it was important. I thought it was going to be, artistically, obviously incredible, but also have social relevance and importance in the world. I really wanted to be a part of it and I didn't care how small my part was. I just wanted to be a part of that show.

Obviously, Carol goes in to work in government. I think most people go in because they believe in something bigger than themselves. I believe that government can and should be a force for good in people's lives. Sometimes when life is really hard, we need government to step in and lift people up; give them the chance that they need.

Do you ever get tired of talking about the acting part of your professional career?

I loved it. I had a great time working on The West Wing.

Was there an audition for West Wing?

I did audition for it. I really wanted it. I wasn't always as ambitious about my acting career as maybe I could've and should've been, but this, I was really ambitious about this; I wanted to be a part of it and I just bugged and bugged my agent.

I couldn't get an audition for it, and then finally, I did. I just feel so lucky to have been even a small part of it,



The West Wing cast reunites for Justice for Vets.

really, really lucky.

I still feel lucky to this day, because some of the best people I've ever known, so many of the lessons that I learned working on that show and the kind of set that was created, was unlike any other television show, I think before or maybe since. The environment: that show is really a family. Everybody was treated with respect and dignity. That comes from Martin Sheen and John Spencer; it comes from John wells and Aaron Sorkin and Tommy Schlamme; it comes from Warner Brothers and Peter Roth that created this environment where everyone is valued.

Now fifteen years later, you still interact with each other frequently?

We get together around service issues; the cast has come back together to help so much with the treatment court work that we're doing. Martin [Sheen] is the reason I'm doing this work. Martin, my dad, and a couple other people are the reason that I was drawn to do this. Martin has been a treatment court champion since the early days of treatment courts, for over a quarter of a century. He lost a friend to addiction.

He invited me to come to the National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP) national conference. He asked me to speak, and I did. He had come to many of them and spoken at many of them. I fell in love with the work that they

were doing.

My dad had started a treatment court as a judge; he was one of the people who started the mental health court in Philadelphia many years ago. He was a true believer in the power and impact of these courts.

What do you think of the West Wing following now, with so many people still talking about it, being influenced by it, and make another round appearing on TV? Did you have some idea? It was something special. I knew it was something special when I read the pilot script over

a year before they shot the pilot. My now ex was auditioning for something; his agent had given him the script from that [and one from The West Wing]. He gave them to me to read.

He asked what I thought. I said Sports Night was brilliant. I also said The West Wing is going to be the best show ever on TV. I still stand by that statement.

Aaron and the team that they built in every department, every single role, they just really committed to excellence, and talented hardworking people who really wanted to put the best work that we all could together put out in the world. I feel very lucky. ●

There are so many space limits in print. We are out of space for this issue. Come back next month for Part II of the great inner view with Melissa, where we focus on her life saving work with our Veterans.

The full interview could easily run five issues, but instead, the long form can be found on our website: www.ohioianews.com, with much more text, pictures, insights and LARGER Print.

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The Most Dangerous Woman in America

There were many hardships for workers in the early days of industry. Here in America, low pay and hazardous working conditions were common in many fields. Miners, mill workers, shipyard laborers, canal workers and railroad workers were largely comprised of new immigrants seeking a better life for themselves and their families.

Mary G. Harris was born on the

north side of Cork, her exact date of birth is unclear, but we know she was baptized on the first of August in 1837. Her family emigrated to America to escape the famine when she was ten, only to find discrimination because they were Irish-Catholic.

They moved north to Toronto, where Mary received her education at Toronto Normal School. Tuition was free, and even paid one dollar a week for every semester a student completed. Mary did not graduate, but did complete enough courses to land a teaching position at a convent in Monroe, Michigan, at the age of twenty-three. She made eight dollars a month.

THE INTERNATIONAL MOLDERS AND FOUNDRY WORKERS OF NORTH AMERICA

Later in life, she described it as a depressing place. After a couple of years, she left and moved to Chicago, where she worked as a dressmaker. Soon she moved to Memphis to open her own shop. There she met and married George E. Jones, a member and organizer of the National Union of Iron



Mary G. Harris

Moulders. The moulder's union would later expand and become The International Molders and Foundry Workers of North America, representing the workers who built and repaired steam engines used in the mills and other manufacturing.

Her husband's income provided for both of them; Mary devoted her time to raising their growing family and house-keeping. In 1867, a yellow fever epidemic hit Memphis and Mary watched helplessly as her husband and four children succumbed to the disease.

Alone, the tragedy was a turning point for the young widow. She returned to Chicago and started a dress-making business catering to the upper-class. Her business was doing well when the Great Chicago Fire of 1871 occurred. Mary lost her business, her home and all of her possessions. Many homes and businesses were destroyed in the fire, and Mary became very active in Chicago's rebuilding efforts.

ORGANIZING ACTIVISM

Mary became more involved in her activism and joined the Knights of Labor. She started organizing strikes against manufacturing in support of the laborers. Most were ineffective at first, and often would be put down violently, with the police shooting and killing strikers.

By the middle of the decade, the union grew in power, with a membership of over a million workers. Divisions grew between management and laborers in the manufacturing busi-

nesses; during one altercation between police and union members, a bomb was thrown by an unidentified person.

The Knights were already under pressure from the police, management and others in the community who were apprehensive of social change and the perceived anarchy that might arise as a result of the union's efforts. The bombing brought on the demise of the Knights.

Mary, believed that a man should make a wage that allowed women to stay at home, raise their families and care for the home. This view did not sit well with many of the female activists of the pre-nineteenth amendment days.

SUFFRAGE & THE MINE WORKERS

It was more important to Mary to see the working class itself liberated. Although she was not against it, she remained uncommitted to the suffrage movement. Mary became active in the United Mine Workers and involved in the Socialist Party of America as an organizer and an educator. She was a gifted speaker, charismatic and very effective in delivering her message.

Mary gained recognition for being able to organize the wives and children of the mine workers in demonstrations and publicized their plight. In 1902, she was arrested for ignoring an injunction banning meetings by striking workers. At her trial, West Virginia District Attorney Reese Blizard pointed at her in the courtroom and said, "There sits the most dan-

gerous woman in America; she comes into a state where peace and prosperity reign... crooks her finger and twenty thousand men lay down their tools and walk out."

By the age of sixty, Mary had assumed the character of Mother Jones; she dressed in outdated black dresses and allowed others to assume she was older, and perhaps wiser, than her actual age. The workers she fought for, she referred to as "her boys."

CHILD LABOR

The mine workers were not the only ones Mary sought to help. The U.S. Census of 1900 found that 1/6 of American children were employed in various occupations, albeit at a much lower wage than an adult male. In 1901, workers in the silk mills in Pennsylvania went on strike over the lower wage issue and the harsh conditions the children were facing in the mills.

Mary felt that the long hours required by the mill operators deprived them of an education and any opportunity to improve themselves. In 1903, she organized a march from Philadel-

phia to Oyster Bay, New York with the child workers, bringing the issues of child labor to the forefront of the public agenda. She continued to fight for child labor laws the rest of her life.

THE PAINT CREEK – CABIN CREEK STRIKE

Mary was arrested again in 1912 at one of the most violent strike conflicts in The United Mine Workers history. The strike in West Virginia pitted the U.M.W. against mercenaries hired by the mine owners; armed conflicts and even bombing from bi-planes prompted martial law to be declared. Mary's trial was held in military court. She was convicted and sentenced to twenty years.

Mary was being held under house arrest, and after eighty-five days, she was diagnosed with pneumonia. A Senate Investigation into mining conditions helped her in obtaining her release. Several months later she was back at it, organizing miners in Colorado, at Rockefeller's Colorado Fuel and Iron Co. Mary was arrested once more, served time in prison, and on her release was escorted from the state.

THE LUDLOW MASSACRE

On April 20, 1914, the Colorado National Guard, supporting the mining companies, fired machine guns into a tent camp of 1,200 striking miners and their families, killing twenty-one, including miner's wives and children. Afterwards, Mary was invited to meet with John D. Rockefeller Jr.; that meeting was partially responsible for Rockefeller's visit to the mine the following year, and the introduction of long overdue reforms in the mining industry there.

Mother Jones remained an organizer for the U.M.W. into the 1920s, and spoke on union affairs almost to the end of her life. She celebrated her one-hundredth birthday on May 1, 1930 (even though the math doesn't add up), and passed away in Silver Spring, Maryland on November 30th of the same year. She was buried in the Union Miner's Cemetery in Mount Olive, Illinois. In 1932, 15,000 mine workers assembled in Mount Olive to protest against the U.M.W., and gain the reformations they were fighting for.

The U.M.W. became the Progressive

Mine Workers of America. They felt they had acted in the spirit of Mother Jones, and by 1936 had raised \$16,000 to erect a memorial at her grave.

"Eighty tons of pink granite, with bronze statues of two miners flanking a twenty foot column featuring a relief of Mother Jones at its center." In Mount Olive, October 11 is "Miner's Day," and in 1936, 50,000 people came to see the monument. Today in Mount Olive, October 11 is also *Mother Jones Day*, celebrating the spirit of this rebelly woman from Cork. ●

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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ILLUMINATIONS

By J. Michael Finn

The Whiteboys

Historians have noted that one reason for the success of American Revolution was that the British Army was unable to supply sufficient troops to the American colonies to adequately put down the revolution (the British were forced to employ the Hessians, who were German mercenaries). Why were the British so shorthanded?

The reason was they had committed too many troops to Ireland. Ireland was partially responsible for winning the American Revolution.

At the time, there was a lot going on in Ireland to keep the British busy. Between 1735 and 1760, there was an increase of Irish land used for grazing and beef cattle, in part, because pasture



land was exempt from tithes (Church of Ireland taxes).

The landlords in Ireland leased their lands to tenant farmers at a rate far above their value. As more landlords and farmers switched to raising cattle, laborers and small tenant farmers were forced off the land.

Since the Irish tenants had no legal rights to the land they leased (known as Fixity of Tenure), the practice of mass

eviction was used to vacate the fields for grazing. In order to defend the tenants from eviction, and other abuses, several secret oath-bound societies developed in Ireland.

These were hard times for the small farmers and laborers. Local law was administered by the landlords who, for the most part, had little sympathy for the ordinary people. Nor could they hope for anything better from the higher courts, even if they had the money to seek legal help. It was in this situation that the Whiteboys, claiming to be the champions of the oppressed, emerged from among the peasantry.

LEVELERS

The Whiteboys, or *na Buachaillí Bána* in Irish (Pron: *na boo-hal-ee*)

were a secret Irish agrarian organization in 18th century Ireland who used violent and non-violent tactics to defend tenant farmer land rights. Their name derives from the white smocks that members wore. Because they leveled the fences at night, they were sometimes referred to as "Levelers" by the authorities.

The Whiteboys sought to address exorbitant rents, tithe collection, evictions and other oppressive acts by landlords. Over

time, Whiteboyism became a general term for rural violence connected to secret societies. Because of this generalization, the historical record for the Whiteboys as a specific organization is not always clear.

The first major outbreak occurred in County Limerick in November 1761, and quickly spread to counties Tipperary, Cork and Waterford. A great deal of organization and planning seems to have been put into the outbreaks.

Initial activities were limited to specific grievances and the initial tactics used were non-violent, such as the leveling of ditches that closed off common grazing land. They did not seek to abolish rents or tithes, only to regulate them in an equitable manner.

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ERIN GO BRAGH

As their numbers increased, the scope of Whiteboy activities began to widen, and violence against landlords began occurring. Whiteboy proclamations were posted under such names as "Captain Moonlight," stipulating demands such as that rent not be paid and that no one pay or collect tithes demanded by the Church of Ireland. Threatening letters were also sent to debt collectors, landlords, and occupants of land gained from eviction, demanding that they give up their land.

March 1762 saw a further escalation of Whiteboy activities, with marches in military array preceded by the music of bagpipes or the sounding of horns. At Cappoquin they fired guns and marched by the military barracks, playing the Jacobite tune, "The Lad with the White Cockade."

More militant activities often followed such processions, with houses in Lismore attacked; prisoners released in an attack on Tallow jail; and similar shows of strength in Younghal.

Of course, the government could not stand by and allow these "illegal and riotous" activities to continue. As usual, the authorities decided to over-react with a determined response. A considerable military force under Charles Moore, 1st Marquess of Drogheda, was sent to Munster to crush the Whiteboys.

On April 2, 1761, a force of fifty militia men and forty soldiers set out for Tallow, "where they took (mostly in their beds) eleven Whiteboys," mostly on the testimony of informants. Other raids took seventeen Whiteboys west of Bruff, in County Limerick. By mid-April, at least 150 "suspected Whiteboys" had been arrested, again based on informant testimony. An unknown number of Whiteboys were reported killed in this, so called, "pacification exercise."

Clogheen, in County Tipperary, bore the initial brunt of this assault, as the local parish priest, Father Nicholas Sheehy, had earlier spoken out against tithes and the penal laws, and he had collected funds for the defense of parishioners charged with rioting. He was arrested and unsuccessfully indicted for sedition several times before eventually being found guilty of a charge of accessory to murder.

Father Sheehy asserted his innocence

before his death of all the charges made against him. He said in his final speech that he was being put to death for a crime which had never been committed. The murder victim (John Bridge) was alleged to be in Cork after the date of the "crime" and it is thought that he immigrated to Newfoundland. Father Sheehy was hanged, drawn and quartered in the city of Clonmel in March 1766.

The fierceness of the suppression of the Whiteboys began to be too much even for the authorities. Lord Halifax soon expressed concern that the repression was going too far. He noted that the repression was creating "utmost consternation" among the people and that local farm laborers were fleeing to the mountains. He noted that lack of farm laborers to harvest the crops was causing famine to breakout in some areas.

THE HEARTS OF OAK, THE RIBBONMEN, THE DEFENDERS, THE ROCKITES AND THE MOLLY MAGUIRES

The Dublin Journal reported at the same time that the south east part of Tipperary "is almost waste, and the houses of many locked up, or inhabited by women and old men only; such has been the terror the approach of the Light Dragoons has thrown them into."

Some historians believe that Whiteboy agitations ceased about 1787, when there was a promise of tithe Law reform. While the initial Whiteboy activities were largely centered in Munster, other secret agrarian groups subsequently appeared in other areas of Ireland, using similar tactics to protect Irish tenant farmers. These were groups such as the *Hearts of Oak*, the *Ribbonmen*, the *Defenders*, the *Rockites* and the *Molly Maguires*. ●

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AKRON
IRISH

By Lisa O' Rourke

Packing?

Oh, the plans that we have made about the places that we will go! We planned barbecues and parties and talked and talked about all the fun that we will have, this summer, when this is all over.

These discussions gave us all a boost; what is more fun than party planning? But now, I kind of have a feeling akin to face-planting on cement.

All this fun may have to be delayed again, making this the longest period of time that we have not been in Ireland in thirty years. Definitely a first world problem. We are so lucky that no one has been seriously ill, but not so lucky that we are missing family and friends.

This is happening right as we are beginning to see the light at the end of the Covid tunnel in the U.S., at least it seems that way. The light is appearing in Ireland too, but it seems more like a pinprick than the U.S. flashlight.

Why? Honestly, that is a good question, especially considering that the pharmaceutical industry is so strong in Ireland. Pfizer and AstraZeneca both have a large presence there. They are picking up speed on the vaccination process after a slow start and have just reached a half a million vaccinated. Proximity to the UK and fear of the variations on the disease may have helped kick them into gear.

A few months ago, I thought that Ireland encapsulated so many noble qualities that I believed were sorely missing here in the US. I thought that the Irish were better examples of the self-sacrifice that was shown by the WWII "Greatest Generation." Oops!

Turns out that we are all human, and globally fed up with the pandemic and shutdown of our personal lives. Ireland was doing well until Christmas. The surge after that holiday put them back up to Level 5 lockdown, the highest.



They will remain on Level 5 lockdown until April 5th.

It sounds like double secret probation and it kind of is. Level 5 is a ban on all non-essential travel. Residents are confined to remain within 5 kilometers of their residence. Non-essential businesses are closed. If non-essential work cannot be done remotely, it is not happening.

This week, construction workers have registered their complaints on this topic. Many of them have been off work for a year. They are threatening a mass exodus if they cannot go back to work. While there is some government assistance for them, it means getting by, treading water.

One big change is in schools. Students are easing their way back into the classrooms, starting with the primary students. By the end of March, all students should be back to in-person

learning.

So, what are the penalties for violating the Lockdown rules? They primarily hit you in the wallet. Being caught on the road outside the 5 K perimeter will cost you around \$120. You can travel outside that if you have a very good reason, like being an essential worker or a caregiver.

Travel abroad is also out of the question. Non-essential travel can net a fine of \$600. There is a small list of essential reasons, like an overseas medical procedure. Somehow dentists in Tenerife are suddenly extremely popular with the Irish. The same is true with Turkish hair transplant clinics. They both have reported a surge in appointments at their clinics originating from Ireland.

Patients make appointments, receive confirmation letters and do not show up for the appointment itself. Offices abroad reported enough of these "nec-

essary procedures" that the Irish police are looking for them in the airports.

Travel to many countries carries the penalty of a mandatory two-week quarantine for people entering the country. At this time, this is not an "honor system" process. There are government prescribed hotels and accompanying costs.

It is hardly a surprise that protests have surfaced, as they have in many other countries. The first one happened in the population hub, Dublin, on February 27. Hundreds of people came out, people who are frustrated, maybe with life in general. But they protested and threw things and got arrested.

Then it happened again in Cork on March 6, a little less violent, less arrests, but more people. There is a sense that the average person is reaching a breaking point. Eleven weeks is a heck of a long time to be on a Level 5 lockdown, and it isn't over yet.

The government is going slowly and gauging infection rates as they go. The reason was made more public by the Health minister, who did confirm that hospital capacity in Ireland is a huge concern. Their system could be overwhelmed quickly. A catastrophe that resembled the Italian outbreak could happen in Ireland and take an awful toll.

It is impossible to think that tourism has not been hit hard and had a large impact on the economy. Tourism is down, but it is also playing a less significant part of the Irish GDP, as other sectors of the economy continue to grow. That is good news for Ireland, at least in part.

Of course, there are areas, the beauty spots and charming towns, that depend more heavily on foreign dollars and have missed the tourists. These places and some cultural events are definitely feeling the pinch.

I am writing this in the hopes of helping those of you, who like us, said that they were packed and ready to go back traveling as soon as possible. Maybe not.

The expression goes that everywhere we travel we leave a footprint. Anyone traveling must be cautious that the footprint that they leave is not germ infested. OK, maybe that is overkill, but it is hard to feel good about traveling.

Continued on facing page



MADIGAN
MUSES

By Marilyn Madigan

Spring, New Beginnings

Spring is one of my favorite times of the year, when everything comes back to life. I am hoping that this spring will be a favorite time for us all. Many of us will be vaccinated and the end of this pandemic will soon be over. In April, we will gather with our loved ones to celebrate Easter. As a Resurrection people, we will remember those we lost, and know that one day we will be reunited with them. We will take the lessons learned during this time to enhance our lives. Our priorities will center on those who are important in our lives; family and friends.

During April, the Irish community usually recognize those units winning awards in our Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade. There will be no parade or Awards Banquet this year, but we still should remember how we honored our Irish Heritage Month, last month.

The St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee of the United Irish Societies of

Cleveland worked diligently to make sure the day would be remembered by sharing photos and videos of past parades. Executive Director Linda Carney should be commended for her dedicated leadership during this challenging time, with two parades being cancelled during her term.

The parade in 2022 will be a wonderful celebration for the Irish community; we all look forward to participating. In the past, the Irish in America concentrated on their local celebrations for St. Patrick's Day. A new beginning during this time is that the Irish Diaspora all over the world shared their plans for celebrating our Irish Heritage. Irish Heritage Month has been a busy time for many of us, with events hosted by the Irish Embassy, national organizations such as the Ancient Order of Hibernians and Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, and many local Irish clubs/museums.

LET US CELEBRATE, TOGETHER

The highlight of March is the Feast Day of St. Patrick. This year all were able to virtually attend Masses celebrated both nationally by the Hibernians and in our local communities. I personally hope these types of events will continue in the future. We are not in competition with each other; one is not damaged by another's success; it is not pie. When one does well, we all do well. Let us celebrate, together. ●

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Packing? *Continued from previous page*

Even with going to see family, part of what we do is go places.

If the restaurants and attractions are still closed or a spike in cases occurs, we could be burdening those family and friends? Even if we are vaccinated, we cannot be assured yet that we cannot be carriers, especially of the multiple variants. The weight that we have to carry to travel this year might just be too much. ●

Lisa O'Rourke is an educator from Akron. She has a BA in English and

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

Please send any Akron events to my email!

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BLOWIN' IN

By Susan Mangan

@SueMangan

Flowers of Spring

"The spring is coming by a many signs: The trays are up, the hedges broken down . . . And where sun peeps, in every sheltered place, The early buttercups unfold . . . The edges of the blackthorn clumps in gold."

"Young Lambs" by John Clare

As winter melts into spring, shadows change with the light. Hope in the guise of violet crocuses and laughing daffodils emerges from the darkness. Vulnerable shoots of new asparagus timidly shoulder their way through layers of autumn detritus.

Birds usher in the dawn with confident song. Creatures great and small know that the world is opening up to a new day.

Born in May, I am a child of spring. Growing up in Chicago, we did not have sweeping suburban lawns or landscaped vistas, but apple blossom trees did dot the small green spaces of our stout brick bungalows. Many of our neighbors grew efficient urban gardens utilizing the narrow plots of land between garages. In summer, fronds of dill would sway in the heat and Italian plum tomatoes would trail up the grids of chain link fencing.

I enjoyed growing flowers. My mother would buy me tulip and daffodil bulbs each fall; I planted them beneath the heavy yew evergreens that flanked our home. Inevitably, only one or two flowers would bloom in early April, as sunshine could not penetrate the heavy shrubs planted for privacy rather than beauty. Nevertheless, with the joyful spirit of a child, I continued to spread zinnia seeds in summer and stayed hopeful

that lush blooms would grow.

When my children were small, we spent spring days playing at the park or walking through the nature trails in Huntington Woods. I taught them the names of flowers and trees. As children, they were receptive students.

DIFFERENT FLOWERS

Now, I am not certain that they would know the difference between a ditch lily and a rose. Still, like that spring child from Chicago, I continue to plant seeds and hope that they will blossom.

My three children have grown like a field of early spring dandelions. Each day they turn their faces to the sun with strength and confidence, even in the wake of disappointment or challenge. My youngest child is graduating from high school this May and my oldest is graduating from college.

I reflect on the years that have passed more quickly than the fleeting blooms of a magnolia tree. Though they are, all three, on the cusp of adulthood, the fragrance of their youth is present during this bitter-sweet spring.

Recently, I have been pouring over pictures of our many family holidays. How I treasure the time when my mother and her sister met our family in Ireland. In company with two grandmothers and many great-aunts, the children spent precious weeks collecting bouquets of wildflowers and sat among blooms of pale butterwort near the shores of Keem Beach.

While the wild thyme danced, the sea air cast a cool breeze over my daughter's bare arms raising flocks of goose bumps and shrill cries of laughter. Sitting side by side on a perfectly smooth rock, my mother pulled a fleece blanket around my daughter's arms and cuddled her as if the moment would never end.

Over the years, I have watched my sons leap through fields of Irish furze and heather, while they followed their father on a tour of his native soil. During quiet times, the children and their cousins laid bouquets of flowers at the shrine of the Virgin Mary in their grandmother's childhood village. She pointed out the country names of familiar blooms; beautiful purple and pink delphiniums were called "fairy's fingers."

My mother-in-law told us how as little children walking through the fields, they would spy the lovely flow-



ers and put the bells of the blossoms atop each of their ten fingers. Nature provides games as well as a touch of magic.

GATHERING THE TURF

Through the years we continued to travel to Ireland. As teenagers, the boys worked together gathering turf beneath an unusually sweltering summer sun. Tired and hungry, they ate fresh ham sandwiches and toasted their hard work with cups of tea.

I doubt they were trolling for different varieties of wildflowers during their work, but rather spent most of their time avoiding the stinging nettles that lined the field fencing. Together, the boys learned about their culture while making priceless memories that

would last forever.

The years have passed like kaleidoscope portraits, morphing into new images of dreams and realities that will unfold like the spring before us. Inevitably, darkness turns into light. Yet, despite the hour or season, some flowers tilt toward the moon and others toward the sun. ●

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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TERRY FROM DERRY

By Terry Boyle

A Better Chance at Survival

It has been, without a doubt, a very strange year. We have all had to adjust to a reality that most of us have never had to face before. There is not a day that goes by without being reminded of how precarious life has become.

I think it is fair to say that we are all zoomed out, and binge watching is no longer one of our favourite past times. For a year now, we have been wishing and praying for a miracle. And, it would be fair to say, that since the arrival of vaccines, we have all been hoping that we finally have turned a corner. Our hope is not unfounded, since the rate of infections have been dramatically reduced in areas abiding by the restrictions and who have access to vaccines.

During this time, we need to consider those people who are not fairly represented in the vaccine roll out. People of colour, minority groups and those who are economically disadvantaged find themselves last in the race to get a vaccine. This inequity is a fact of life in most countries and should be addressed.

Over the past weeks, Larry and myself have worked at a local vaccine site, and it is interesting to note that the people we are serving are, for the most part, white, educated, and certainly not under privileged. Of course, this is reflective of where we live. However, there are other parts of the country where there is more diversity and where there is less favourable representation at vaccination sites.

Some of this disproportion is due to the antivaxxers myth pedaling. With no scientific reasoning or knowledge, these people embrace conspiracy instead of truth. The scare tactics of such propaganda has dangerous results for all of us.

Not only do they put themselves at risk, but they also put us at risk too. While the

vaccines offer us up to 95% protection, we are not totally protected. It is important to confront their disinformation about the vaccines with scientific proof. We are presently at a very important juncture and the road back to any kind of normality requires trusting the right sources for information and not hearsay.

If I am in agony with pain, then it would not benefit me to take the advice of the local politician or witchdoctor. We see a doctor when we are sick. Why? Because we believe they are trained in the science of healing the body.

When we allow the scaremongers a platform to air their superstitious beliefs, we put the people who are most at risk in peril. We need to target those communities who are afraid to come forward to get the vaccine because of fear, and concentrate our efforts at educating those groups on the facts.

When we first started to help with the vaccination roll out, the reaction of most people was relief. At last, they had an opportunity to claw back some of what they had lost. People lined up, eager to receive the hope science offered. It was heartening to be able to help those already compromised in their health, some suffering from dementia, and others simply desperate to protect what time they had left to them. As the weeks have gone by, it is interesting to note some differences.

VACCINE REACTION

While there have been some cases of reactions to the drugs, the majority of people vaccinated have had little or no reaction. But, as we know, it is not the good news that the media love, but the sensational. An adverse reaction, a possible death among millions who been vaccinated becomes a headliner.

The media outlet quickly forgets that over half a million people and counting have died from Covid-19 in the U.S alone. Media sources were happy enough to keep our minds on the death clock during the worst of the pandemic, but they seem less happy to report the reduction in infections and deaths. However, on the positive side, such reports have also made it easier for people to ask questions-questions-not statements, such as 'vaccines kill people.'

The consent form, which at the beginning was readily signed without a thought, has become an opportunity for people to share their concerns about the vaccine, which is a good thing. We

provide them with a fact sheet that they can peruse before going for their shot. Hesitancy in making such a decision is a good thing.

What is not good is when people become choosy about which vaccine they should get. The efficacy of any drug has already been rigorously tested. There is no drug that guarantees 100% protection. Some offer more protection than others, but in reality, they all reduce your risk of becoming seriously ill.

When it comes to providing information on vaccines, it is this fact that makes all the difference. You have a better chance of survival with a vaccine than without it.

Viruses will continue to plague us. A virus is a life form, like ourselves, that fights to survive. Its ability to mutate means that our scientists must try to keep ahead of the increasing number of variants. We can be proud that, given the scope of this pandemic, our scientists have done an incredible job in providing us with a way to fight back against this viral predator.

This time last year, we watched as many countries were in process of lockdown, there were curfews, and mass chaos. Most of us were afraid of touching any hard surface. We washed everything we touched. We were afraid to come into contact with those closest to us, and generally cut ourselves off from one another.

A lot has changed in this past year, and much will continue to change, even as we get to the end of this crisis. Covid-19 has become part of who we are, and we will have to continue to be on our guard against further mutations.

Vaccination before we travel to other countries may become compulsory. We may need a booster shot to provide further protection. Masks may still be necessary in some situations. We face an uncertain future and how we proceed is still unknown, but we should count ourselves lucky to have come this far. ●

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CLEVELAND IRISH

By Francis McGarry

Baseball in America, at Carnegie and Ontario

The National League began play in 1876, and the Irish presence was visible from the start. Some of that is due to the confluences of history and a game of numbers.

The Irish in America had begun to witness the emergence of its second generation after the Famine immigrants had established a foothold. Populations of the Midwest and East had large segments of Irish American males, and those fellows took to baseball. Teams like the Troy Trojans, Holyoke Shamrocks, Cleveland Spiders, St. Louis Browns and Chicago White Sox all benefitted from their Irish stars.

The years of 1880 to 1920 witnessed over two dozen Irish Americans en-

shrined in the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown. There are over fifty in the Hall now. That is factual; the American baseball creation myth is not so much.

Bat and ball games date to over 4,500 years ago in Egypt. The Egyptian leagues did not have so many of the sons of Ireland either. They did play a game called “skeker-bemat,” and even depicted the game on the walls of their temples.

Europe in the late 16th century had a game called “rounders” that involved a leather covered ball, a round wooden bat and four bases that had to be run in order to score. If it looks like a duck, swims like a duck, and quacks like a duck...

So, the game predates the Irish Americans who flocked to it. When it happened in America, the Irish were there and ready to participate.

In 1837, an Irish hotel owner in New York named John Murphy helped found the Gotham Baseball Club. Most teams at that time were comprised of fellows who had another job. In the 1860s, teams would compete for a city or state championship. In New York, a team of Protestant clerks played a team of Irish workingmen.

The best of three championship games ended in the third game with some of the clerks getting hit by stones after a few questionable calls. The game was called due to the riot; a precursor to Ten Cent Beer Night in Cleveland?

BASEBALL'S FIRST CURVEBALL

It was not until 1869 that the Cincinnati Red Stockings became the first all professional team to be organized. Two years later, ten teams met on St. Patrick's Day to plan the first professional baseball league. Andy Leonard was the first Irish-born, County Cavan, player in the league. He was joined by Irishman, Arthur “Candy” Cummings, the first pitcher to throw a curveball.

Baseball paid more than most more laborious endeavors, and young Irish Americans and Irish immigrants were willing to give it a go. Hundreds of thousands of the immigrants to America were Irish. They were young and their numbers created a new source of participants and fans for America's

rapidly growing “new” sport.

Baseball was an activity that the immigrant Irishman could engage in to become part of his adopted country. While the older generation could not always understand this strange new pastime and its appeal, their American born children and the young Irish immigrants embraced it with enthusiasm. By the 1880s, forty percent of the players in the major leagues were of Irish descent.

The Cleveland Spiders began in the American Association in 1887, playing at Payne Avenue and East 39th Street. They joined the National League in 1889.

On May 18th, 1889, the new baseball season was upon the city. Cleveland has just defeated Indianapolis 11-2, bringing their record to eight wins and seven loses. Just over 1,400 fans watched the game on the eastside of Cleveland. O'Brien, McKean and McAller scored multiple runs for the Spiders.

They were not the only Irish stars in Cleveland. Pitcher Jim McCormick twice led the league in wins. The Spiders were contenders and moved to a new stadium at Lexington and East 66th Street. Cy Young joined the Spiders in 1892, one of only two teams in the black that year. Cleveland finished 2nd in 1895 and 1896. Frank DeHass Robison was their owner. He was unhappy with the attendance at home games, and he “traded” players to his other team in St. Louis.

The 1899 Cleveland team was not good at all, going 20-134. Perhaps to add insult to injury for Robison, who had established streetcar systems across America and in Cleveland, 1899 witnessed the Streetcar Strike as well. The streetcars stayed in Cleveland, the Spiders did not. They were dismantled in 1900.

This was not the only intersection of protest and sport. In June of 1877, the Molly Maguires were arrested in Pennsylvania. All of the arrested Molly Maguires were also members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians. Twenty of them were hanged for organizing workers in the coal mines into joining the Knights of Labor.

Led by Irish American Terence Powderly, Knights of Labor demanded the eight-hour workday and the inclu-

sion of female and African American laborers. The Knights of Labor influenced workers across America, and in American baseball.

BROTHERHOOD OF PROFESSIONAL BASE BALL PLAYERS

It was eight years after the Molly Maguires were hung that nine players of the New York “Hibernian” Giants formed the Brotherhood of Professional Base Ball Players. Six of those founding members were Irish. At the end of the 1886 season, there were Brotherhood chapters at all the National League teams, with over 100 members. The players union was officially recognized by owners in 1887.

The Brotherhood of Professional Base Ball Players solicited financial support and a Players' League was chartered on December 10th, 1889. The league was supported by the American Federation of Labor and had teams in Boston, Brooklyn, Buffalo, Chicago, Cleveland, New York, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. Forty percent of the Players' League players, five of the managers and six of the owners were Irish.

The Cleveland Infants signed Irish players like Ed Delahanty. Ed wore an Irish harp pinned to his uniform. The Cleveland Infants lost money and so did the rest of professional baseball, the Players' League and the National League. The Cleveland Infants were not allowed to join the National League after the demise of the Players' League in 1890.

On April 5th 2021, the Kansas City Royals come to Cleveland at Progressive, even if I still call it “the Jake.” Perhaps a few less Irish on the field, but many more in the stands. ●

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 Blue-stone Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians.

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The Captures of Cash

Athassel Priory

By John Cash

MUNSTER CAHIR CASTLE

The Castle you see in the town of Cahir today is a wonderful example of late 15th or early 16th century architecture in this Munster county. However, you must go back further for its origins. There was a castle built here in 1142 by Conor O'Brien. The Castle is positioned on a rocky outcrop, now an Island in the River Suir, surrounded by water; this played a major part in its defence.

In the early 13th century, the castle was granted to Philip of Worcester, before being granted to the Butlers in the 14th century. The castle in Cahir was, for a long period, considered to be the only Castle in Ireland virtually impregnable.

However, it was surrendered to Oliver Cromwell in 1649, during his campaign here in Tipperary. The Castle now has many refurbished rooms; if you wanted a flavour of living in 15th or 16th century Ireland, you will get it here.

HOLY CROSS CISTERCIAN ABBEY

The Cistercian Abbey of Holy Cross was founded circa 1180. It is situated on the west bank of the River Suir, in Co. Tipperary. It was founded by Donal Mor O'Brien, the King of the Thomond region of Munster, famed for his establishment of monasteries and church's.

It carries the name Holy Cross because it is said to house a relic of the one true cross. Donal Mor's mother was an O'Fogarty, and Holy Cross is built on traditional O'Fogarty lands.

The Abbey was extensively restored in the 1970s and early 1980s; it is well worth a visit.

THE PRIORY OF ATHASSEL

Situated again on the west bank of The River Suir is Athassel Priory. This Augustinian priory was founded circa 1201 by the Norman Lord, William De Burga. The priory was dedicated to St. Edmond by its founder, who was married to the daughter of Donal mor O'Brien.

At its most powerful, Athassel was very important; the prior of this monastery even had a seat in Parliament in England. It was an attempt by the Norman conquerors of Ireland to show that they could also establish lavish and large religious sites, and it was not just Irish royalty that could do so.

Like many medieval sites in Ireland, the site has a varied history of good times and bad. By the time it came to the dissolution of the monasteries in the 16th century, Athassel had already seen better days, with only a few religious left there.

THE O'BRIEN'S

You will notice the name O'Brien is associated with all of this month's sites. This one family played an immeasurable part in the history of the province of Munster. The family takes their name from Brian Boru, perhaps the most famous, and last, High King of Ireland.



Holy Cross

Brian Boru was the only King of Munster to become High King of Ireland. It is because of his patronage of the Harp that we still use the harp on Irish passports and coins today. Boru died after the Battle of Clontarf in 1014.

At the time, the tradition was to take your father's first name as your surname. This is where Mac or Mc comes from; it means son of; a girl was Ni or Nic. When it came to the grandchildren of Brian Boru, they did not want to lose the Brian from their



Cahir Castle

name, so they chose to take Uibh Brien as their surname, meaning of or from Brian. This was eventually anglicized to O'Brien.

The O'Brien's were a true Irish family who left us an incredibly built heritage here in Co. Tipperary; I have only shown you a selection. By 1332, Brian O'Brien had recaptured much of Tipperary from the Normans. While the O'Brien's were eventually defeated, for many centuries, they showed the true spirit of Ireland. ●

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TAKING THE FIELDS OF GLORY

By Vincent Beach

Midwest Gaelic Athletic Association

We are getting close... the Midwest GAA schedule will be published within days of the paper going to print, so get the early news online (ClevelandGAA.com). After much discussion of blitz-style weekends last year, where multiple cities would meet in one location for a collection of games, this year's proposed schedule goes back to a home and away series.

With multiple codes in a few towns now, the blitz is being replaced with GAA Days on a few Saturdays, where each city's men's football, ladies' football, and hurling teams will go head-to-head. The proposed schedule will be debated by each club before the Division finalizes the document.

Right now, ladies' football includes Buffalo, Cleveland, and Pittsburgh; Hurling includes Akron, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, and Roc City (Rochester, NY). The men's football will consist of the three groups: Group 1 w/ Albany, Buffalo Fenians, and Syracuse; Group 2 w/ Buffalo Na Fianna, Cleveland, and Pittsburgh; and Group 3 w/ Cincinnati

and Detroit. Cincinnati and Detroit could round out their schedule with friendlies.

The other news is the emergence of the second team in Buffalo, Na Fianna. Na Fianna emerged in early 2020 as a hurling club grown from the city's youth program. The club participated well in the early season blitz in Pittsburgh last year, before the pandemic shut down games.

The Midwest season will follow championship rules, cumulating into a knockout Finals weekend. The group play throughout the summer will determine seeding in the Finals. Top finishers and runner-ups will represent the division at the USGAA Finals in Boston.

Where and when? The Midwest Division did not receive any bids for hosting this year's Finals. There is a tentative proposal for Pittsburgh to host on an earlier weekend, July 31-Aug1. The timing is within the desirable break of 2-3 weeks before the USGAA finals. More updates to come.

YOUTH

News came out of Chicago in early March that the Continental Youth Championships (CYC's), the GAA's largest event outside of Ireland, that was planned for July 29-August 1, will be canceled due massive logistics and planning required ahead of

a still uncertain pandemic. With the largest youth tournament canceled, smaller, regional tournaments are being promoted.

The regional tournaments will likely span one or two days on a weekend as opposed to four or five days of activities that constructed the CYC's. The Midwest is hosting one such regional invitational tournament on June 26th in Detroit. Another one that we have been

keeping on the schedule is the Liberty Bell on July 17th in Philadelphia. For our Midwest youth players, the Midwest Finals are expected to round out the summer of games in late July/early August.

CLEVELAND

The Cleveland teams are rolling with trainings through April, leading into the Memorial 7's football tournament on May 8th. Visit clevelandGAA.com, for training updates that are planned for Edgewater Park, Impett Park, and

the Westside Irish American Club (WSIA).

The May 8th Memorial 7's football tournament will be held at the WSIA. Teams from around the Midwest and Chicago have already committed. ●

Vincent Thomas Francis Xavier Beach is a proud Greater Cleveland 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.



On the Hurling Side

By Damon Margida

Hurling is the National Sport of Ireland. Open to both men and women (called Camogie). For the unfiltered experience, YouTube is best for the complete picture.

Hurling is a fast paced and physical sport. Not without reason, it is described as *The Clash of the Ash* or *The Fastest Game on Grass*. Hurling combines the skills of many sports; Wiki

describes it this way:

THE HISTORY OF HURLING

"The history of hurling is long and often unclear, stretching back over three millennia. References to stick-and-ball games are found in Irish mythology. The game is thought to be related to the games of shinty that is played primarily in Scotland, cammag on the Isle of Man and bandy that was

Continued on facing page

Hurling

Continued from previous page

played formerly in England and Wales. There is evidence that in ancient times it was also played in Iceland, old sagas "suggesting that it was something that was brought from the Gaelic area to Iceland".^[1]

Hurling is older than the recorded history^[2] It is thought to predate the arrival of the Celts.^[2] It has been a distinct Irish pastime for at least 3000 years.^[2] The earliest written references to the sport in Brehon law date from the fifth century.^[2]"

LOCAL HURLING TEAM

Joining Cleveland St. Pat's Gaelic Football Club, The Cleveland St. Pat's Hurling Team was created in 2020, and had a lot of FIRST year recruits. We have plenty of equipment for first year recruits; you just need cleats and to be brave!

Practice is on Sundays in Brecksville, and in Olmsted Falls during the week. Last year with Covid, we were safely able to get the team up and running. We even played a few games vs. the Akron, Pittsburgh, and Indy clubs.

This year we will be creating local relaxed games to learn and have fun, as well as strengthening our squad to compete nationally. We will continue to run practices and games with prescribed safety rules in place.

Hurling is a great sport for all age ranges, a great bunch of people with friendships that last a lifetime. It offers a chance to try something truly unique, cherished and fun. It is a wonderful

sport and a big, historic part of our Irish culture. I look forward to you checking us out: www.ClevelandGAA.com For more information on Hurling, contact us at walknomad@msn.com.

BACK TO GAELIC FOOTBALL

The Cleveland Youth will open the summer program for all ages, boys and girls, on Sunday June 6th. The groups will be divided between the fields and play at the same time; the program will continue each Sunday throughout the summer.

ANNUAL NIGHT AT THE RACES

The annual fundraiser is rescheduled for May 22 at the WSIA. This year seating will span the Main hall and the outdoor pavilion for increased spacing. Check out the club website and the WSIA website for tickets, advertising, or donations.

FÁILTE (WELCOME) TO ALL

The Gaelic Athletic Association is Ireland's largest sporting organization and a bit of home for the Irish abroad here in the US of A. Beyond sports, the Association also promotes Irish music, song and dance, and the Irish language as an integral part of its objectives. Cleveland GAA is open to all who want to play competitive sports, meet new people, and join an athletic, fitness-minded club for all ages. Follow @ClevelandGaelic on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter for the 2021 activities for Men, Women, and Youth, or visit ClevelandGAA.com. ●

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ON THIS DAY IN IRISH HISTORY - APRIL

6 April 1954 - The Flags & Emblems Act legislates against interference with the Union Jack, effectively prohibiting display of the tricolor flag in Northern Ireland, giving the Minister for Justice the power to order the seizure of "provocative emblems."

7 April 1861 - The census, the first to inquire into religious denominations in Ireland, showed that out of populations of 5,800,000 (a decrease of 11.5% since 1851) Catholics accounted for 4.5 million and Anglicans for just under 700,000 people, almost two thirds of whom lived in Ulster.

10 April 1867 - George William Russell, widely known as 'AE', poet, mystic, editor, writer and artist, was born in Lurgan, Co. Armagh.

10 April 1865 - Oliver Sheppard, sculptor, notably of the 'The Death of Cu Chulainn' (1911-12), which was later chosen as memorial to the 1916 Rising and placed in the GPO, Dublin, was born in Cookstown, Co. Tyrone.

15 April 1941 - A squadron of 180 German bombers returned to Belfast, a week after their raid on the city, when the industrial

heartland around the docks was attacked in multiple bombings. Thirteen lives were lost in the first bombing, with over 900 lives lost overall.

18 April 1927 - First greyhound track opens in Belfast, followed immediately by one in Dublin one month later. There are now seventeen tracks under the control of the Irish Greyhound Board in the Republic, and three tracks under the control of the Irish Coursing Club in Northern Ireland.

22 April 1967 - Actor and writer Walter Macken dies at his home in Menlo at age 51. A prolific author, he is best known for his trilogy about the famine, *Seek the Fair Land*, *The Silent People*, and *The Searching Wind*.

23 April 1926 - The birth of New York of novelist J.P. Donleavy, who was the son of Irish immigrants. He later moved to Ireland and wrote *The Ginger Man* which became one of the top 100 selling books of all time in Ireland.

29 April 1901 - James Stephens, chief founder of the Fenian Brotherhood, died.



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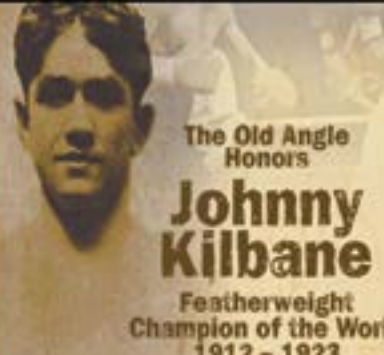
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Donnybrook



by John Myers

THE GREATEST GENERATION

Robert James O'Malley died in February 2021 in Washington, D.C. at the age of 98. O'Malley, a proud son of Cleveland, was like so many Irish Clevelanders of his generation; he had a hard scrabble childhood growing up on the near-west side of Cleveland.

He joined the building trades; fought fascist dictators as a soldier; was a good public servant and a great human; living a life of little fanfare, middle class economics, and thousands of friends.

We salute the quiet, everyday contributions to our community, our Nation, and our world by these members of the *Greatest Generation*, living and watching history each day. Bob 'earned' his Purple Heart on the same snowcapped mountain in Italy, on the same day as his fellow 10th Mountain Division member, Senator Robert Dole.

"BOB O'MALLEY SERVED OUR NATION WITH DISTINCTION IN THE 10TH MOUNTAIN DIVISION IN COMBAT IN EUROPE. HE WAS A SERGEANT AND A SQUAD LEADER WHO LED HIS MEN BRAVELY AND WITH HONOR."

This Bob left Cleveland to join the Congressional Staff of his good friend, Robert Emmett Sweeney, in Washington, but he always had Cleveland in his head and heart. He was a cherished friend of Cleveland Congressman James V. Stanton.

Every Sunday, Bob took a taxi to St. Stephen's on Pennsylvania Avenue, a church close to the Whitehouse, also frequented by JFK. O'Malley lived in a modest efficiency across the street from the historic Omni-Shoreham Hotel, the sight of everything from FDR's inaugural ball to late night, bipartisan poker games with President Truman, to hosting the Beatles on their first trip to the U.S.

Not being much of a cook, Bob walked across the street every day for most meals at the Shoreman's dining room. In fact, the hotel staff put a plaque up at his 'usual' table. Bob will be buried at Arlington Cemetery, and now more than ever, we all state the 10th Mountain's motto: "Climb to Glory" Bob, you deserve it.

PURPLE HEART WINNER

Several years ago, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid honored his good friend with these words, which were entered into the Congressional record in 2010:

Mr. Reid: Mr. President, every one of our servicemembers deserves the unqualified appreciation and admiration of the Senate and our entire Nation. Today, I wish to salute the service of

one such soldier, a man who first answered his country's call in World War II and has not stopped.

Bob O'Malley served our nation with distinction in the 10th Mountain Division in combat in Europe. He was a sergeant and a squad leader who led his men bravely and with honor. He put his life on the line on many occasions to protect his men and to fight for freedom against Nazi Germany and was recognized with his squad's admiration, the Combat Infantry Badge and, because he was wounded, a Purple Heart.

But he has not stopped serving his country. Bob came to Washington in 1965 and worked for Congressman Robert E. Sweeney before starting a 27-year career with the Doorkeeper of the U.S. House of Representatives. That is where I first met him, as a young Member of Congress. The Doorkeeper, Mr. Molloy, and Mr. O'Malley had a suite of offices and it was kind of a hangout for Democratic members of the House; especially it was a way for new Members of the Congress to become acquainted with what was going on over there. They were very caring about new Members and always pointed us in the right direction. I have always remembered those two men for all the good deeds they did on my behalf.

His was a 27-year career with the Doorkeeper. As I indicated, that is where I met him. By the time the war in Afghanistan started in 2002, Bob had retired from service in the House

of Representatives. Most retirees are content to seek a well-earned life of leisure, but Sergeant O'Malley did not. He signed up for a new and worthy mission, waking every day to serve our Nation's wounded warriors. When the war started, he went back to work as a volunteer-supporting and caring for the men and women of the 10th Mountain Division, his old unit. He has made countless visits to Walter Reed, this great medical center where these wounded warriors come to recuperate. On all these visits to Walter Reed, he spent countless hours talking and sharing stories about the Division and taking his fellow veterans to ball games and other events, including the sharing of meals on many occasions. When many of these wounded warriors could not make it home for the holiday, Bob would reach into his own pocket and pay for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New years dinners for soldiers and their families at some of the finest eateries in the Washington, D.C. area. Bob says that helping soldiers recover from their war injuries has added years to his life. We know it has added years to the lives of those he helps.

Bob O'Malley would be the first to tell you this is not a one-man mission. He has had help from many different areas. When he decided to help those wounded on the battlefield, for example, he enlisted the help of another veteran and fellow Clevelander, Dom Visconsi, Sr., an original member of the 10th Mountain Division in World War II. He asked Dom to help and Dom was happy to help entertain and support these troops. Many of Bob's friends soon joined the cause as well, and they are a constant presence for the soldiers, whether here or at home. Our Army would not be the best place in the world without the work of veterans such as Sergeant O'Malley, whose life has been synonymous with service, sacrifice, and selflessness.

He is an inspiration to me, our Armed Forces, and our country. He is a hero, and I am proud to call him a friend. ●

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My father's long fingers often spoke to his desire to be a musician, rather than the excellence he enjoyed on the fields of glory, at least to me. Or perhaps it signified a velvet touch. Craftsmen and women have always enthralled me. Here we feature Crafters of Ireland and noted crafters.

WHAT IS CRAFTERS OF IRELAND (COI)?

In a nutshell, Crafters of Ireland is a support service and for crafters, artists and designers in Ireland or anywhere in the world our Diaspora create hand-crafted goods. Their mission is to create visibility for all who subscribe, not only in Ireland, but the UK, Europe, the US and beyond. They aim to create connections and partnerships too.

The founder of COI, Bernadette Clancy, has first-hand knowledge of the challenges facing crafters through her work as a management consultant, delivering courses, workshops and bootcamps through state supports such as Local Enterprise Offices and Enterprise Ireland's New Frontiers for startups and entrepreneurs. This is where she worked and gained an understanding of how and where this sector needs ongoing support.

"I built COI around the needs of our clients. It is a new and innovative service designed to provide individual care, attention and professional support that covers all aspects of their business, on an ongoing basis" she said.

From the outset, Bernadette ensured her service would be unique to what was already available. "Because of the nature of their work, they can become isolated. I often spoke to crafters about this, long before Covid struck.

"Our crafters are not just a number, with products on an online shop. We know each of them to talk to, we respect them, and we are proud to have them on board. COI's focus is on promoting people; we want everyone to know they exist, and that they love what they do.

"We promote their skills, resilience, dedication, and passion for what they do. Each sale they make is spent back into the economy, which in turn helps

to keep other businesses in different sectors afloat.

To see the full range of ever-growing products, check out www.craftersofireland.com, or join on Facebook [Facebook.com/craftersofireland.com](https://www.facebook.com/craftersofireland) so you don't miss out on competitions. Crafters, advertise your products too: Facebook.com/groups/craftersofireland, and on Instagram [Instagram.com/craftersofireland/](https://www.instagram.com/craftersofireland/) Phone is 087 4210829

WOGAN SECRETS

Wogan Secrets are an award-winning online luxury candle boutique, based in the picturesque village of Slane, Co. Meath, home to Slane Castle, and the Hill of Slane, where legend says St. Patrick started the fires that drew the snakes out of Ireland. A family run business that strives to bring customers the most amazing product, each made with love and extreme attention to detail. Wogan Secrets stand out by creating a beautiful multi-award winning selection of luxury candles, gifts and accessories, no matter the occasion, Wedding, Birthday, Christening, Anniversary or Christmas. They offer personalised candles with your message, even your proposal for your big day, in your own words.

"I started my business three years ago from my kitchen table," said owner Stacey Wogan. "At the time, I was hoping to earn some more money and share my gift of design with other people. I adore weddings and all wedding related ideas; my best friend was getting married, and I said I would try make these as a gift to her. I went from one order per week to doing between 40/50, whilst adding other elements, from christening/baptism, to memorials, to all occasions.

"In my three short years, I have won numerous awards for my designs; they are so personal and unique, not available from a shop shelf. I am delighted to be part of Crafters of Ireland, who are promoting all the crafters globally." ●

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Stone Mad

by John Digney

“A dry-stone wall is the cleanest and greenest way to work with stone. Pure and simple, it involves only the individual and one single material, the stone, as found. Sometimes built collectively, we connect with the material in a direct and personal way when we handle it and weave it into something unique, a reflection of the self. Nothing exists that is tangible between those stones.

However, in the intangible realm of culture and essence lies the community, the collective; us. We occupy the ‘space between the stones’. Our Irishness shines through in our dry-stone structures and the variety of local and even individual styles to be seen all around the land and even across the world, where our ancestors have spread their Irish wings.”

- Ken Curran (Dry Stone Wall Association of Ireland)

Like many Irish Americans, I long to return to the land of my forefathers and try to imagine what life may have been like back then. Recently, I had that opportunity, and connected with relatives while learned a lot about my Irish history. Besides learning what life was like for my ancestors, my family and I rented a car and drove through much of the countryside.

I was not expecting to be so moved

by the beauty, magnitude, and historical significance of the stone walls throughout the country. One doesn't have to travel far in Ireland to encounter the miles and miles of these structures.

To sit and ponder why these exist, how they got built, and the hardships associated with their construction is awe inspiring. To me, it became overwhelming and rather emotional to consider the families, men, women, and children who undoubtedly played a part in placing each and every one of these stones as a means of survival.

They placed the walls around their plots and cultivated the land with hopes of building a life for their families. I found it interesting to consider the almost haphazard way the stones are placed and yet, these walls have stood for centuries, created boundaries, and protected crops from the great Atlantic winds.

More importantly, these walls supported a community commitment to neighbors and family as they toiled alongside one another to create small plots on which to survive. During these challenging times of Covid, I often reflect on these walls as synonymous to life. We are currently experiencing isolation, separation from our loved ones, friends, and community.

However, this is not how we are designed. We need and depend on one another. The stones, much like com-

munity and family, are large and small, rugged and smooth, and hold the rest of the wall together.

I am an artist; for the past few years, this reflection on my heritage and that of the Irish people have inspired me to development drawings that continue to foster a passion within to help in some way to protect and preserve the fingerprints of our past. This desire to make a difference, to help conserve these stone walls and enrich my own understanding about them beyond just my artwork, drives me to make connections and collaborate with Irish historical experts and Irish stone wallers. I hope to help in the education, knowledge sharing and collective advocacy for the conservation and preservation of stone walls throughout Ireland.

STONE WALLS WORKING TOGETHER

Our collective vision for this project going forward is to bring awareness of the history, significance and beauty of these treasured structures to communities in the US. By collaborating with the Dry-Stone Wall Association of Ireland (DSWAI), as well as the Ohio Irish American News, and the Irish American Archive Association, we will build a working relationship marked by fellowship and knowledge sharing so that we can work towards our collective goals. The work has just begun, but I look forward to seeing what we can do together.

STONE WALLS MOVING FORWARD

Given the constraints Covid has placed across the globe, we are beginning our journey by first introducing our initiative through the Ohio Irish American News. Planned articles and online communications to heighten awareness, while bringing understanding and visual images of the uniqueness and beauty of the walls throughout Ireland will follow.

In addition, we will be working to provide instructional links and videos from the DSWAI, so all can see the great work that has been done and continues to be fostered throughout the isle. In addition to print and online communications, we plan to visit Co. Mayo's Achill Island and Inis Oírr of the Aran Islands for the Féile na gCloch stone festival this fall, pending Covid restrictions.

The stone festival brings stone wall experts and instruction to hundreds of people from across the globe each year. Our hope is to build a community, share stories and bring back knowledge,

images, videos and interviews to share with the entire Irish American community stateside.

So, as we continue to plan and build the foundation for this collaborative effort, consider your own history, ancestry and stories. If you know your ancestral roots and the location from which your ancestors emigrated, we would love to hear from you.

In addition to knowledge sharing, we would hope to put a “face to a name” and identify old walls from family plots, thereby placing a “name to the stone walls.” As difficult as this may seem, it is a wonderful opportunity to preserve our heritage and create a real, tangible link to our history.

STONE WALLS GETTING INVOLVED

Thank you for taking the time to read about, support and promote awareness of these stone walls, and the conservation and preservation of the existing walls throughout Ireland. We hope you find this a worthwhile endeavor and charitable cause, worthy of your contributions as we look ahead to the preservation of our cultural heritage. All monetary contributions will be collected through the OhioIANews, and will be distributed directly to DSWAI.

The Dry Stone Wall Association of Ireland is a registered charity in Ireland, Charity number 20206056. In the DSWAI, our aim is to create an awareness of the need for preserving the craft of ‘dry’ stone building in Ireland. In doing so, the association hopes to advance the education of the public in the knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of the craft of building and repairing traditional dry stone walls in Ireland.

For more information, please visit the website at www.dswai.ie ●

John Digney is an Artist /Designer who received his BFA in Industrial Design from the Cleveland Institute of Art. He was raised in the Cleveland neighborhood of West Park near Kamm's Corner. He and his wife Kathleen and daughters Eileen and Megan now reside in Greenville, SC. John looks forward to the day when he can devote more time to his family, art and passions. He can be reached at jdigney59@gmail.com

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COOKING UP A HOOLEY

By Katie Gagne

A Twist on One of My Favorites

Nothing says spring like Pineapple Upside-Down Cake. That was our traditional dessert every Easter. Light and fruity, but still so sticky sweet and yummy. It is just the perfect dessert. Here is a twist on this that you can make for Easter or any time of year.

PINEAPPLE UPSIDE-DOWN CUPCAKES

These tender little bites just burst with sweetness and sunshine.

Ingredients
(Makes 24 regular cupcakes)

Cupcakes
1 box Yellow Cake Mix ~ any brand
1 20 oz can of Pineapple Chunks
½ cup Pineapple Juice (from the can of pineapple chunks)
1 ½ cups Brown Sugar
2 sticks Unsalted Butter ~ melted
24 Maraschino Cherries
1 cup Chopped Pecans
½ cup Crushed Pineapple or Pineapple Tidbits ~ drained well

Frosting
3 cups of Vanilla Frosting – store-bought or homemade buttercream
¼ cup Pineapple Juice (from the can of pineapple chunks)
1/3 cup Brown Sugar
24 Maraschino Cherries
½ cup Chopped Pecans
Prepare the cake mix as directed on the box.

Substitute half of the water for pineapple juice.
Stir in the crushed pineapple or pineapple tidbits.

Melt butter and in a medium bowl combine with the brown sugar and stir until blended.

Add just a pinch of salt. It should be fairly thick but still a bit runny.

Place a small spoonful of the mixture in the bottom of each cupcake space in a regular size cupcake pan.

Cut the cherries in half and put two halves in each cupcake space and

sprinkle some chopped pecans in each one as well.

Take 2-3 pineapple chunks and place in each cupcake space.

Fill each cupcake space 2/3 full with the cake batter.

Bake for approximately 15 minutes in a preheated 350* oven. Cupcakes are done when they are slightly golden on top, a bit springy to the touch and an inserted toothpick comes out clean.

Remove from oven and allow to sit for 15 minutes.

Gently loosen all around the edges with a knife.

Line a baking sheet with waxed paper and flip the cupcake tin over, allowing the cupcakes to gently drop onto the baking sheet.

Top the cupcakes with any sugar, cherries and nuts that stayed in the pan. Allow to cool completely.

Place each one in a cupcake wrapper. Mix the vanilla frosting with the pineapple juice and brown sugar. Pipe or spoon frosting onto each cupcake.

Top each with a cherry and additional pecans. ●

Katie Gagne teaches English at Trinity High School in Garfield Heights. She is also the owner of her in-home bakery Sassy's Sweets and Oh So Much More. You can contact her at (440) 773-4459 or at mkbluebows@aol.com, or find her on Facebook at [@sassysweetsandmore](https://www.facebook.com/sassysweetsandmore).

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AT HOME, ABROAD

By Regina Costello

Boy Unidentified, Infant Unidentified

“It was pouring bullets for six days” – Joe Duffy*

Thoughts of the 1916 Easter Rising are often shrouded in those of pride for the heroes fighting for Irish freedom, in a retrospectively poorly thought-out rebellion that lasted six days. Lost in the uproar are the dozens of children who lost their lives. The streets that were their playgrounds were transformed into battlefields. That is where they were that fateful Easter Monday morning.

Others were out and about too. 300 rebels marched from Liberty Hall to O’Connell Street. There they waited for the Angelus bell from the Pro-Cathedral to signal the start of the revolution.

The bulk of violence occurred near today’s ILAC center, a shopping complex. But back in 1916, this neighborhood was that of several narrow streets, home to pubs, vegetable stalls, with bakeries and local butchers.

As the uprising began, the sounds of war that are breaking glass, shouts and screams were misunderstood by the playing children who were lured by the fracas to the source. The loud rhythmic galloping of horses on the cobble stoned streets instilled a sense of excitement in an otherwise quiet morning. The riders were British soldiers from the Linenhall Barracks on Bolton Street, taking to the streets armed with lancers bound for The General Post Office.

Who were these children? The majority came from the Linen hall slums of the inner city. Living conditions were both overcrowded and unhygienic, which contributed to poor health of an already impoverished people. Records indicate

that up to 62% of kids died under 10 years of age because of the horrendous living conditions.

It is no wonder really that they took off in their homemade boxcars towards the commotion and buzz just a stone’s throw away. The broken doors and smashed windows of local businesses provided an opportunity for these kids. They likely had nothing to lose but stood to gain some much-needed food for empty bellies or a coat to warm their bodies on chilly spring days. There is documentation of this, including one account that reads, “a fresh-faced youth crossing the street [Sackville Street] with an armful of boots.

First and Last Taste of Chocolate
It is also written that many kids made a dash for Noblett’s sweet shop on North Earl Street, that was for some, their first and last taste of chocolate. Another source documents that fireworks were stolen from Lawrence’s Toy Shop, they were set off on the street and killed three children. Death certificates indicate that most of the dead children were shot accidentally. Six were aged ten and under. Most of them were between 11 and 16 years old. The dead included babies.

Catherine Foster was walking her two-year old son, John Francis, when gun shots were fired along the quays. He was shot in his pram, and although Mrs. Foster rushed him to nearby Richmond Hospital, it was already too late.

John Kirwan from North Cumberland was reported missing and lay in Jervis Street Hospital, unrecognizable for a month. His mother identified him by the lucky coin in his pocket that was a Confirmation gift.

Christopher Hickey, age 16, was with his father and both were shot and bayoneted. Brigid McKane hid behind her father as Irish rebel leaders shot the lock on their front door; she landed a bullet in the head.

The names and stories of these children were buried with them for almost a century. In the early 2000s, there were rumblings to build a memorial for their tragic deaths. One such effort came from the Jack and Jill Foundation in 2013.

THE BIGGEST EGG HUNT IN IRELAND

They organized the biggest egg hunt in Ireland as a fundraiser. The hunt consisted of more than 100 fiberglass eggs. Those solicited to design and paint them were well-known artists and household names, including Irish Journalist and Broadcaster Joe Duffy.

Duffy’s self-admission of inadequate art skills were a blessing in disguise because

he came up with a novel and historically important idea for the design of his egg: he wanted the name of each child who died, and their age placed inside individual balloons painted on his egg.

Little did he realize that he had undertaken a massive project. He discovered Dr. Ann Matthews, who, in 2011, made a call to commemorate the children of the Rising.

Joe used the list that she had begun to compile. He added to it, using numerous sources, including death certificates, census records, newspapers, pension and compensation claims and information from families who responded to a public request for information. The latter proved pivotal for several reasons: none of the dead had direct descendants and the memory for many of them lived in family stories from grand nieces and nephews. It dismantled confusing data and shed light on factual data.

This was especially true with the mix up in the identification of what is reputed to be the first death of the rising. It seemed to be a child of a British Army Commandant whose family was residing in Magazine Fort, a munitions depot in the Phoenix Park. For the longest time it was thought that 14-year-old Gerald Playfair was shot dead; records and documentation attested to his demise. Information from the public shed light that it was actually his 23-year-old brother George Alexander who was shot when the depot was raided.

Duffy’s final count is that of forty killed under 17 years of age; both Catholics and Protestants; thirty boys and ten girls. Some unknowns remain including a 14-year-old “Male O’Toole,” and a “Boy Unidentified.”

The 1916 Irish Proclamation reads, “cherishing all the children of the Nation equally.” The memories and stories of the forty children Duffy identified will never be buried and forgotten again. The monies raised from the egg hunt built a commemorative playground and garden in St. Audeon’s Park in Dublin 8. The designers involved a wide array of individuals from City planners to young family members.

Agreement was reached that the area honor both the children who died and provide enjoyment for today’s youngsters. The stories and memories of those children who perished are detailed in Joe’s book, and their names are engraved in St. Audeon’s Park. Thanks to John O’Brien, Jr., now they are additionally recorded and remembered in At Home Abroad, here on

this page, and the OhioIANews website, forever.

They are: Bridget Allen, Christopher Andrews, Mary Anne Brunswick, Christina Caffrey, Christopher Cathcart, Moses Doyle, Charles Darcy, Patrick Fetherston, John Francis Foster, James Fox, William Fox, Neville Fryday, John Gibney, John Healy, Christopher Hickey, Patrick Ivors, Charles Kavanagh, Mary Kelly, Patrick Kelly, James Kelly, John Kirwan, Bridget McKane, John McNamara, William Mullen, Joseph Murray, William O’Neill, Male O’Toole, Mary Redmond, Patrick Ryan, George Percy Sainsbury, Walter Scott, Bridget Stewart, Margaret Veale, Philip Walsh, Eleanor Warbrook, Christopher Whelan, Boy Unidentified, Infant Unidentified. ●

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 and The Irish American Charitable Foundation. She can be reached at rcostello@ameritech.net

Sources consulted: to Email App

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40 children were killed in the 1916 Rising but they are barely mentioned in our history. thejournal.ie 11/29/15

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COLUMBUS IRISH

By Molly Truex



No Parade, But We Still Honor Our Extraordinary Volunteers

The member organizations of the Clann Na nGael of Columbus, Ohio are pleased to announce the 2021 St. Patrick’s Day Honorees:

CLANN NA NGAEL

The Irish Brigade
Founded by Dave Murphy and Pat Mogan in 1979 to play a promotional event at the Lazarus Department Store in downtown Columbus, the band spent the next nineteen years entertaining audiences across Central Ohio and beyond. The Brigade was a memorable cast of characters, including regulars Greg Hankins, Kevin Talty, Dennis O’Hooley Smith, Phil Franck, Jim Scarf, and sound man Brian Conklin, plus many irregulars along the way. The Brigade was the original Irish traditional music group in Columbus, in more ways than one. Their enjoyment of the music and love of Irish history and culture echoes on through other music groups today.

A recognition event for The Irish Brigade and all our 2021 award winners will be scheduled later in 2021.

ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS PATRICK PEARSE DIVISION

Commodore Barry Award, Cathy Sullivan
Member of the Year, Bruce McPherson

DAUGHTERS OF ERIN

Irishwoman of the Year, Becky Ellis
Member of the Year, Sharon Selby

EMERALD SOCIETY

Bill Harris

LADIES ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS

Member of the Year: Karen Finn

SHAMROCK CLUB OF COLUMBUS

Irish Person of the Year: Megan Dempsey
Member of the Year: Brian O’Reilly
Parade Grand Marshals: Morey Joseph Brady and Jim O’Connor

L-R Member of the Year Brian O’Reilly; Parade Grand Marshal Morey Joseph Brady; SCOC President Andy Shuman; Parade Grand Marshal James “Jim” O’Connor; Irish Person of the Year Megan Dempsey. Photo by Karen Fahy.

Thank you to the Greater Columbus Irish Cultural Foundation and the Greater Cleveland United Irish Societies for working to unite the Ohio Irish! Cleveland Parade Pins were available to the Columbus community this year thanks to Ed Gaughan and John Togher! We are excited to see more collaborations like this in the future.



The Irish Brigade



Bruce McPherson



Becky Ellis



Sharon Selby



Karen Finn



Shamrock Club of Columbus



TOLEDO IRISH

By Molly McHugh

Levi & Lilacs Coffee Pub

Hello from the green fields of... Toledo! My name is Molly McHugh, a Toledo native, and I am more than honored to begin contributing to Ohio Irish American News. When John O'Brien, Jr. reached out to me a couple weeks ago about the opportunity to join the OhioIANews family, my Irish eyes glistened at the opportunity!

Although I am a Toledo native, I lived in New York for over ten years. I also spent a year in Ireland, attending the National University of Ireland,

Galway, earning a Master's degree in Business. So, while my feet took me East and abroad for a while, they brought me back home to Toledo a couple years ago. If OhioIANews allows me to stay around long enough, I may be able to share some fun stories!

It's funny, when I used to talk about being from Ohio with some of my NYC colleagues, they assumed I grew up on a farm! That's not me, but it was my dad, who was born in 1934 on a farm in rural Ireland; no electricity, no modern plumbing (no indoor toilets), and only a peat fire for heating and cooking. That still amazes me to this day!

Although my dad is now my guardian angel, I relish in the awe of all the changes he saw in his lifetime. As an adult, he came to call Toledo home, and I am now looking forward to shining a little light on all of the new, up and coming "Irish things" that are going on right here in the Glass City.

Last Saturday, I had the pleasure of stopping into Levi and Lilacs, a local Coffee Pub here in Toledo. The idea of a 'Coffee Pub' caught my eye,

and it probably comes as no surprise that they serve up an Authentic Irish Coffee.

I should have suggested renaming the place to 'McLevi' and Lilacs. That probably wouldn't work, and rightfully so, as Megan McClellen, owner of the pub with her husband, conveyed on their website, "Levi Beebe purchased the land in 1828 and built the building where the Coffee Pub resides, in 1837. Originally, the building was a center of community activity, housing law offices, several stores, and even the post office. The main stagecoach route between Detroit and Fort Wayne ran by the front door of the inn, and only a few feet away were docks & warehouses where ships arrived & departed several times a day."

It is rumored that future Presidents Abraham Lincoln, Ulysses S. Grant and Rutherford B. Hayes were all guests when the building was used as an inn. In the years before the Civil War, the basement was apparently used as a stopping point for the Underground railroad, too. This building certainly has had an illustrious career, at least up until the 1930s, when it was converted into a brothel!

In true Irish fashion, it is rumored that Levi still haunts the place. I asked Megan if she had experienced any ghostly encounters, and she said there were times that the TV would randomly turn on and change channel throughout the day. Although that could possibly be explained by science, she and her husband still say "goodnight" to Levi every day when

closing down the place.

Levi is in good hands. Lady Lilac is also meant to haunt the building, leaving scents of lilacs wherever she goes; hence the name Levi and Lilacs!

The Irish Coffee there was delicious. Inspired by the Irish coffee served at the Buena Vista in San Francisco (glass and all), the recipe follows sugar at the bottom, Irish Whisky, locally brewed coffee and, of course, the mainstay to any authentic Irish coffee, real whipped cream; you can't have an Irish coffee without real whipped cream!

Not only was I happy to find out about this wonderful morning escape from Zoom fatigue, but I was also very happy to find a local establishment that provides local ingredients (except the whiskey!), along with a warm and welcoming environment with a true neighborhood feel. The coffee pub is open daily, and the Irish coffee is one of the most popular items on the menu. If day transitions into night, you can head over to their whiskey room next door for some live music.

To think that my dad would have ever imagined I would be writing about a 'hip' Coffee Pub in Toledo all these years later is hard to believe! To hear the full interview with Levi and Lilacs, head over to echosofireland.com. ●

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SPEAK IRISH

By Bob Carney

@BobCarneyGTR

Earrach!

Cén chaoi a bhfuil sibh? Tá suil agam go bhfuil sibh go maith. Mary and I walked the dogs this morning, the coldest day in awhile. The hounds love snow and the cold; Doolin is warm in his little tartan coat from Casey's, and Mary and I were dressed like characters in a Jack London story.

The handful of people we encountered this morning after a quick "good morning" had a comment about the weather. In Ireland, the topic of weather can be part of any conversation with anyone you meet. Hopefully as you go through this month's vocabulary, it is a bit milder.

On the topic of walking, I just finished a book by Shane O'Mara, Professor of Experimental Brain Research

at Trinity College Dublin and past Director of the Trinity College Institute of Neuroscience. The book is titled, "In Praise of Walking, The New Science of How We Walk and Why it's Good for Us."

For those of us that are regular walkers, he shares the science behind what we already know and experience. I always feel refreshed or cleansed after a good walk in the woods.

Professor O'Mara explains the physical and mental health benefits walking regularly can produce. I've always felt it is good for the body, the mind and the soul. I listened to a podcast a while back with a young Native American woman talking about the difference between organized religion and spirituality. She said, "Religion is sitting in church thinking about fishing, spirituality is fishing, thinking about your creator." It's a good analysis of how I feel when I'm outdoors walking.

One of our readers sent me a link to a lecture on YouTube on The Origins of the Irish, noting the number of Clevelanders with roots in Co. Mayo, and it reminded me of a poem by Antoine O'Raiifteiri about spring and Mayo. Go raibh maith agat Rich A.!

GILL AODAIN

Anois teacht an earraigh, Now coming of the spring,

(ah-nesh chahkt ahn air- och)

beidh'n lá dul chun síneadh the day will be lengthening

(bay un dul kuhn shee nay)

's tar éis na Féil Bríde, and after St. Bridget's Day

(s tar esh na fail breedge)

ardóidh mé mo sheol. I shall raise my sail.

(ar-dah may moe hole)

Ó chuir mé mo cheann é ní Since I put it into my head

(oh kur may moe kyawn aye nee)

stopfaidh mé choíche go seasfaidh I shall never stay put until I shall stand down

(stopfah may kee-ka guh shes-ah)

mé sios i lár chontae MhaighEo. In the center of County Mayo.

(may shees ih lar kohntee mayo)

FOCLÓIR

Tá sé (taw shay) it is

Níl sé (neel shay) it isn't

An bhfuil sé? (ahn will shay) is it?

Nach bhfuil sé? (nohk will shay) isn't it?

Beidh sé (bayd shay) it will be

Lá (law) An lá (ahn law) day the day

Inniu (inn-yoo) today

Anocht (ah-nohkt) tonight

Aimsir (ahm sheer) an aimsir (ahn ahm sheer) weather, the weather

Earrach (err-och) spring

Samhradh (sow-ra) summer

Fómhair (foe-ur) autumn

Geimhreadh (geer-rah) winter

Oíche (ee-ha) an oíche (ahn ee-ha) night the night
Maidin (mo-gin) an mhaidin (ahn woh-gin) morning the morning
Grian (gree-un) sun
Gealach (gull-ach) moon
Fuar (foo-er) cold
Té (cheh) hot
Fliuch (fluyhk) wet
Gaofar (gwee-fer) windy
Tirim (cheer-um) dry
Grianmhar (gree-un wer) sunny
Ceomhar (kyo-wer) foggy or misty
Seaca (sha-ka) frosty
Sneachta (shnok-ta) snow
Fliuch-sneachta (fluyhk shnok-ta) sleet
Scamallach (skom-ah loch) cloudy
Meirbh (mer-iv) muggy or humid
Báisteach (baw-shtuk) rain
Stoirm (stor-im) storm
Go breá (guh braw) fine
Go deas (guh jess) nice
Go maith (guh mah) good
Go dona (guh dunn-uh) bad
Níl go dona (neel guh dunn-uh) not bad
Go h-álainn (guh hawl in) beautiful
Go h-iontach (guh hee-un tach) wonderful
Céad bheos an earraigh (kayd weh-us ahn err-och) the first breath of spring
Cén chaoi a bhfuil an aimsir? (kat hee will anh am-sheer) How is the weather?
Tá sé gaofar. (taw shay gwee-fer) it's windy
Tá sé ag cur báistí. (taw shay ag cur bawsh-tee) it's raining
Tá se ag stealladh báistí (taw shay ag shtell-ah bawsh-tee) it's pouring rain
Tá an aimsir go h-iontach. (taw ahn am-sheer guhhee-un-tach) The weather is wonderful

Tá an lá go deas (taw ahn law guh jess) It's a nice day
Nach bhfuil sé go h-álainn? (noch will shay guh hawl-in) Isn't it beautiful?
Bain taitneamh as an lá. (ban tah-niv as ahn law) Enjoy the day
Cén aimsir a bheidh í nár dúinn? What is the weather forecast?
(ken am-sheer a vayd ee nahn doo-in)
Tá sé gealta fuar anocht. (taw shay gell-ta foo-er ah-nocht) It's promised to be cold tonight.
Tá se go h-álainn anois, buiochas le Dia. It's beautiful now, thank God.
(taw shay guh hawl-in ah-nesh bwee-uh kuss le dee-uh)

Get out and walk and enjoy the weather!
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 Morrighán and Rian and terrier Doolin keep the house jumping. He can be contacted at carneyspeakirish@gmail.com.

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AN EEJIT ABROAD

By Conor Makem

A Woman from Bandit Country

I never knew my grandparents on my mother's side, but my father's parents, Peter and Sarah Makem, left an indelible mark on me. It was April 1983 that Sarah passed away, thirty-eight years ago. So, with the anniversary of her passing, I thought it appropriate to pen a few lines in her honor.

To give you an idea of what kind of woman my grandmother was, you'll need to understand a little bit about where she was from: Keady, County Armagh, N. Ireland. The town was in the heart of what was known as bandit country, the Republic of South Armagh, where they served neither king nor

Kaiser. That's a roundabout way of saying that although they were located in Northern Ireland, a part of the United Kingdom, they weren't particularly fans of the crown.

As such—and with their proximity to the border—there was a heavy British military presence.

With that in mind, picture a woman of about eighty, strolling down to the local shop for some bread and butter. It was the early 1980s. A young soldier, maybe seventeen or eighteen, held the door for her and she stopped and said, "Thank you very much, young man. I hope that the good Lord will save you a cool spot in hell."

And that was my granny.

Now I'll admit, this is making light of a deadly serious subject. There was a soldier killed outside that very store in the 1980s. It was one of the last places a British soldier would have wanted to be during the troubles and my heart goes out to the families who lost their young ones during that period.

SARAH AND PETER

Sarah Makem was born in 1900. She was a Pioneer, just like my father after her (Pioneers are an organization of Catholics who vow not to drink).



Not so much for my granda. Back in the day, locals weren't allowed to drink in the pubs on a Sunday in Northern Ireland, but in the Republic of Ireland, bona fide travelers weren't straddled with the same restrictions. As a man from the north, who had traveled over seven miles, he was exempt from the drinking rules.

As sure as clockwork, every Sunday,

my grandfather would tell his wife he was going "to buy a pair of shoes." He would ride the bike over the border and disappear for the evening. It's possible that there was no drinking involved and that the whole bona fide traveler thing was just a coincidence. But every week, he'd return a little tipsy without a new pair of shoes.

Until one week, when he did buy a pair

of shoes. Unfortunately, after tying them to the handle bars via the laces, one of them came loose and fell off somewhere, leaving the old man with a single new shoe. No problems. He told my granny, "I'll go back for the other one next week."

Perhaps more than anything, Sarah Makem is remembered as a singer. Her maiden name was Greene, from an infamous family of singers in Keady. Like so many of the other local girls, she left school to work as a factory weaver nearly twelve hours a day. Then she might head home for a session with other musicians and singers. She had a knack for memorizing songs after only a couple of hearings.

COLLECTING HER SONGS

She married my grandfather Peter in 1919 and started the family. Always singing and humming, she became what was known as a source singer and song collectors showed up at her doorstep, tape recorders in tow, eager to preserve traditional Irish music that maybe only a few people in the country would know. Her recorded version of "As I Roved Out" opened up the BBC Radio Program of the same name for quite some time.

In the fifties, the collectors included Diane Hamilton (of the Guggenheim family), Jean Ritchie, Sean O'Boyle and Peter Kennedy. It was during Diane Hamilton's trip that young Liam Clancy met my father, sowing the first seeds for what would eventually become the Clancy Brothers and Tommy Makem.

In 1977, David Hammond recorded a short video of Sarah for TG4. I watched it one time as she sang and layered spoonful after spoonful of sugar into a mug of granda's tea. I later asked my cousin, Tom Sweeney, if she was just playing up for the camera, letting the film roll and wasting sugar all the while. He told me no, my

grandfather liked a little tea with his sugar, and that's starting to explain a little bit about myself now, too.

My grandfather died later in 1977, and it wasn't long after that Sarah moved from the family homestead a few houses up the hill, 'til she was just a couple doors away from her daughter, my Aunt Nancy and her husband, the gentleman James Mone.

KEADY

Awhile after her passing, they set up a plaque in her honor at the original home, and you can make it out on Google Maps street view (44 Victoria Street, Keady, Northern Ireland). You can also see the convenience store (now McGrane's Shop) from earlier in the column just a few steps away.

Toward the center of town, at the bend, there's now a Tommy Makem Arts and Community Center (a true community center, as he would have wanted), and across from that, the gas station where my father and his coworkers used to burn tires to keep warm. Right there, as well, is the Keady Library, which contains a Sarah Makem room.

Just up near the monument is Mone's bar, which houses an evil spirit trapped in a bottle behind the fireplace...but that's another story. ●

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.

Visit cbmakem.com or email contact@cbmakem.com.

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10am-11am: **Johnson Brothers Irish Hour** WKTL-FM 90.7

SUNDAY
7am-9am: **Sweeney Astray**
WCSB-FM 89.3

10am-12pm: **Gerry Quinn's Irish Hours**
WHK-AM 1420 w/ Colleen Corrigan Day & Eddie Fitzpatrick

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By Megan Lardie

KIDS CRAIC

PEEP S'MORE DIP



INGREDIENTS

- Peep's marshmallow candies, about 25
- 3 to 4 cups milk chocolate morsels
- Graham crackers and/or butter cookies

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Pour milk chocolate morsels into a round pie plate. Spread into an even layer. Top milk chocolate with peeps marshmallow candies.

Place in oven for eight to ten minutes or until the chocolate has melted and the peeps are golden. Be aware that the milk chocolate morsels may retain their shape but will be glossy when melted.

Keep checking the chocolate. Make sure it does not burn and the Peeps are just a bit toasted. Serve with graham crackers or butter cookies.

To reheat or to soften peeps: Place pie plate in the microwave and heat for 20-30 seconds. Watch carefully as the peeps will expand and bubble.

Spring is in the Air!



The word spring has several different meanings. It can be a noun or a verb. As a verb, it means to move, sometimes forcefully. As a noun, most think of it as the season between winter and summer, a time of growth and development, a time when the grass begins to grow and flowers start to peek through the soil.

Spring is a time of rebirth and a time to reenergize, especially this year! It feels as if we have all been in a sort of hibernation since last March. It is as if the sun shines brighter, feels warmer, and is more welcoming this spring.

You have all been through a year like no other. You have learned to adapt and survive when it was confusing, scary, and hard. You are all superheroes! Take time this spring to embrace each new day and our new normal. There is literally more light at the end of this tunnel.

FUN FACT

The official first day of spring, usually March 20th, is called the vernal equinox. On that day, there are twelve hours of daytime and twelve hours of nighttime. After that, there will be more minutes of daytime until the summer solstice in June.

QUESTION

How did eggs and chicks become symbols of Easter and spring? Eggs have been a symbol of spring since ancient times. An egg also is a symbol of the tomb that Jesus came out of when he rose from the dead. A baby chick, hatching out of the egg, is a symbol of rebirth or new life.

Megan is a Reading Intervention educator at Andrew J. Rickoff Elementary in the Cleveland Municipal School District. She holds a BA in Humanities from Hiram College and a BA+ in Early Childhood Education from Ashland University. She resides in Avon Lake with her husband, Joe, and their five children. Megan enjoys being part of the Brady Campbell Adult Ceili team, trying new restaurants, and traveling. She may be reached at megalardie126@outlook.com

LITERATURE CORNER

The Chocolate Touch by Patrick Skene Catling - Can you ever have too much of your favorite food? As a chocolate lover myself, I say no! Can you imagine having everything that touches your mouth taste like your favorite food?

Young John Midas is upset after his parents and his doctor tell him that he must only eat healthy food. Find out what happens when John goes for a walk to clear his head, and finds a unique coin that changes everything.



EASTER JOKES

Q: What kind of bean cannot grow in a garden?

A: A jellybean!

Q: What kind of music is the Easter Bunny's favorite?

A: Hip-Hop!

Gab in Gaelic

The weather is beautiful today = Ta an aimsir go halainn inniu (pron. taw an eyeim-shur guh haul-inn inn-you)



OHIO IRISH AMERICAN NEWS
The Colours of Ireland Monthly Coloring Contest

Age Divisions: Ages 7, 8, 9 • Ages 10, 11 & 12

Prizes: Each Age Group winner will receive a Gift Card to Kamm's Corner Ice Cream, or the OhioIANews Advertiser of their choice!

Official Rules and Regs: One entry per child. One winner in each age group. Participant must color page without assistance. Participant may use crayons, markers, or paint. Use your imagination!

Coloring page is also printable from: www.OhioIANews.com

Submitting Your Entry:

Color the picture on this page, or download and color it. Entry and entry info (Name, age, city and Parents Name and Phone Number) must be dropped off to PJ McIntyre's or the OhioIANews or scanned and emailed to jobrien@ohioianews.com Or mailed to: 14615 Triskett Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44111-3123 by the 15th of the following Month (December 15th, for the November Contest).

Participants name and contact information will not be displayed during judging, but first name and age will be noted after judging for public view.

Winners will be showcased in the OhioIANews.



**THE ARMS CRISIS OF 1970
THE PLOT THAT NEVER WAS**
By Michael Heney
Head of Zeus Publishing
ISBN 9781789545593 2020 431 pp.

This month's Off the Shelf selection is another one for the history aficionados in the Ohio IAN readership. Various authors have suggested that the Arms Crisis of 1970 and subsequent trials were milestone events in Irish history. They have asserted that between August 1969 and May 1970 civil war could have descended from the North after several members of the Irish government and military allegedly tried to arm northern nationalists in order to effect/ end

partition in Ireland. This month's selection, written by Michael Heney, a former RTE journalist and producer, who recently received a doctorate, has written a book which questions that narrative and provides an especially rich analysis of these events.

The principles involved include Fiana Fail's Charles Haughey and Neil Blaney, along with Captain James Kelly. Taoiseach Jack Lynch allegedly intervenes to foil the plot. Heney cross-examines a wealth of sources including new and previously released archived interviews and memoir material, and explores the views of personnel from high politics including Jack Lynch, Charles Haughey and Minister for Defense James Gibbons. Ultimately, Heney outlines Lynch's 'hidden policy on Northern Ireland'. This covert policy partly 'involved the provision of guns- in emergencies- to Northern Nationalists'. Arms were for

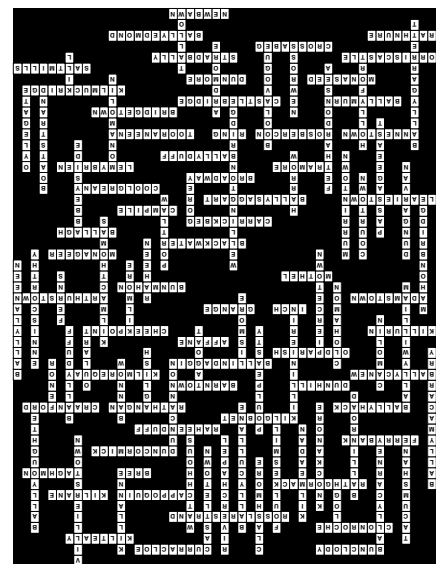


defensive and humanitarian purposes if civil war erupted after August 1969 (p. 326). Lynch only acted against these plans after Five Gael's Liam Cosgrove revealed a Garda note about arms importation attempts by certain ministers on 5 May 1970. "Overall, Lynch did much to create the political crisis for which, remarkably, he has been given great credit for resolving." (p. 328) Haughey and Blaney, on the evidence, were operating within the broad confines of the government policy at

the time they were sacked. They have been demonized in the years since as ministers who were supposedly running a 'shadow' or 'alternative' government. The Arms Crisis was precipitated not when the attempted arms importation came to light, but when Lynch made the seemingly snap decision to renounce such activity and to sack both Haughey and Blaney from his cabinet. In the end, the sacking and subsequent criminal trial appears to have been a ploy designed in part to keep Fianna Fail in power.

THE ARMS CRISIS of 1970 is a major contribution to our understanding of a pivotal moment in postwar Ireland History. "A brilliant, forensic investigation of the 1970 arms trial." Vincent Browne. A TOP SHELF read in deed. ●

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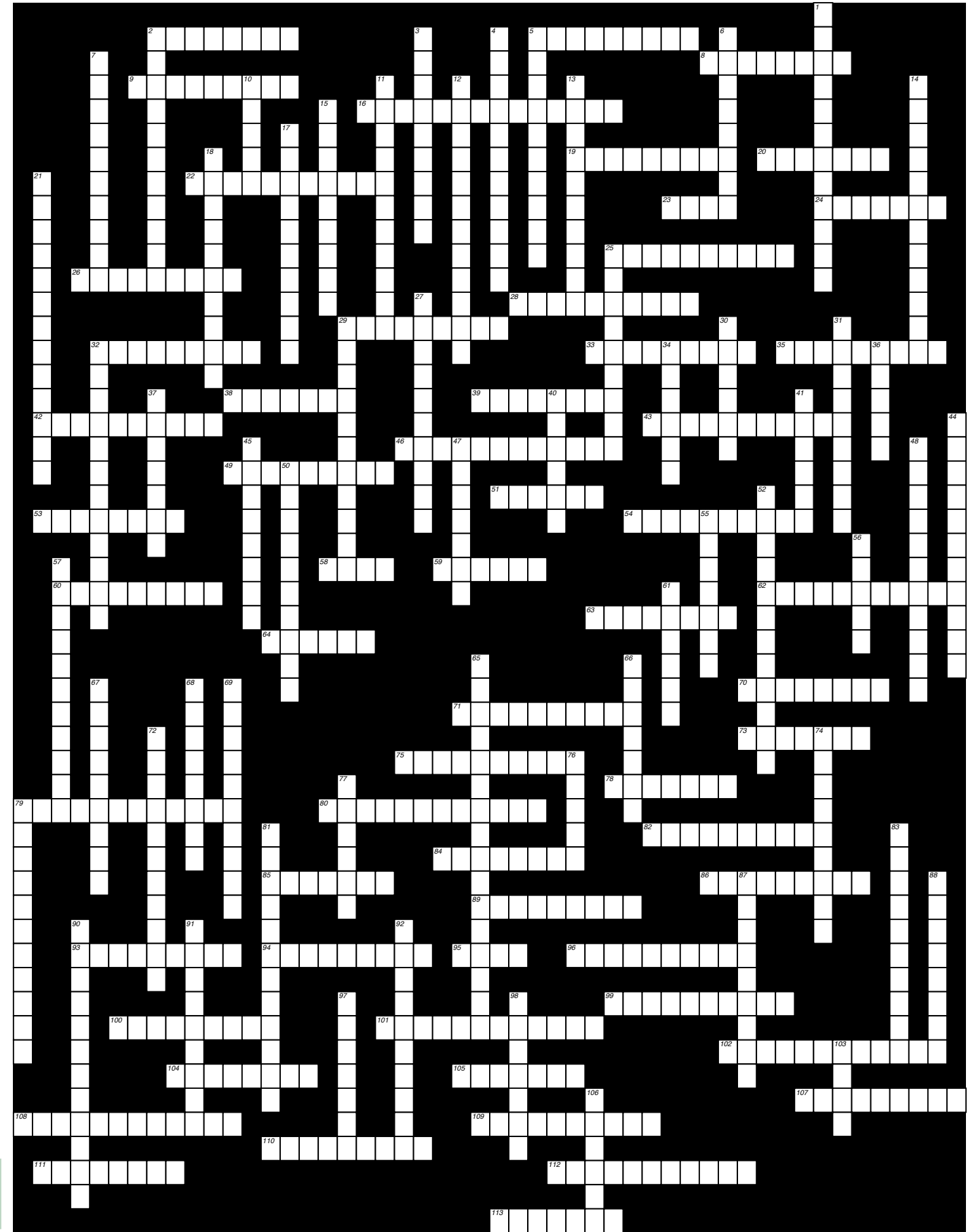
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