



# OHIO IRISH AMERICAN NEWS

June 2021 • Volume 15 - Issue 6



**Cleveland St. Patrick-St. Jarlath  
Gaelic Football Club's Youth Team Snag Balls  
and Dream of Taking the Fields of Glory**





EDITOR'S CORNER

By John O'Brien, Jr.

@jobjr

Summerfly

In another younger day I could dream the time away In the universe inside my room And the world was really mine from June until September And if it wasn't really so I was lucky not to know And I was lucky not to wonder why Because the summertime is all that I remember

-Summerfly by Maura O'Connell

event where the end of the tunnel, was just down the borean green.

What a fantastic job by so many - a recap is in the Fields of Glory column this month, but a bigly shout out to Club Chairman Vincent Beach with Assistant Coach and Committee Chair Jim Coyne's efforts and leadership working hand in hand. The tournament featured men's and women's teams from Buffalo, Chicago, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Detroit, Milwaukee and Pittsburgh. Check out the OhioIANews Facebook page for more to the story, and loads of pics.

Every month I beg and beg our readers and organizations from throughout Ohio and the surrounding states to send us their events. Rarely do they. I won't give up. The invitation stands; send them to us at jobrien@ohioianews.com. There is no charge to have them listed in the OhioIANews.

We want to feature all of Ohio, and the surrounding states too. Let us know what's the craic in vibrant Irish America, so we can share it with our audiences.

Do you know a writer who lives in the Greater Cincinnati, Pittsburgh or Detroit area? Those areas are our next expansion targets, so please send them

on to us to chat with as we seek out great new additions to our OhioIANews team.

I hope I will see you Out & About, safe and sound. If you need a speaker, call. Our Irish Opportunity Corridor runs from The Northcoast, to The Southcoast, Cleveland to Clearwater; CLE to shining CLE. Contact us with your story, event or speaker needs and we'll be of service.

There are many more songs and stories; I hope we will write new ones - of joy, of unification. Here, and across the pond. We are closer to a One Ireland than we have been in more than 800 years. Let's unite for America, too.

PODCAST

We'll share those songs and stories on the next podcast too, on Friday May 21st, with guest new Irish Consul Kevin Byrne. Then, the 31st Podcast features the fantastic Carbon Leaf, returning to touring with a show at Kent Stage on June 10th.

If you have a moment, and wish to offer any feedback, it would be most welcome. For example: Would you follow the podcast more if a video option were also available? Who would you like to see interviewed on the podcast?

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



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About Our Cover: Cleveland St. Patrick-St. Jarlath Gaelic Football Club's Youth team snag balls and dream of Taking the Fields of Glory. Picture by John O'Brien, Jr.



MILESTONE & SWEET SNAPS



Congratulations to Dick and Kay Lardie, celebrating their 55th Wedding Anniversary, and to Kay, celebrating her 80th Birthday!

HAPPY 85TH ANNIVERSARY to the Shamrock Club of Columbus



On April 21, 1936, the Shamrock Club of Columbus was founded at a meeting held at the Knights of Columbus Hall on the corner of 6th & State streets. At that meeting, the first officers were elected, a constitution was adopted, and all were declared Charter Members.

SHAMROCK CLUB CHARTER MEMBERS On April 21, 1936, these men founded the Shamrock Club of Columbus at a meeting held at the Knights of Columbus Hall on the corner of 6th & State streets. At that meeting, the first officers were elected, a constitution was adopted and all were declared Charter Members. List of names including James A. Devine, President; Anthony J. Scanlon, Vice-President; Walter O'Grady, Treasurer; Francis P. Howard, Secretary; and many others.

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## The Blitz of Belfast, 1941

At the onset of World War II, the Republic of Ireland declared its neutrality. Northern Ireland, as part of the United Kingdom, did not have that option. However, the first bombings on the island by the German Luftwaffe, on the 26th of August 1940, occurred in Co. Wexford during a daylight raid, killing three people.

That December, on the 20th of the month at around 7:30 in the evening, two bombs were dropped near Dún Laoghaire, injuring three. About a half hour later, another fell near Carrickmacross in Co. Monaghan.

On January 1 and 2nd, German planes dropped bombs on Counties Meath, Dublin, Wicklow, Wexford, Carlow and Kildare. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of January, Dublin was hit again, in the South Circular Road area, with twenty people injured and extensive property damage.

The deadliest attack came on May 31, when four German bombs were dropped in the North Strand area of Dublin, killing twenty-eight. During the night, Irish military observers spotted a large number of Luftwaffe aircraft flying, not in formation, but independently, some appearing to be circling over the city.

Searchlights were put up and flares were fired by the Irish Army, starting with three flares the colors of the Irish flag in an attempt to warn the pilots they were flying in neutral territory. After a quarter of an hour passed, the Irish Army opened fire with anti-aircraft guns. Local air defenses were weak and the gunners poorly trained, even though the weapons were capable of destroying the bombers, they were unable to hit any of their targets.

The German planes continued to circle for about an hour before dropping three bombs over four minutes, beginning at 1:28 AM. A fourth was dropped



at 2:05 AM. The first landed in the Ballybough area, destroying two homes and injuring many, the second and third caused property damage, including on Áras an Uachtaráin, the official residence of Irish President Douglas Hyde.

The last bomb was delivered by a German plane that came in low and dropped it in the North Strand area between Seville Place and Newcomer Bridge. Twenty-eight were killed, ninety were injured, approximately, three-hundred houses were destroyed and four-hundred people were left homeless.

German radio broadcast, "It is impossible that the German Luftwaffe bombed Dublin intentionally." Navigational error or mistaken target must have been the cause according to a statement issued by the German Ministry of Public Enlightenment and Propaganda (the name alone would gain my trust!).

### THE BELFAST BLITZ

Possibly, the reasons were not innocent ones. In April of '41, Berlin launched The Belfast Blitz, causing devastation in the city. Ireland sent rescue, fire and emergency personnel to Belfast and DeValera formally protested the raid and gave his famous "they are our people" speech.

Some historians believe it may have been a warning to the Republic to stay out of the war and to quit assisting Germany's enemies by sending aid and selling cattle to the British. After the war, Winston Churchill said maybe the bombing of Dublin was the result of the British interfering with the direction finding radio signals the Luftwaffe used. When the war started, there was

minimal preparation for the impending conflict. Prime Minister of Northern Ireland, Lord Craigavon, said, "Ulster is ready when we get the word and always will be," when he was asked if the government was ready for an attack.

Defense experts determined in 1939 that Belfast was regarded as definite German target. The Ministry of Home Affairs, however, did little to prepare, aside from providing shelters in the harbor area. Belfast had the highest population density in the United Kingdom, and the lowest percentage of public air-raid shelters, around two-hundred, before the blitz.

Four thousand households had constructed their own shelters out of sheets of corrugated galvanized iron covered in dirt. These were effective against falling debris, the main cause of injury from bombings, rather than the blast itself.

There were no searchlights. Some barrage balloons were used to obstruct aircraft from coming in too low. On the ground, twenty-two anti-aircraft guns were positioned around the city. On the first night of the blitz, only seven of the guns were manned and operational. The United Kingdom military believed Belfast was at the edge of the Luftwaffe's range of operation, so the Royal Air Force did not give the city a high priority.

### RMS TITANIC

Belfast was a major manufacturing center before and during the war. Harland and Wolff was one of the largest shipyards in the world. The RMS Titanic and RMS Olympic were

*Continued on facing page*

### The Blitz

*Continued from previous page*

constructed there. For the Royal Navy, aircraft carriers, cruisers, destroyers and other vessels, a hundred and thirty-five by the time of the blitz, were built at Harland and Wolff, by 35,000 workers. During the war, Belfast shipyards built or converted 3,000 ships for the war effort; over 22,000 others were repaired there.

Another company, Short Brothers, manufactured aircraft. They built the Sunderland flying boat and the Stirling long range heavy bomber for the RAF; they employed 20,000 people. Harland's Engineering built tanks, other companies made gun mountings, aircraft parts and ammunition.

Textile companies made fabric for plane coverings. The ports were also the launching point for shipping war materials and food to Britain, sometimes under the protection of the neutral tri-color of the Irish Free State.

On the night of April 7, six Luftwaffe bombers, flying at 7,000 feet, dropped incendiaries, high explosives and parachute mines on the docks and surrounding residential areas. By mainland standards, casualties were low and damage minimal. Thirteen people lost their lives and damage was done at the factory where the Stirling bombers were made.

The RAF did manage to shoot down one of the bombers over Downpatrick. The remaining ones returned to their base in northern France and reported to their superiors that Belfast's defenses were "inferior in quality, scanty and insufficient."

A week later, April 15, a Tuesday afternoon, fans watching a football match at Windsor Park noticed a Luftwaffe aircraft circling overhead. That night, one-hundred and fifty bombers left their airfields in northern France and the Netherlands headed for Belfast. The air-raid sirens went off at 10:40 PM, when flares were dropped to illuminate the city, and the first target was hit, the city waterworks.

The bombers came in waves, dropping incendiaries, high explosives and land mines. As the city burned, the lack of water pressure made it impossible to fight the fires. Nothing was safe; factories, schools, churches, homes and hospitals were hit.

55,000 homes, more than half in the city, were damaged or destroyed, leaving 100,000 temporarily homeless. 900 people lost their lives; another 1,500 were injured, 400 severely.

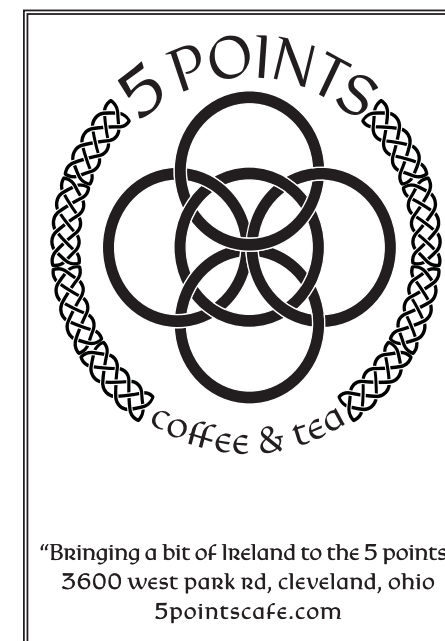
The anti-aircraft guns ceased firing early during the raid fearing they might damage RAF fighters, but the RAF had not responded to the attack. The bombing continued until 5a.m. Wednesday morning.

220,000 people fled the city in the aftermath; after the war, documents discovered by the Allies stated that Belfast was never to be mentioned again as a potential target. Hitler had concerns that De Valera's reaction might incite Irish-American politicians to convince the United States to join the war in Europe, a move he knew could bring about Germany's defeat.

For further reading, Stephen Douds book, "The Belfast Blitz, The People's Story" is an interesting compilation of entries from the diaries of people who were there. ♦

*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 Wolfhound and Irish dogs organizations in and around Cleveland. Wife Mary, hounds Morrighán and Rian and terrier Doolin keep the house jumping. He can be reached at carneyspeakirish@gmail.com*

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# Donnybrook



by John Myers

## BALLYMURPHY JUSTICE

Martin Luther King popularized the phrase: "The arc of the Moral Universe is long, but it bends towards Justice." For the families of the eleven victims of British atrocities known as the Ballymurphy Massacre, it was a long half century, but a measure of Justice was recently achieved.

The formal Coroner's Inquest released last month, concluded that the eleven dead were "Entirely Innocent of any wrongdoing." It is a remarkable and much welcomed sentence: "ENTIRELY" and "INNOCENT" and "ANY" could not be any more succinct or clear.

In August of 1971, the British Government instituted "Operation Demetrius," a plan of mass arrest and imprisonment ("Internment") without need for evidence, due process or trial of individuals, merely suspected

of involvement in the Provisional Irish Republican Army (Provo's or PIRA). Inspired by MLK and the American Civil Rights Movement, N.I. residents organized and protested this extraordinary breach of civil and human rights by the alleged Western Democracy based in London.

Ballymurphy is a housing estate/neighborhood of West Belfast, home to a peaceful community of strong Irish Republican sentiment. Over 600 troops of the Parachute Regiment ("Paras") were sent to Ballymurphy to fully implement Operation Demetrius by any means necessary and suppress ongoing marches and protests.

The Paras, Britain's "Storm Troopers", created to fight the Nazi's in WWII, were sent to beat down protesting, unarmed civilians. It has been argued that the Paras created a "Kill Zone" in Ballymurphy, which resulted in eleven dead and more wounded.

Formal British inquiry at the time

stated and concluded that the Para's were justified, as they were firing upon armed members of the IRA. No guns were ever found, victims carried no residue of ballistics fire and had no history of violent involvement. And we now, officially know, that all the dead and wounded were "entirely innocent of any wrongdoing". It is clear that the British Government knew the civilians were murdered in cold blood; it is clear that the British Army and Government consciously lied. But the families had to live for decades with British attempts to smear their loved one's names and reputations in order to cover up this State sponsored violence.

## CIVIL RIGHTS

Over a three-day period, the British Paras terrorized the community with impunity. People were driven from their homes, the Paras ransacked the houses, defecated on dining room tables, urinated on beds, destroyed religious and family heirlooms. The troops duty and obligation were to bring peace to the community, to their fellow citizens, but instead they brought death and violence.

Vengeance and rath of the Empire was unleashed on a defenseless community. A reign of terror was Westminster's response to the young Civil Rights Movement in the Six Counties.

Sir Michael Jackson was the captain of the Para's unit at Ballymurphy. He was also the captain of the same Para's who, five months later, perpetrated the events of Bloody Sunday in Derry with fourteen more executions. Sir Michael Jackson was rewarded with a promotion to the head of the British Army, and made a personal aide-de-camp to Queen Elizabeth.

As part of the British coverup, Sir Michael Jackson testified at the initial investigation that the Para's were caught in a three-hour gun battle with twenty armed members of the PIRA. Even the British Government now acknowledges this as a despicable lie.

The Eleven dead included a mother of eight and a young Catholic Priest; fifty-seven children lost a parent. The dead are *Joan Connolly* (44),

mother of eight children, shot three times including in the face. Her body was left injured for over three hours. *Joseph Corr* (43) shot several times; *Edward Doherty* (28) killed while walking nearby; *John Laverty* (20) shot twice, both bullets in the back; *Paddy McCarthy* (44), who did not die of bullet wounds, but rather a heart attack after British Para's stuck a gun in his mouth in a mock execution; *John McKerr* (49), died of a head shot while standing in front of a Catholic Church; *Father Hugh Mullan* (38), Fr. Mullan was shot with his Roman Collar while attempting to aid a victim of the Massacre, all the while holding a white handkerchief; *Joseph Murphy* (41), survived the initial massacre, but was shot again while in custody of the Para's after being beaten and tortured; *Noel Phillips* (20), an innocent bystander shot and killed; *Francis Quinn* (19), killed by the Para's as he attempted to help one of the injured; *Daniel Teggart* (44) riddled with over 1fourteen bullets. And yet, the British establishment and even an Anglophilic American press labeled the dead as "terrorists".

As no cameras were present in Ballymurphy, it did not gain the same notoriety as Bloody Sunday did in Derry. Gerry Adams responded in a documentary on the Ballymurphy Massacre that "Arguably, if there had been proper holding to account of those who killed in Ballymurphy, then there wouldn't have been a Bloody Sunday and then there wouldn't have been the huge convulsion and radicalization that went on in the relationship between peoples here and the two islands." This was a remarkable statement, and an indictment of the amoral British attitude and posture towards the Six Counties and those that live there.

But let us celebrate this milestone, albeit five decades late, that our hope is renewed for a victory for Truth and Justice, an important step to healing and reconciliation as we prepare for a new and united Ireland. ♦

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## ON THIS DAY IN IRISH HISTORY - JUNE

- 7 June, 1899**– Birth in Dublin of Elizabeth Bowen, novelist and short-story writer, best known for her novel *The Last September*.
- 8 June 1917**– Date of the Butte, Montana, mine disaster: 168 dead, including many Irish, when fire broke out in a mineshaft. Butte was the US's foremost mining town at the time, with a population of 50,000, a quarter of whom were Irish, mostly from County Cork.
- 10 June, 1944**– Death of Frank Ryan, prominent leader of the Irish Republican Army, who led 200 Irishmen to Spain to fight against Franco. It is said that the character "Liam Devlin" in the Jack Higgins thriller *The Eagle Has Landed* is based on Frank Ryan.
- 15 June 1919**– Captain Jack Alcock and Lt. Arthur Brown completed the first transatlantic flight when their Vickers Vimy biplane landed near Clifden, Co. Galway, after a 2,500km (1,500 miles) flight from St. John's Newfoundland.
- 16 June, 1904**– This is the day that James Joyce first went walking with Nora Barnacle; it became the date on which everything takes place in *Ulysses* and is known as Bloomsday.
- 20 June 1867**– Clan na Gael, a secret oath-bound organization, was founded in New York by Jerome Collins, a meteorological and science editor of the *New York Herald*.
- 23 June 1919** – Royal Ulster Constabulary (RIC) District Inspector Michael Hunt was shot dead by Irish Volunteers in Thurles, Co. Tipperary, the most senior RIC officer to be killed.
- 27 June 1939**– Kathleen Clarke, widow of executed Easter Rising leader Tom Clarke, was elected Lord Mayor of Dublin.
- 29 June 1842**– Birth of Maurice Davin, first President of Gaelic Athletic Association, known as "The Father of Gaelic Football."

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# USGAA 2021 Cleveland St. Patrick's – St. Jarlath's Gaelic Football Club



Jake Altman - Rookie  
Brunswick OH - Goalie



Charlie Kamen - 4 years  
Cleveland - Defense



Charlie Plzak - 3 years  
Lakewood - Defense



Jeff Hall - 9 years  
North Olmsted - Forward



Mary Wang - Elmira Ontario, Canada  
University Heights, OH - 7 years



Meghan Daniel - Lebanon, OH  
Cleveland, OH - 4 years



Shannon Enoch  
Garrettsville, OH - Rookie



Kathleen Martini - Wantagh, NY  
Broadview Heights, OH - 2 years



Dane Plemmons - Rookie  
Concord NC Midfield



Steve Pepin - 10 years  
Avon - Every Position



Eliot Kamen - 4 years  
Cleveland - Midfield



Tim McDonnell - 8 years  
Lakewood - Defense



Megan Coyne  
Fairview Park, OH - 3 years



Angie Dietz - Columbia Station,  
OH - Rocky River, OH - 1 year



Maggie Sudetic  
Lakewood, OH - Rookie



Sarah Dunn- Macedonia, OH  
Cleveland, OH - 2 years



Ryan Bush - Rookie  
North Olmsted - Forward



Daniel Murray - 10 years  
Knocknacarra, Galway  
Midfield, Ladies' Bainisteoir



Todd Kaufman - 9 years  
Avon Lake - Forward



John Kernan - 48 years  
South Dublin, IRL - Forward



Annie Coyne - Avon Lake, OH  
Cleveland, OH - 4 years



Amelia Kaylor - Knoxville, TN  
Olmsted Falls, OH - 3 years



Mary Andrews  
Cleveland, OH - 2 years



Vincent Beach - 21 years  
Columbia Twp  
Men's Bainisteoir



Chris Greggila - 4 years  
Oak Harbor - Forward



Eileen Bringman - Fairview Park,  
OH - Cleveland, OH - 3 years



Nikki Kovich  
Canal Fulton, OH - Rookie



Maureen Mohny - Cleveland,  
OH - Cleveland, OH - 20 years



Claire Forrestal - Cleveland, OH  
Columbus, OH - 1 year



Sarah McInerney - Newmarket On Fergus Co.  
Clare, Ireland - Cleveland, OH - 25 years



Michelle Beach - Lebanon, OH -  
Columbia Station, OH - 3 years

- PLAYERS NOT PHOTOGRAPHED:**
- Marcelina Sladewska - Stalowa Wola, Poland - Cleveland Ohio - 3 years
  - Maura English - North Olmsted, OH - Lakewood, OH - 3 years
  - Sarah Walsh - Westlake, OH - Westlake, OH - 3 years
  - Sara Schafer - Plymouth, MI - Livonia, OH - 14 years
  - Molly Kilbane - Lakewood, OH - Cincinnati, OH - 3 years
  - Amanda Mook - Erie, PA - Westlake, OH - 1 year
  - Megan Kilbane - Cleveland Heights, OH - Columbia Station, OH - 1 year
  - Maeve Kelly - Westpark, OH - Galway, Ireland - 1 year
  - Kate McCaffrey - Fairview Park, OH - Cleveland, OH - 2 years



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## 2nd Annual Memorial 7's Tournament Recap

We want to give a massive thanks to all who helped organize, volunteer, donate, travel, play, and attend our 2nd Annual 7's held May 8<sup>th</sup>. We would have not had an amazing event without all of you. 26 fun and competitive football games were played; we are already looking forward to our event in 2022.



### WINNER'S

Men's: Pittsburgh Celtics (now a two-time winner)  
Ladies: Milwaukee Miltown Gaels  
Men Shield: Detroit Wolfe Tones  
To all Supporters, Alumni, Legends and Players,  
Thanks to all that made this past weekend a success. We were able to create (2) terrific fields, provide a great atmosphere and play 26 games this past Saturday.  
**Huge thank you to the volunteers:**  
Ball Chasers – unbelievably great job of chasing/ retrieving balls in the muddy woods all day.  
Youth program

Concessions – worked pavilion/ prepared/ sold various food & drink items throughout day.

**Joe Fergus, Maureen English & her team.**

Medical – provided care for injured players.

**Kellie King**

Event Operations – oversaw maintenance/ provided rides for whom needed it.

**Brendan Mulloy**

Field Marshalls – insured games flowed/ managed teams & referees.

**John Thompson, Bob Krulik, John Coyne, Mike Walsh.**

**The Vince Beach Family** – huge amount of hours preparing fields & everything else to make things happen

**Vince, Michelle & Kids & Tom Beach** (who umpired almost the whole tournament).

**Ohio Irish American News** – A true jewel to all NE Ohioans

**John O'Brien** – for his on-going support for us - ALWAYS.

Supporters – who braved the elements for 26 games.

Started off chilly & wet – then the sky opened up to sun & blue skies.

**The Gannon & Dunne Families**

2021 Tournament memorial recognized **Sean Gannon** this year. The **Dunne Family** sponsoring the MVP trophies & **Annie** providing a generous donation.

Obviously, many more people should be recognized, but we all saw a very nice future unfolding with our Men's and Ladies Teams. We entered two teams for both and divided them equally. All four teams came away with big wins, with one of the Men's team reaching the Shield Final and the Ladies teams both winning several times and tying for 2<sup>nd</sup> place with the Pittsburgh Banshees. We look forward to an exciting season. The winning teams



Photo by John O'Brien, Jr.



were as follows:

We hope to see you all this summer.

### UP THE CLE GAA!!

In Cleveland, the fun begins June 6 (Sunday) at the WSIA. Football will be 3PM-4:15PM for all ages and hurling will follow from 4:15PM to 5:30PM.

Look-Ahead. The Midwest GAA June and July Schedule includes an Adult Invitational in Detroit on July 24th. The Division looks to host clubs from the Heartland and Central Division to play Midwest Clubs in all codes (football and hurling, ladies and men).

Cleveland Adults: Remember – new

players are always welcome and can join throughout the summer. The men's football team will continue training on Tuesdays at Impett Field in Westpark and on Thursdays at the WSIA – both starting at 6:30PM. The hurlers continue on Sundays in Brecksville at the Stadium Drive field and have started a weekday training at Edgewater Park (lower rugby field) at 6PM. And, the Ladies' will continue with twice a week sessions. Please visit the club website. ♦

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**Cleveland Hurling Schedule 2021**  
 6/5: Akron @ CLE  
 6/19: Cle @ PITTSBURGH  
 6/26: Cle @ ROCHESTER  
 7/31-8/1 Midwest Finals @ Pittsburgh

**Cleveland St. Pat's St. Jarlath's Men's & Ladies Gaelic Football Schedule 2021**  
 6/5: Buffalo @ CLE  
 6/19: Cle @ PITTSBURGH  
 7/10: Cle @ BUFFALO  
 7/17: Pittsburgh @ CLE  
 7/31-8/1: Midwest Finals @ PITTSBURGH

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## CLEVELAND IRISH

By Francis McGarry

### Got My Wishy

“Murray Hill is the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains.” Aunt Irene always reminds us when she wants to get Italian food, but won’t just say it. She sometimes treats us to more interesting facts. The Appalachians were once volcanic and used to be some of the tallest mountains in the world. Aunt Irene watches her Nat Geo.

Please don’t get her started on the Ice Age and Lake Maumee. I will have to give it to her; she provided some great background information when researching fishing in Lake Erie.

Lake Erie is the 12<sup>th</sup> largest lake in the world. Commercial fishing on Lake Erie dates back to Commodore Perry’s defeat of the British Fleet in 1813. The first fishery was near the Maumee River, which at one time flowed towards

the Mississippi River. Thanks, Aunt Irene.

The Western Basin is west of Sandusky and the Eastern Basin is east of Erie, PA. The Central Basin is all points in between. That’s us.

The Western Basin contains more shoals and islands and an average depth of 24’. It is mostly a mud bottom. The Eastern Basin is generally deeper than the rest of the lake, with the deepest point in the lake being 210 feet. The Central Basin deepens to 60 to 78 feet, with a base of mud, sand and clay.

The variety of the lake is a result of the last ice age. The variety is represented in the location of commercial fisheries. Lake Erie produced historically nearly a third of all the fish in the Great Lakes.

The Western Basin is primarily responsible for those numbers. Calm and shallow water combined with an abundance of fish made commercial fishing a considerable industry in the west. Cleveland never had a substantial fishing economy. We chose industry and getting fish imported.

Advertisements appeared in the Plain Dealer as early as 1845 for white fish at \$7 per barrel, and \$6 for pickerel and herring. If you needed lard, the canal boat unloaded 1,131 pounds of it with

the fish. Fish sales were booming too.

Over 1,000 barrels of fish were sold to Clevelanders in a day. Cozzens Grocery also had fresh lobsters and oysters imported from New York, with saltwater fish.

### THE LIMERICK HOOK

Those were not the only fish-related ads in the Plain Dealer. N.E. Crittenden’s had the hook, or hooks. He had Spring Snap Hooks, Griswold Fish Hooks, Yankee Doodle Fish Hooks and the best hook of the all, the Limerick Hook. Crittenden’s had 10,000 Limerick Hooks for sale.

The Limerick fishing hooks were known all over the fishing world. Daniel O’Shaughnessy conceived of the hook while fishing for salmon in the Shannon River. He was the most famous fishing hook maker of his time.

Daniel O’Shaughnessy was not the first to make a hook. The earliest true hooks date back to the Neolithic age and were usually made from bone, shell, horn, bird’s beaks, or constructed with a wooden shank and a flint point, which meant that they had to be quite large.

The Bronze Age saw the appearance of smaller hooks, made from an alloy which contained much more copper than modern bronze, and consequently, would have been much harder. Iron hooks also have a long history.

The Romans created networks of small iron pits to sustain the huge demand for swords and spear heads that their armies created. Making hooks was a byproduct of that. The history of the modern hook really begins with the discovery of how to make steel. The first mention of a steel hook is from 1496.

Hooks first became available in Irish tackle shops in the seventeenth century. By 1823, there were numerous firms of hook makers in Ireland and its neighboring islands. There were plenty of rivals and competitors in Aberdeen, Dublin, Kendal and Limerick. A wide range of different patterns evolved, some of which survive yet: Needle point; Round bend; Sprout; Kendal; Limerick; Aberdeen; Sneck, O’Shaughnessy; Kinsey; and Kirby.

Hook making was very labor intensive and the larger companies often farmed it out as piece-work, with local families earning pennies by bending the hooks, while the sharpening and polishing was carried out in nearby mills. Enforcing any kind of quality control in this environment was

problematic; the main problem was the unreliability of batch tempering, which meant that anglers had to test every hook before they used it. However, the Norwegian firm Mustad, which was founded in 1876, paved the way for modern and reliable hook production to begin by introducing hook-making machines to its factory.

Even if the quality control was difficult for the Limerick Hooks at N.E. Crittenden’s Store, there were still 10,000 of them available there. Many would only use the O’Shaughnessy Limerick Hook, or even the hooks out of Dublin. Both had the reputation of seldom breaking, although they might bend on occasion. “The English hooks, made of cast steel, in imitation of the Irish ones, are the worst of all,” according to the *Field Book, Sports and Pastimes of the British Islands*.

### A LOT OF HOOKS

The population of Cleveland was only 17,000 in 1850. That is a lot of hooks! Which would indicate that there was some fishing going on, just not commercial. In 1849, Jesse Enos requested the city to lease the “West Fishing ground.” Frank Pinckney made a similar request for the “East Fishing Ground on Bath St” the same year. Those are the only requests noted in the Plain Dealer.

It is clear that fish was being imported to the city via the canal. It is also clear from the first copies of the newspaper that a large number of fish hooks were being sold in the city. Irish made fish hooks that followed the Irish that followed the canal.

I asked Aunt Irene if she ever went fishing in Cleveland, all I remember is her taking us to Captain Frank’s. She discussed at length the Dunkleosteus. ♦

*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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## COOKING UP A HOOLEY

By Katie Gagne

### Perfect Little Fruit

It really could be the perfect fruit. It’s strawberry season, and this time of year those red berries are so sweet and bursting with flavor. I love the adventure of picking my own each June. I usually get way too ambitious and pick so many, I don’t know what to do with them all after making copious amounts of jam and lots of tarts and shortcakes. One thing I discovered over the years is how great they work in savory dishes as well as the sweet ones. Here is a quick and easy appetizer using these little red gems that you will end up making all summer.

### STRAWBERRY BRUSCHETTA

#### Ingredients

- 1 pint of Strawberries – sliced
- 2-3 tablespoons Balsamic Vinegar
- 4 ounces Goat Cheese – I love the honey flavored logs.
- 1 tablespoon Granulated Sugar
- 1 tablespoon Granulated Garlic
- ½ teaspoon Black Pepper

- 1 Baguette Loaf
- 2 tablespoons Olive Oil
- 1 bunch of fresh Basil – approximately 15 leaves

Slice the strawberries and place in a bowl and sprinkle the sugar on top and set aside.

Slice the basil leaves into thin ribbons.

Slice the baguette on the bias to ½ inch thickness. Arrange on a baking sheet and drizzle with olive oil and sprinkle with garlic salt and black pepper. Bake at 350\* for about 8-10 minutes until lightly toasted.

Remove from oven and immediately spread the goat cheese on the warm bread slices.

Top with a few sliced strawberries for each slice and then sprinkle the basil leaves in top.

Drizzle each with a small amount of Balsamic Vinegar.

Place on a serving plate or tray.

This taste best served at room temperature.

Makes approximately 14 slices.

Enjoy! ♦

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

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### TUESDAY

6pm-8pm: *All Things Irish*  
WOBC-FM 91.5 w/Anita Lock

### SATURDAY

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

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

11:30am-1:30pm: *Echoes of Erin*  
WCWA-AM 1230 w/John Connolly

6pm- 7pm: *Songs of Britain & Ireland*  
WCPC-FM 90.3



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## ILLUMINATIONS

By J. Michael Finn

# The Battle of Benburb

Three hundred and seventy-five years ago, on June 5, 1646, a battle took place in Ireland, considered by some as the biggest and most important victory of the Confederate Irish in the entire Wars of the Three Kingdoms. The Wars of the Three Kingdoms, also known as the British Civil War, was a linked series of civil conflicts that took place between 1639 and 1653 in the kingdoms of England, Scotland and Ireland, all ruled by English King Charles I.

The civil wars were fought over the issue of whether King Charles I or

Parliament would rule the kingdoms. It also included rebellions (in Ireland) and civil wars (in both England and Scotland). Those who fought for the monarchy of King Charles I were known as Royalists and those who fought on behalf of rule by Parliament were known as Parliamentarians in England, or as Covenanters in Scotland.

The Irish Confederate Wars took place in Ireland between 1641 and 1653. This was the Ireland component of the Wars of the Three Kingdoms. The conflict in Ireland also had political, religious and ethnic aspects. The main issues were Catholic land ownership and whether Ireland would be a self-governing kingdom under Charles I, or subordinate to the rule of the English parliament. It was the most destructive conflict in Irish history.

The war in Ireland began with the Rebellion of 1641. Irish rebels tried to seize control of the English administration in Ireland. They wanted: 1) An end to anti-Catholic discrimination; 2) greater Irish self-governance; and 3) a roll back of the Plantation of Ireland.

They also wanted to prevent an invasion by anti-Catholic English Parliamentarians and Scottish Cove-

nanters, who were defying the rule of the king. The rebellion developed into an ethnic conflict between Irish Catholics on one side, and English and Scottish Protestant colonists on the other.

In 1642 at Kilkenny, the Association of the Confederate Catholics of Ireland was formed to organize and control the Catholic war effort. Military units were established in all four provinces. The fighting spread throughout the country, but was most fierce in Ulster.

### OWEN ROE O'NEILL

(in Irish: Eoghan Ruadh Ó Néill), was an Irish soldier, born about 1585, and was one of the most famous members of the O'Neill dynasty of Ulster. He was the nephew of Hugh O'Neill, Earl of Tyrone. As a young man, O'Neill left Ireland (probably in 1607 during the Flight of the Earls).

He spent thirty years as a mercenary in the Spanish Army, rising to the rank of Colonel. He returned to Ireland, landing at Doe Castle in Donegal in 1642 and was appointed General of the Irish Confederate Army of Ulster, based at Charlemont Fort on the border of Armagh and Tyrone.

A force of Scottish Covenanters, under command of Major-General Robert Monro, landed an army in Ulster in 1642, to protect the planted Scottish Presbyterian settlers from the Irish Confederates. They landed at Carrickfergus and linked up with Sir Robert Stewart and the Laggan Army of Protestants from County Donegal. The Covenanters cleared northeastern Ulster of Irish rebels by 1643 but were unable to advance south of mid-Ulster, as that territory was held by Owen Roe O'Neill, and the Irish Confederate Ulster army.

In June 1646, Monro led a force composed of Scottish Covenanter regiments and Ulster settler's armies south into Confederate-held territory. Monro's goal was to take the Confederate capital at Kilkenny.

Monro had ten regiments of infantry, of whom six were Scottish and four were English or Anglo-Irish, and 600 Ulster Protestant cavalry. The combined force was about 6,000



Owen Roe O'Neill

strong. The Covenanters also had six cannons; the Irish Confederates had none.

O'Neill had previously avoided fighting pitched battles, preferring hit-and-run tactics of harassment. However, he had just been supplied by the Papal Nuncio to Ireland, with muskets, ammunition and money with which to pay his soldiers. This allowed him to put over 5,000 men into the field – an army slightly smaller than Monro's.

### THE BATTLE OF BENBURB

Monro had assumed that O'Neill would try to avoid his army and had his army march fifteen miles south to intercept the Irish forces, near the town of Benburb, in south Tyrone. Monro positioned his forces in between two small brooks with his right flank to the River Blackwater with his left flank to a swamp. O'Neill's troops who were positioned across a small brook and on a rise facing Monro.

On June 5, 1646, the Battle of Benburb opened with ineffective cannon fire from Monro's artillery, then his force charged forward with horse and musketeers to take control of a ford across the brook that separated the two armies. The Irish advanced to contest the crossing and Monro's force was driven back.

The general Irish advance began at about eight o'clock in the evening; Monro's cavalry charged in an attempt to break up the Irish brigades but the attack was ineffective.

Advancing relentlessly, the Irish pikemen overran the British artillery positions and came to "push of pike" with Monro's front line infantry. Irish pikes had the advantage of longer shafts than those of their opponents.

The tightly packed Scottish infantry were forced in on top of one another. Monro's forces were gradually pushed back by the pikemen, until their formation collapsed.

A second cavalry charge by Monro failed to disrupt the Irish lines. O'Neill ordered Irish Cavalry Colonel Farrell to attack Monro's left flank. As a result, the whole Scottish line was turned around and forced back towards the River Blackwater, where many drowned. Monro's cavalry fled and, as darkness began to fall, Monro's army collapsed in the confusion.

Over 3,000 of Monro's forces were killed in the battle and the rout that followed. Major-General Monro managed to escape, abandoning his troops in the field. His army lost all their artillery, most of their weapons, their baggage train and 2-months provisions.

Irish losses in the battle were

around 300 men killed. Two days later, O'Neill followed up his victory by advancing towards Clones and chasing the Laggan Army back to its strongholds in counties Derry, Donegal and Tyrone, leaving the Confederates with the only army in the field in Ulster.

### THE REIGN OF TERROR BEGINS

Despite Confederate victories, the British Civil War raged on. King Charles I was executed by the Parliamentarians January 30, 1649. The Parliamentarian leader Oliver Cromwell was named Lord Protector and he landed in Dublin with his army on August 15, 1649, beginning his reign of terror and destruction that ended any Irish resistance.

Sadly, on November 6, 1649 Owen Roe O'Neill died of a still mysterious illness at the O'Reilly stronghold in County Cavan. Legend has it he was poisoned by English agents working for Oliver Cromwell (some have attributed his death to natural causes). Local tradition is that he was buried at the Holy Trinity Abbey, on an island in Lough Oughter in County Cavan.

Thomas Davis wrote in his Lament for Owen Roe O'Neil, "Yes, they slew with poison him they feared to meet with steel." Napoleon Bonaparte was quoted as saying, "If Owen Roe O'Neill's life had been spared, he would have been more than a match for the infamous, but warlike, Cromwell!" ♦

J. Michael Finn is the Ohio State Historian for the Ancient Order of

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

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# SPEAK IRISH

By Bob Carney

@BobCarneyGTR

## Bualadh le Daoine

Meeting people can be an exciting way to use Irish when travelling in the Gaeltacht. In the April issue, we talked about the topic of weather as being an ice breaker (no pun intended). This month let's go a bit further by getting to know those we encounter a little more. We will cover different greetings we can use, how to introduce ourselves, learn to ask others their names and what they like to do. As always, try to use these new words and phrases in your everyday conversations as well. So let's begin, bualadh le daoine (boolah le deen-ya) meeting people.

### GREETINGS

Dia duit (dee-uh gwit)\* Hello lit. God to you  
Dia daoibh (dee-uh yeev) God to you'all  
Dia's Muire duit (dee-us mor-ah gwit) response to Dia duit, God and Mary to you  
Dia's Muire daoibh (dee-us mor-ah yeev) response to Dia diut God and Mary to you'all

\*Phonetics are in a Munster or Kerry dialect, in Mayo it would be pronounced jee-uh ghitch. Using the audio section of teanglann .ie, the free on-line dictionary, you can listen to the pronunciation in all three regional dialects.

The above greetings are more of a formal way of saying hello. They are still popular in Ireland and would be used when meeting someone for the first time or when you wish to show respect.

### LESS FORMAL GREETINGS

Haigh (hi) Hi!  
Conas atá tú? (kohn-us ah-taw too) How are you?  
Kerry dialect (often pronounced kohn-us tawn too)

Cád é mar atá tú? (kah-jay mar ah-taw too) How are you? Ulster dialect

Cén chaoi a bhfuil tu? (kay hee will too) How are you? Connacht dialect (Mayo)  
Cén scéal agat? (ken shkale ah-gaht) What's your story? What's up?  
Tá mé go maith. (taw may guh mah) I'm good or well.  
Tá mé go breá. (taw may guh brow) I'm fine.  
Níl mé go dona. (neel may guh dun-ah) I'm not bad.

### INTRODUCTIONS

Is mise Brian. (iss mee-sha bree-un) I am Brian.  
Roibeárd is ainm dom. ( ruh-bard iss ann-im dom) Robert is the name on me.  
Cén t-ainm atá ort? (ken tan-im ah-taw ort) What is the name on you? (Connacht)  
Cad is ainm duit? (kahd iss ann-im gwit) What is your name? (Kerry)  
C'ainm atá ort? (kan-im ah-taw ort) What is your name? (Ulster)  
Is mise Daithí. (iss mee-sha da-hee) I am David.

You can see if there is an Irish version of your name at "Behind the Name: Irish Names".

Tá sé go deas bualadh leat. (taw shay guh jess boo-la laht) It's nice to meet you.  
Cén chaoi a bhfuil tú na laethanta seo? (kay hee will too na lenn-ta shuh) How are you these days?

Tá sé go deas tú a fheiceáil arís. (taw shay guh jess eh-kuhl ah-reesh) It's nice to see you again.  
Cé seo? (kay shuh) Who's this?  
Seo é Brian. (shuh ay bree-un) This is Brian.  
Seo í Bríd. (shuh ee breedj) This is Bríd. (bridget)  
Cé h-iaid seo? (kay hee-ud shuh) Who's this? Plural  
Seo iad Bríd agus Brian. ( shuh ee-ud breedj ah-gus bree-un) This is Bríd and Brian.

### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Cé as thú? (kay as who) Where are you from? (Connacht)  
Cad as tú? (kahd as too) Where are you from? (Kerry)  
Cé as tú? (kay as too) Where are you from? (Ulster)  
Is as Meiriceá. (iss as mer-ih-kay) I'm from America.  
Cá bhfuil tú i do chónai? (kah will too ih duh coney) Where do you live?  
Tá mé i mo chónai i mBaile Átha Cliath. (taw may ih muh coney ih mawl-ya ah-ha klee-uh) I live in Dublin.  
An maith leat an baile? (ahn mah layt ahn bawl-ya) Do you like the town?

Is breá liom mé. (iss brow lum may) I love it.  
An bhfuil Gaeilge agat? (ahn will gway-la-guh ah-gut) Do you speak Irish?  
Tá beagáinín Gaeilge agam. (taw bee-ah-gahn-ing gway-la-guh ah-gum) I speak a little Irish.  
Go hiontach ar fad! (guh hee-un-takh ar fahd) That's wonderful!

### DO YOU LIKE...?

An éisteann tú le ceol? (ahn ash-tahn too leh cyol) Do you listen to music?  
Éistim/Ní éistim (ash-tum/nee ash-tum) I listen (yes) I don't listen (no)  
An maith leat ceol traidisiúnta? (ahn mah layt cyol trad-ah-shun-ta) Do you like traditional music?  
Tá sé ceart go leor. (taw shay kyart guh lore) It's ok.  
An bhfuil ceol agat féin? (ahn will cyol ah-gut fayne) Are you musical yourself?

### GOODBYE

Goodbye can be a complicated affair for someone beginning Irish, but there is no need to fear! There is one word that works in all situations, so if there is any doubt, just say, Slán!  
Slán (slawn) Goodbye  
Slán leat. (slawn laht) Goodbye to someone going away  
Slán libh. (slawn liv) Goodbye to more than one person leaving  
Slán agat (slawn ah-gut) Goodbye to someone staying behind  
Slán agaibh (slawn ah-giv) Goodbye to more than one person staying behind  
Slán abhaile (slawn uh-wall-yuh) Safe home.  
Slán go fóill (slawn guh fall) Kerry (slawn guh foil) Mayo Goodbye for now  
Feicfidh mé thú. (fek-ay may who) I'll see you.  
Feicfidh mé amárach tú. (fek-ay may ah-mah-rahk too) I'll see you tomorrow.  
Tóg go bog é (toeg guh bog ay) Take it easy.  
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 Wolfhound and Irish dogs organizations in and around Cleveland. Wife Mary, hounds Morrighán and Rían and terrier Doolin keep the house jumping. He can be reached at carneyspeakirish@gmail.com

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# TOLEDO IRISH

By Molly McHugh

## There is a Grand Stretch in the Evening!

It is hard to believe we are approaching the halfway mark of the 2021 calendar year, but it is true! June is upon us, and so is the first day of summer and the longest day of the year, the summer solstice. On June 21<sup>st</sup> in Ireland, the sun will rise at 4:56 am and will set at 9:57 pm, allowing for a full seventeen hours of daylight. Here in Toledo, we will be greeted by the sun at 5:59 am, and it will descend at 9:12 pm, giving us fifteen hours and twelve minutes of daylight. But wow, seventeen hours of daylight in Ireland? That will certainly lend itself to a grand stretch in the evening!

I often think back on my time living abroad in Ireland. It was really important for me to experience day to day living, absorb and embrace the culture; and yes, even pick up on a few colloquialisms here and there. I didn't feel like I could truly be "Irish" without being able to "walk the walk" and "talk the talk."

When I arrived in Ireland during the summer of 2011, I recall hearing, in a variety of conversations with family, that it was so lovely to have a "grand stretch in the evening." Initially, not knowing what that meant, I felt the obligation to decipher the message on my own to avoid looking like an uncultured American at all costs!

Not all Irish slang was challenging, as I had already heard a lot of it growing up, but this one threw me for a loop. Luckily, I was able to determine that the "grand stretch in the evening" meant that the sun was out well into the night, and it certainly was!

I have a very vivid memory of experiencing the "grand stretch" for the first time. It was a lovely day in June, and I

set out to meet one of my cousins at the pub around 7 pm. The inside of any pub tends to be quite dark, so when we were ready to leave around 11 pm, I naturally assumed I was going to be setting out for home in the dark.

To my surprise, there was still a glimmer of light in the sky at that time. That is when I truly understood the "grand stretch."

The extension of the seventeen hours of daylight on summer solstice is helped by daylight savings time. Ireland officially adopted daylight savings time in May 1916, just weeks after the Easter Rising. Up to then, according to solar or local time, Dublin was thirty-five minutes behind London.

### DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

The real impetus to enact daylight savings was economic. Using more sunlight would reduce expenditures on lighting; and during World War I, the economy drove decisions. Ireland not only adopted daylight savings in 1916, but the country also synchronized time with England, which proved to be helpful for marketing and trade deals.

The "grand stretch" officially begins at the start of daylight savings time. However, after living in Ireland for a year, I learned that it was socially acceptable to start talking about the "stretch" as soon as you could see the sun past 4 pm (slight exaggeration) and that the "grand stretch" would start after daylight savings time began. In any



situation, it was always an exceptionally good conversation starter or a great way to fill a gap.

The summer solstice, of course, is not just about the stretch in the evening. The summer solstice marks the first

day of summer; and, of course, is the longest day of the calendar year. In Ireland, celebrations on this day date back more than 5,000 years. The celebration marked the end of the long, dark winter and happily welcomed the return of the sun. The sun brought back life that would again revive and enrich the environment.

At that time, so long ago, it wasn't uncommon for people to partake in Midsummer festivals or to host bonfires in the local communities and throughout the country. Although Midsummer festivals are a part of history, we will now have to settle for the "grand stretch in the evening" to celebrate summer.

The other most notable day of the month is, of course, on June 4<sup>th</sup>, National Hug Your Cat Day! For anyone who may have adopted a furry feline pet during quarantine, like I did, (Her name is Orla!) you now understand this momentous day!

Here's to wishing all Ohio Irish American News readers a happy and healthy summer. Go Hens! ♦

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## TERRY FROM DERRY

By Terry Boyle

### New Realities

These days it feels as if we're constantly on a see-saw of emotions when it comes to living in our new reality. Living through a pandemic feels like a bipolar experience. There are moments of elation, followed by fear and depression.

I cannot think of another time in my lifetime, apart from the Northern Irish

Troubles, when the sense of uncertainty has dominated so much of our lives. It's been over a year now. There are those of us who believe the dust is beginning to settle.

While their optimism is admirable, I'm not sure how warranted it is. There are others, like myself, who are optimistically cautious. We're waiting for the scientists and experts to rally the call for celebrations before we let our guard down. However, there are others who are yet to be convinced that the loss of millions of people is anything more than a hoax. They will remain unbelievers regardless of the evidence.

Amid the global suffering, life goes on. The same issues of contention remain as controversial and unresolved. The recent outbreaks of violence in Northern Ireland is a good example of how things

change and yet are unchanged. Since the brokering of Brexit by bumbling Boris Johnston, there has been a lot of unrest among Unionists, who feel they have been betrayed yet again. The border issues, one of the main obstacles to freeing the U.K from the E.U, has been sorted, or has it? In agreeing to have a sea border to monitor goods coming from the U.K, the British government has in effect agreed to treat Northern Ireland differently from the rest of the U.K., and this is a matter of great consequence.

For many Unionists, this decision to consider N.I differently is reminiscent of the 1985 Anglo-Irish Agreement, when the British government made the decision to legitimately involve the Republic of Ireland in the affairs of N.I. Unionists saw this decision of 'going over their heads' as a deliberate betrayal, and a refusal to acknowledge the wishes of a N.I majority. Flash forward to 2021, and in order to get a quick termination of its links to the E.U, the British government has once again determined to act outside the wishes of Unionists. Northern Ireland will remain part of the E.U single market, despite the fact that Unionists voted against such a decision.

#### BREXIT AT ANY COST

It was only a matter of time before Protestants in the north began to doubt the British government's intentions regarding Northern Ireland's status as part of the U.K. Working class Protestants feel betrayed by the British government and their own politicians. The controversial decision was made against their wishes and, from man/woman on the street's perspective, Unionist politicians simply rolled over and accepted it as a fait accompli. Boris Johnson's agenda was clear throughout the talks, Brexit at any cost. His pragmatism has not been warmly received, and the subsequent riots are symptomatic of a deepening mistrust of his government's intentions.

It has been frightening to see the tensions in N.I rise at a time when the world is in such dire straits. The destruction of property, and of good will, has brought us back again to the sectarian hostilities we thought were gone. Any sane person who knows anything about N.I knows that establishing any kind of border, no matter how compromised, is wrong.

The majority of the people in N.I do not want go to back the violence prior to the 1998 Good Friday Agreement. Yet, all of those years of hard work to-

wards brokering peace, is now in jeopardy. The cross-border collaboration that has evolved over the past decades is now threatened by a weak decision to rob Peter to pay Paul.

It might seem strange for me, coming from a Nationalist background, to defend the Unionist position, but I value the democratic system. Putting my own aspirations aside, I can only say that such mindless decisions do not make for a happy United Ireland. The decision to separate the country in 1921 was not a good one, especially since it established a form of government that should never have been allowed to exist. If we have learned anything from history, assuming we can indeed learn from history, it should be to try and avoid making the same mistakes over and over again.

You cannot back a whole community, whether they are Catholic or Protestant, into a corner and not expect there will be trouble. The self-interest of the British government holds no loyalty to anyone on either side of the divide. Decisions made in our favour could easily be made against us. We have seen the Modus Operandi of the British government at work and it is never for the good of Irish people north or south of the border.

Gracious acts, such as sharing the vaccine with the Republic and the Queen's visit, are commendable, but when it comes to structural decisions that affect the island as a whole, we should question the British government's actions. Ideally, the people of Northern Ireland should have the right determine their own fate. When this right is taken away, and decisions are made against the wishes of the people, it's inevitable that suspicion and fear escalate into violence.

The riots should not shock us. It's symptomatic of a larger problem. It is the government's job to not to simply address the symptom but the cause. However, when the cause is the government itself, it is easy to distract us by focusing on the symptoms.

It's an age-old trick to blame the effect without addressing the cause. As this pandemic continues to introduce us to new realities, let's not forget there are some old realities that need to change if we are ever to maintain a sustainable peace process. ♦

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## AT HOME, ABROAD

By Regina Costello

### Are we Born to Run?

Life's journey of eternal crossroads forces us to constantly check in with ourselves, that sometimes requires us to make tough choices. Such is the human condition – a struggle and a challenge. Answers and solutions that we find along the road with maturity, experience, and family, bring inner peace and an anchor.

In "Renegades: Born to Run", a podcast with President Obama and Bruce Springsteen, both came to the conclusion that we are not born to run; rather we can run and should run, but we need to get home too. While the two icons seemingly come from different backgrounds and cultures, the similarities along their paths in life are striking. Both felt lost, both wanted to run, and both struggled to find that sweet spot in life, where one can live with oneself, function in society, and find contentment.

The episode, "Travelling the U.S. and Finding Home," touches upon this topic, together with the loss of innocence that the 1960s brought to many Americans with the onset of the Vietnam war. Discussion of seeking solace for many, including President Obama and Bruce Springsteen, was found on the open road, days travelling and meandering the length and breadth of the country with fleeting thoughts of settling down, but both fearing the "domestication" element that came with it.

Talk of the never-ending horizon with no planned destination offered a sense of true freedom and with it, the opportunity to reinvent oneself makes for an interesting conversation to listen to. Funny thing though, Bruce only learned to drive when he was 24 years old. The prior ten years found him hitch hiking across the U.S. of A.

The universal belief that the grass is always greener elsewhere affected President Obama and created in him a

need to leave beautiful Hawaii, and to see the mainland. Traveling with his mother and grandmother via plane to Seattle, then by bus to San Francisco, a train to Arizona, with a stop in Kansas and a visit to Chicago, gave him a true understanding of the vastness of this great land.

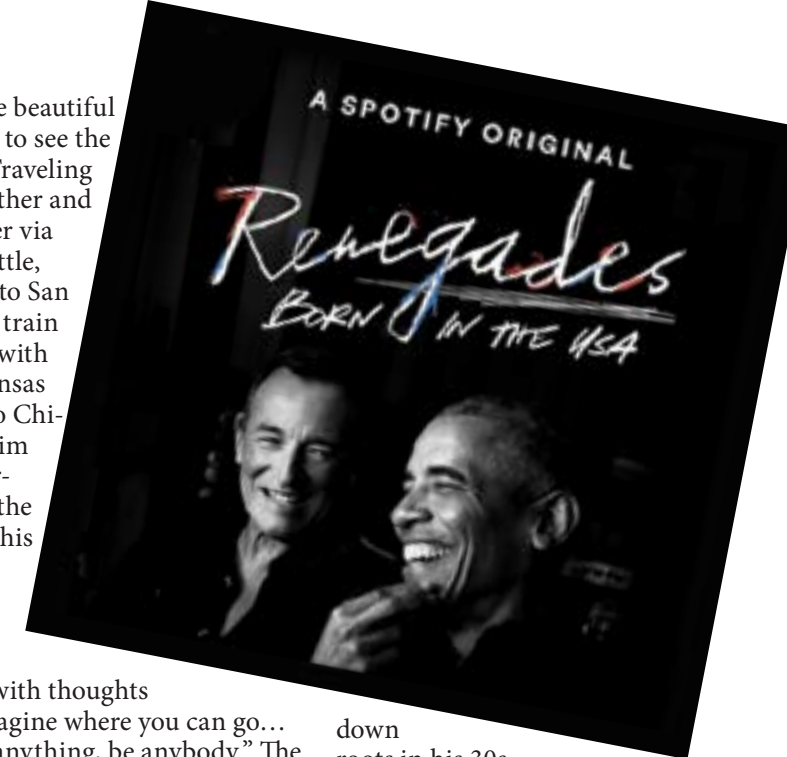
The President recollects that experience with thoughts of "man, imagine where you can go... you can do anything, be anybody." The two share stories of young adulthood, beat up cars that conked out frequently, no cell phones and no accessible help at hand.

Neither had money, and through encountering these and other hardships found glimpses of their souls, learned to enjoy the surprises and adventures of life while trying to come to terms with the nagging need behind it all, that one day they knew they would have to settle down somehow, and somewhere. Such thoughts arose along the darker patches of road – the loneliness and uprooted angst. Both philosophize about the opportunities they were both afforded in different ways, and how they found mentors and guides to show them the way on life's journey.

Feeling ill prepared for the adult life, which is settling down, creating a home and future in a committed relationship, enter the conversation. They felt that the symbols and heroes of male adulthood at that time were personified in characters like John Wayne, who saved the town but never stayed. The "man" always moved on.

#### THE MAN

Springsteen and President Obama both resonated with this symbol of the adult male and felt that life did not prepare them for true adulthood. Both tried to escape it by staying on the move. Bruce shares that he eventually crashed psychologically and found himself in a therapist office, where he broke down and cried for a solid ten minutes. He wanted to have his cake and eat it – he wanted to be free but also deep down felt the need to put



down roots in his 30s.

Acknowledging his fears that day and opening a scary can of worms forever changed his life. He got married and found a way to keep what he deemed to be his freedom. He continued to take to the road and ride into the sunset on his motorbike. Most importantly, he was able to come home and wanted to come home. President Obama responds to him by saying, "we need to run, but we need to come home too."

President Obama found his roots and home with Michelle, whom he describes as the embodiment of a place and community. With her, he could see all the parts of life coming together, and Hawaii being a part of that, despite the fact that he wanted to leave the island.

Both in this conversation expressed the importance of the feeling of being American, and when they first felt this strong pride. For Bruce it was reciting the pledge of allegiance that indicated a sacredness for him. For President Obama it was the landing of the Apollo Program Capsules in the Pacific. He sat on his granddad's shoulders looking into the sky and believed him when he said Neil Armstrong was waving to him.

He was six years old, but proud and aware that they were fellow countrymen, and felt grounded by this thought. As he traveled overseas to Indonesia, to a life very different to what he was used to, he became acutely patriotic and appreciative of the many things taken for granted in this country – democracy, a clean environment where diseases

like rickets and polio no longer exist but plague poor countries like Indonesia. It made him feel, "glad I was born under this flag."

Listening in on these conversations between these two men, both giants, sharing stories about hardships experienced while growing up, mental health and anxieties along the way, struggling to fit into a society that can be prejudiced in many ways to all types of people, serve as a reminder that we are not alone trying to figure out this thing called life. Both acknowledge much of their success to a huge ego, true grit and an unrelenting desire to make the American dream available to all, while recognizing the importance of airing the ails in our society and paying tribute to the bread and butter of America – the working class that toil every day to provide for their families.

I think we need to run to find ourselves. We can run in different ways; we can immigrate; we can take to the road; we can change cities; we can run from our families. Sometimes we feel the need to do these things and it can be hard to do at times. Sometimes the right decision is the more difficult choice. After some running, we will recognize the proverbial fork that is ours to take. That is the road home, which looks different for all of us. We are lucky if we find it and enjoy the solace and anchor that it provides. Never in a million years did I think I would run from Ireland to the U.S. and take root in my new home abroad. While I was not born under this flag; I am glad to be living under it – in my home abroad.

Sources consulted: Spotify: Renegades – Born in the U.S.A. ♦

Regina is a postgraduate from the National University of Ireland. Former Curator with the Irish American Archives Society, former Executive Director of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument Commission and former Executive Coordinator of the Northern Ohio Rose Centre. Director on the Boards of the Mayo Society of Greater Cleveland and The Irish American Charitable Foundation. She resides in the Greater Cleveland area with her husband and together enjoy their family of two spirited teenagers and beloved wheaten terrier. She would love to hear from you and can be reached at rcostello@ameritech.net

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## AKRON IRISH

By Lisa O'Rourke

# Northern Exposure

This happens to everyone; you run into someone you haven't seen in months and you run into them at least three more times that same day. So, it has been with Northern Ireland and myself this last month. Of course, the recognition is totally one-sided, but every time I looked, there it was again, asking for attention and showing a side of itself a little different than the last.

The first time it popped up was on Reese Witherspoon's Book Club page in the guise of a new chick lit thriller. I was excited to have my indulgent read be set in Northern Ireland, a rare setting for that type of thing.

The plot centers on two sisters; one a new mother, the other shown on the evening news robbing a bank with known IRA operatives. One sister tries to prove the other's innocence while being pulled into dangerous territory. The book is called "Northern Spy" by Flynn Berry.

I began this book with the hope that pop culture might shed some light where often it has proved heavy-handed and biased. It bore the marks of research, noting things like the reflex



of people in the North to take shelter when they hear a loud noise, being unsure of the source.

About a third of the way in, my hopes were sunk. The author took the stance that the Irish discontent in the North was kind of vague and had more to do with the stereotypical depiction of the Irish forgetting everything but a grudge. The author did not mention a single Unionist paramilitary group, the

Orange Order, nothing.

I don't expect anyone to be an apologist for either side, but to act like this is a randomly motivated group of thugs is dishonest. And okay, I already said that it was chick lit and it is not every author's job to delineate the political landscape of their novel, but they ought to be responsible in their approach, or set the book in South Carolina.

### GOOD FRIDAY AGREEMENT

Just as I was stewing about the anglophile spin that so much literature puts on their depiction of Ireland, the Unionist side raised their collective heads. Rioting in the streets broke out in Belfast on, no less, than the 23<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement. While the target of mob anger was gates and walls instead of people, it was a sad refrain of things past and the worst violence that has occurred in the North in years.

The cause of the turmoil was Brexit. The anger was really a feeling of abandonment. Despite the multiple assurances that came from Boris Johnson to the contrary, a hard border has emerged as a result of Brexit, in

the Irish Sea. Great Britain's separation from the European Union has forced the placement of import tariffs on some goods that come from England. Products coming into ports in Northern Ireland undergo European Union import procedures, since Ireland is in the EU and it is an island. These procedures may sound superficial, but they have caused product delays and accompanying frustrations there which are only exacerbated by the pandemic frustration.

It is impossible not to sense the panic that the hard-right Unionists must feel, being lumped with the Republic instead of England. Odder still is the notion that they asked for it, since they were the group in the North that voted for Brexit.

### NORTHERN IRELAND

Since the hundred-year anniversary of the Easter Rising in 2016, I find myself reminded more of what Yeats called "the birth of a terrible beauty" as Easter arrives each spring since. This year marked another anniversary. If Easter signals the anniversary of the birth of the terrible beauty, May 3, 2021 was the anniversary of the birth of the proverbial red-headed stepchild of that beauty, one hundred official years of partition, the birth of Northern Ireland.

I don't think that anyone celebrated. It is a crazy thing to look at a map and see that arbitrary border on such a small island and try to make sense of it. It looks more like the solution of a frustrated parent dividing the backseat of a car on a too long road trip.

The conclusion seems as inevitable as the resolution of those road trip fights. Clearly the day will come when the invisible lines disappear, and it will be the one small country that it is to the eye.

But the resolution should not come too quickly, as I was convinced by an essay that I read this last month. Taking on the six counties now is a mug's game. I completely understand that this idea is heresy and flies in the face of the entire WolfeTones' catalogue, but I think that reunification of the country is an idea whose time will come, eventually.

Why? Because the North is a mess, and the group that broke it can buy it and own it for a while longer. It is currently an expensive and fractious place in which to maintain order.

Police service in the North cost

*Continued on facing page*



## MADIGAN MUSES

By Marilyn Madigan

# Fun In 21

The Hibernian State of Ohio *FUN in 2021* Convention is quickly approaching. We are looking forward to seeing you and having a very successful event. The 2021 Convention, hosted by the Cleveland Boland Berry, Bluestone, and Our Lady of the Rosary Divisions will convene at The Double Tree Hilton Westlake, a western suburb of Cleveland.

The hotel has been booked from Thursday, June 24<sup>th</sup> (for those who would like to plan an extra day in Cleveland), through Saturday, June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Rooms are available for \$109.00 per night, with breakfast included, plus applicable taxes, until May 28th, 2021; reservations after this date will be subject to availability: <https://bit.ly/3hh6lq4>

We hope you will join us for our "Sock Hop" Icebreaker on Friday evening. Ladies, time to pull out

# Cleveland Hibernians Host First In-Person Convention in the Nation Since Pandemic Start

those poodle skirts, bobby socks, and saddle shoes, or pedal pushers. Guys, we look forward to seeing your hair slicked back in your bowling shirt or white t-shirt and leather jacket.

The fantastic duo of Kennedy & Riley will be our entertainment for the evening with open bar, appetizers, and entertainment by Kennedy & Riley. \$70.

The convention concludes on Saturday, June 26<sup>th</sup> with a Dinner Dance after Mass, with the theme, "Rock N Roll Hall of Fame." Music will be provided by one of our favorite local bands, the *Portersharks*. \$75.00 includes choice of Braised Short Rib, Chicken Milanese or Vegetarian Strudel. Each dinner entrée includes salad, potatoes, seasonal vegetable and dessert.

Full Package (includes registration and all events): Member: \$170.00 Guest: \$145.00.

### REGISTRATION DEADLINE

June 10, 2021. Please make checks

### Northern Exposure Continued from previous page

€900,000 just on the high holy day of the Orange Order, July 12 last year. Why should the Republic take that on, especially when they are still finding their financial feet? If and when the country becomes reunited, there will be many angry, mobilized Unionist paramilitary groups who are already prepared to provide years of trouble. Time wounds all heals and needs to pass to allow tensions to diffuse, rather than be forced into the open.

The full implementation of Brexit seemed to put the North in the news. It just kept popping up, looking for attention and demanding a look, a reflection. That is the way with the place; it's not easy and it probably won't be so anytime soon. Beautiful, but complicated, angry and unpredictable would be the six counties' dating profile.

Collage seems to be the only way to look at it, a prism to try to view all the contradiction in the six counties. It is a collection of divergent facets much more than it is any one thing, at least for now. ♦

*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](mailto:olisa07@icloud.com).*

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payable to Ways and Means. Registration forms can be found on the Convention website at <https://tinyurl.com/mknsv6a6>. Mail completed registration forms and payment to: Ways and Means, 26559 Chapel Hill Drive, North Olmsted, Ohio 44070.

This is an opportunity for the Cleveland Hibernians to showcase our fair city and all it has to offer to others around the State of Ohio, and beyond. We are compiling a Program Book and turn to you our friends and ask for your support of this cherished tradition through the purchase of an advertisement. The deadline for program ads is June 10, 2021.

This is an opening for individuals, organizations, and corporations to

introduce or re-introduce themselves to the Hibernians. Hibernian Brothers and Sisters, our Program Book is your way of paying tribute to the State of Ohio Hibernians past, present, and future; send greetings and acknowledgments to our officers; remember a longtime friend; or just say hello to attendees. ♦

For more convention information or to receive an order form detailing available ad space and rate schedules, contact: Ray McGann 440-887-0216 or 216-671-6219 [r4a1y2@aol.com](mailto:r4a1y2@aol.com); Jim Kilbane [jjk5755@hotmail.com](mailto:jjk5755@hotmail.com), or Patricia Lavelle 440-596-8552 [plave31228@gmail.com](mailto:plave31228@gmail.com).

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## These Are a Few of My Favorite Things

It would be no surprise to *Ohio Irish American News* readers that I'm a considerable enthusiast of the Irish food revolution taking place over the past decade or more. The gastro pubs and farm to table offerings have exploded, and as far as I'm concerned, are world-class nowadays. Ireland has been in a perfect position to experience the melding of the old with the new.

There are times, however, when all one wants is a bit of nostalgia, the return for a short while to less complicated days when calories, cholesterol, climate change, animal welfare, food allergies, nutrient intake and the like weren't constantly in the back of the mind. Such is the state of affairs running around my gray matter this morning as I amble around the streets of Galway on Google Earth, recollecting the spiritually fulfilling nosh we used to not even appreciate.

Especially during these Covid years, when travel is only starting to enter the conversation again, I thought I'd run down some of the Irish food experiences I miss the most, while sitting on this side of the Atlantic.

And I'll start with carvery lunches, which is what originally sparked this column. In particular, I digitally zipped past the Skeffington Arms Hotel and started salivating at the thought of fresh carved turkey breast, mashed spuds, rolls and a few ladles of gravy. Picture, if you will, sliding your tray along the rails, studying each of the steaming comestibles behind the glass separator. The chef, with blade in fist, asks which of the meats you'd prefer. You study the roast and the turkey, but there's no correct answer. They both look juicy and delectable. "A bit of both," you say. "A wise choice," he replies.

### FOOD

I'm sorry, where were we? Food, yes. If you've ever stopped into a shop of any kind in Ireland, you'll no doubt agree with me that their selection of chocolate bars and crisps is second to none. From Tayto Cheese and Onion and Buffalo Hunky Dorys to Lion Bars and Cadbury Flakes, the difficulty is selecting just one and not filling up several plastic bags with the top twenty. Inevitably, we all have our favorites, but there always seems to be something you've never tried before, and exploration is half the fun, isn't it?

Next up on our culinary tour is the staple of all staples, the full Irish breakfast. I'll admit to you, one of these bad boys is enough to satiate my desire for a week or so, but when the calling comes back, it's a strong one. Given a choice, I'll skip the mushrooms, and fill up on sausage, hash browns, beans, black pudding, fried tomatoes, fried eggs and toast. These all slightly edge out potato farls, white pudding and Irish bacon (I know, send in the hate mail). It's the one meal I promise myself to snarf down whenever I head back over.

Since I only ingest the occasional full Irish, I skip the urge to fill up at the airport on the way into the country. Sure, it will have all of the ingredients, but for me the full Irish isn't meant to be eaten in an ultra-bright, fast-paced, plastic-chaired operation. It should be savored in an establishment with at least a modicum of charm or character, especially if you're only having the one. Do yourself a favor and find a real restaurant or pub.

And speaking of pubs, I couldn't skip one of my favorite ways to spend an evening, sipping a pint with a simple packet of bacon fries with plenty of old wood, stimulating conversation and a stunning lack of lighting. I suppose the food and drink takes a back seat to the atmosphere with this one.

I recall a night I spent sharing a few with an old gentleman in Sligo in a pub with no televisions and no stereo. Just a handful of folks, a choice of snugs and quiet conversation. It's a shame that these types of places are becoming relics. It might be ne'er impossible to find a pub without something to distract patrons nowadays.

Next on my ravenous list are tea sandwiches. We're talking two pieces of white bread filled with only a slice of ham and butter, or a slice of cheese and butter, or

cucumbers or egg salad or the like, cut into quarters and eaten in three bites. There's something so deceptively delicious about such a simple concoction.

They can be combined with the next contender, a bowl of veg soup for a perfect lunch. Take either of them separately and they're just what the doctor ordered for a quick pick-me-up.

And if you'd like to complete the trifecta, just pull up a seat in front of a peat fire, a ham sandwich, a bowl of veg soup, a small Coca Cola and a few red embers to blow you some heat.

Not to be missed for snacks are chips (that's fries to some folks), cut thick with malt vinegar. Don't get me wrong, I'm a ketchup lover, but chips and vinegar sometimes hit the spot. Many's a night I've sat contented on a barstool with nothing to focus on but a plate of chips. And I miss it.

### TEA

Last up is the classic pot of tea. I drink more tea than you can shake a stick at, but it never reaches Nirvana like back home—steeped in a metal pot with sugar cubes on the side, real milk and small tea mugs.

With all of that said, all is not lost if



If you can't make it to Ireland for a carvery lunch or Cheese and Onion Crisps, check out the ads peppered throughout the OhioIANews. You'll be able to snag an imported Crunchie Bar or satiate the calling for a full Irish breakfast.

you can't make the trek over to the old sod. In fact, perusing the OhioIANews, you'll be able to locate Irish restaurants, pubs and import shops with a lot of the grub in this column obtainable through them. You'll be satisfying your belly while supporting the Irish-American community. And every small business

could use a little help right now. ♦  
 Conor Makem spent 22 years traveling and honing petty gripes as an Irish musician, and enjoyed a further 13 years of people not returning his calls as a journalist. He is fluent in English, American and old Kerry farmer. More

of his photos are on Instagram under [cb.makem](#). Visit [cbmakem.com](#) or email contact@cbmakem.com.

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23 writers from Northeast Ohio's Irish community and Beyond the Pale.

**OHIO IRISH AMERICAN NEWS** **Happy Father's Day!**





By Megan Lardie

# KIDS CRAIC

## Summer Break... A Time to Make Memories!

Have you ever wondered how summer break from school came about? Some say the school calendar was set up that way because children were

needed to help with farming. There may be some truth to that but, the real reason is because as urban cities became more crowded with people from

all over the world in the 19th century; the temperature in the city became so hot.

Many families, if they could afford to, would escape the city in the summer for the cooler countryside and would not return until the cooler weather arrived in September. This, of course, was before the invention of air conditioning!

I always think back to the end of each school year and remember the fun activities that my teachers planned. My favorite memory is of our 8th grade trip to Cedar Point. I remember that my class really lucked out with perfect weather on that day.

This school year has been hard to say the least. I am sad for all of you that will not be able to enjoy those end of the year trips and fun activities this year. It has been hard for teachers too, and we look forward to all those trips as much as you do!

Some of you were brave enough to go to school every day since August. Some of you had to overcome the challenges of remote learning. All of

you are survivors of however you had to "go" to school this year.

As you enjoy your lazy days of summer, be sure to take advantage of your time away from school. Some fun ideas to enjoy the outdoors might be to ride bikes to a new park and pack a picnic lunch or check out one of the amazing beaches along Lake Erie and spend the day with your toes in the sand. You could go to the Zoo, the aquarium, or one of our famous museums and pretend it is the class trip you did not get to take.

Maybe you could learn a new craft. There are YouTube videos to teach you how to do anything!

Another way to enjoy your summer is to volunteer some of your free time. You could have a lemonade sale and donate the profits to a charity. You could work at an animal shelter. You could collect food from friends and relatives and donate it to a food bank. You could even just help some of your neighbors with small jobs around their house. Whatever you decide, make your summer something to remember!

### Make Homemade Vanilla Ice Cream!

#### Ingredients:

- 2 cups heavy whipping cream
- 2 cups half and half
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract

Combine all the ingredients, stirring to dissolve sugar completely. Pour the ice cream mixture into a shallow container (glass or metal work best) that you've propped in the freezer previously to get nice and chilled. Store in the coldest part of your freezer until almost firm, but still soft enough to be stirred. For the next three hours, check the ice cream every 30 minutes and stir or mix with a hand mixer to keep it aerated and creamy.



### Literature Corner

#### Trapped in a Video Game



Ever wish you could get inside your video game and play? Find out what happens to Jesse Rigsby and his friend, Eric when they get sucked into the game, Full Blast. A mysterious figure starts to follow them, and they do not know if he is trying to kill them or help them!

If they cannot figure out what is going on they might be trapped forever! This is this 1st book in a series of five books.

#### Taking a Listening Walk



Take a walk around your neighborhood. Don't forget to put on your listening ears! Walk slowly and listen to all the sounds you hear around you. Can you identify where each sound is coming from? Do you know what is making each sound? Maybe keep a journal and draw pictures of what you hear! The Listening Walk

### Gab in Gaelic

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

### JOKES

**Q:** What does a mermaid use to call her friends?

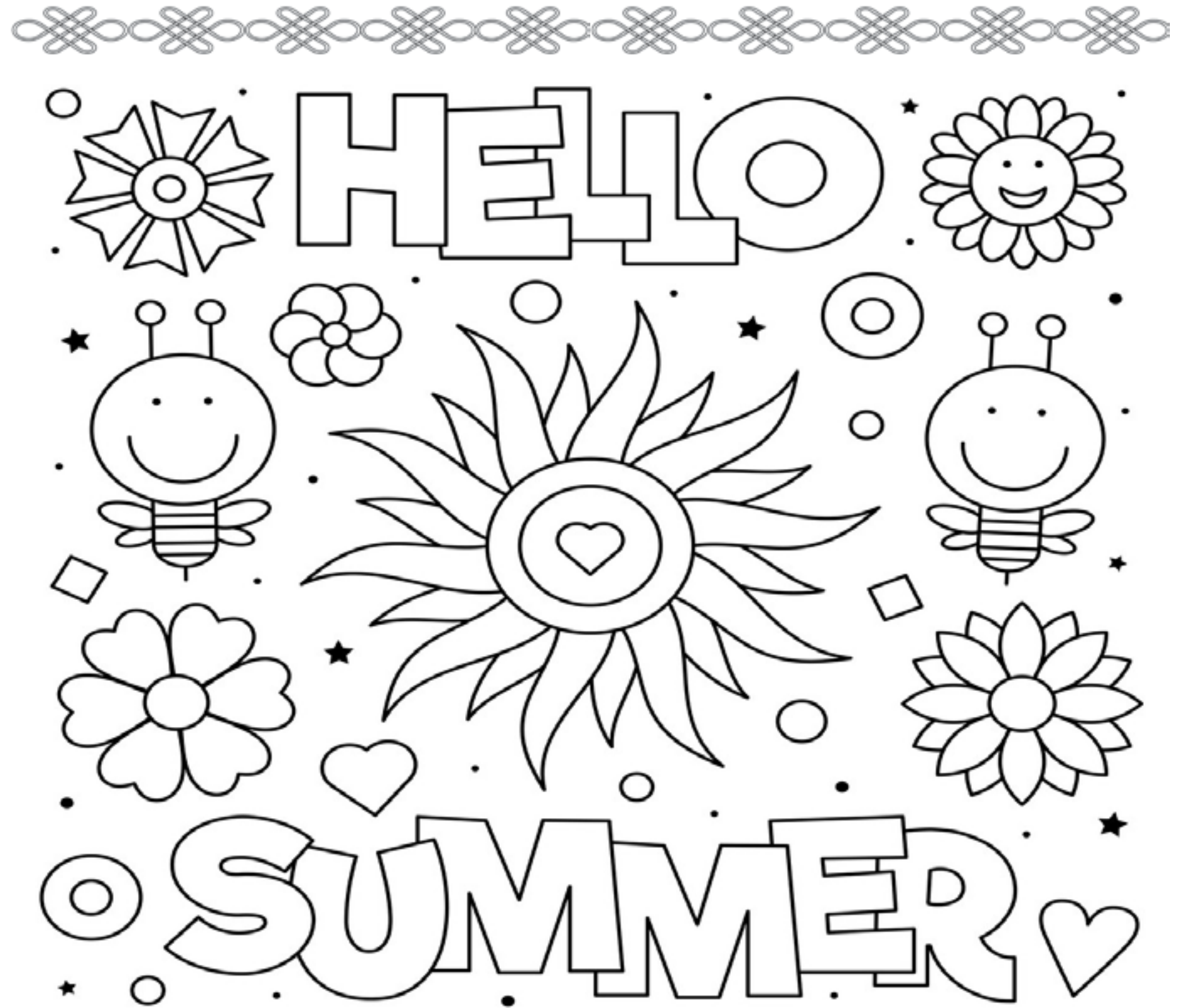
A. A Shell Phone!

**Q.** What did the kid say to his teacher when the teacher said he missed summer school?

A. No teacher, I didn't miss it at all!

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 [meganlardie126@outlook.com](mailto:meganlardie126@outlook.com)

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### 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](http://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](mailto: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.





## OFF THE SHELF

By Terry Kenneally

@TerryKenneally

### The Sunken Road

By Ciaran McMenemy

Harvill Secker ISBN 9781 78 7301900 2021 250 pp.

"Dulce et decorum est pro patria mori" is a line from the Odes, by the Roman poet Horace. The line translates, "It is sweet and fitting to die for the homeland." Horace's line was quoted in the title of a poem by Wilfred Owen, "Dulce et Decorum est," published in 1921, describing soldier's horrific experiences in World War I.

The Sunken Road is a historical novel about two pivotal stories in Ireland's history, the foundation of the State, and the Protestant memory of World War I. Nothing is spared in the visceral language used to describe the horrors of war: "bodies float into the sky before raining their parts down on the men below."

Two farm boys from Co. Fermanagh, a Catholic turned atheist Francie Leonard and his Protestant best friend Archie Johnston, are seduced by the drama of the war in Europe and leave

the village to join up with the Ulster 36<sup>th</sup> Division in 1916. They leave behind them Annie, Archie's sister and Francie's love. In a few months they will face the terrors of the Somme (in total over a million men from both sides became casualties during the battle). Before they leave, Francie swears to Annie that he will keep her little brother safe.

The story opens in May 1922 in Northern Ireland, with police constables kicking down the door of a cottage where they believe Francie is staying. After surviving the war, Francie joins the IRA. He quickly becomes notorious for brutally killing people, including a pregnant woman who tried to shield her Inspector husband, killing both her and her unborn child.

The man pursuing Francie is his former staff sergeant, Crozier, an Orange bigot who has made life miserable for Francie because he was a Catholic in a Protestant unit. After the war, still burning with hatred, he becomes relentless in his quest to find Francie.

With this year marking the centenary of the Partition, *The Sunken Road* couldn't be timelier. After eluding Crozier at the cottage, Annie accompanies Francie as he makes his way to the Free State border, at Pettigo, a village split between the two states on the Donegal border. Francie joins up with the other IRA forces and they face the British and Crozier in the last major battle of the

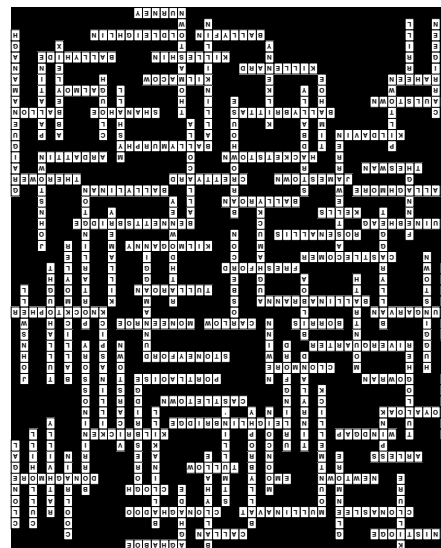
War for Independence.

McMenamin's depiction of the war is graphic. Nothing is spared in the visceral language used to describe the horror. He compellingly uses the books interchanging structure of the war in Europe and the War of Independence to build increasing tension. The novel shifts between the race to the south and a slow reveal of what happened between Francie, Archie, and Crozier in the Western Front.

Essentially what Francie is telling us is that if you had seen what he, and Wilfred Owen, had seen, "you would not tell with such high zest... the old lie: "Dulce et decorum est pro patri moi." *The Sunken Road* is a gem of a book, and Highly Recommended. ♦

#### GET MORE TO THE STORY

More pics, and larger print too!  
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## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

By Linda Fulton Burke

### ACROSS

- 3 (A) \_\_\_\_\_, County Laois
- 4 (I) \_\_\_\_\_, County Kilkenny
- 6 (C) \_\_\_\_\_, County Kilkenny
- 12 (C) \_\_\_\_\_, County Laois
- 13 (M) \_\_\_\_\_, County Kilkenny
- 14 (C) \_\_\_\_\_, County Laois
- 18 (C) \_\_\_\_\_, County Kilkenny
- 21 (N) \_\_\_\_\_, County Laois
- 22 (E) \_\_\_\_\_, County Laois
- 23 (D) \_\_\_\_\_, County Laois
- 24 (T) \_\_\_\_\_, County Carlow
- 25 (A) \_\_\_\_\_, County Laois
- 32 (W) \_\_\_\_\_, County Kilkenny
- 33 (K) \_\_\_\_\_, County Laois
- 35 (L) \_\_\_\_\_, County Carlow
- 36 (R) (O) \_\_\_\_\_, County Carlow
- 37 (C) \_\_\_\_\_, County Laois
- 38 (G) \_\_\_\_\_, County Kilkenny
- 40 (P) (L) \_\_\_\_\_, County Laois
- 46 (C) \_\_\_\_\_, County Carlow
- 47 (S) \_\_\_\_\_, County Kilkenny
- 49 (R) \_\_\_\_\_, County Kilkenny
- 53 (B) \_\_\_\_\_, County Carlow
- 54 (C) \_\_\_\_\_, County Carlow
- 56 (M) \_\_\_\_\_, County Kilkenny
- 58 (D) \_\_\_\_\_, County Kilkenny
- 59 (K) \_\_\_\_\_, County Kilkenny
- 60 (B) \_\_\_\_\_, County Carlow
- 64 (T) \_\_\_\_\_, County Kilkenny
- 65 (F) \_\_\_\_\_, County Kilkenny
- 66 (C) \_\_\_\_\_, County Kilkenny
- 68 (K) \_\_\_\_\_, County Kilkenny
- 71 (R) \_\_\_\_\_, County Laois
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- 73 (B) \_\_\_\_\_, County Kilkenny
- 74 (K) \_\_\_\_\_, County Kilkenny
- 76 (B) \_\_\_\_\_, County Laois
- 77 (B) \_\_\_\_\_, County Laois
- 79 (B) \_\_\_\_\_, County Laois
- 81 (J) \_\_\_\_\_, County Laois
- 82 (C) \_\_\_\_\_, County Laois
- 83 (T) (R) \_\_\_\_\_, County Kilkenny
- 84 (T) (S) \_\_\_\_\_, County Laois
- 85 (H) \_\_\_\_\_, County Carlow
- 87 (A) \_\_\_\_\_, County Carlow
- 90 (B) \_\_\_\_\_, County Carlow
- 91 (K) \_\_\_\_\_, County Carlow
- 97 (B) \_\_\_\_\_, County Laois
- 99 (S) \_\_\_\_\_, County Laois
- 100 (B) \_\_\_\_\_, County Carlow
- 101 (P) \_\_\_\_\_, County Kilkenny
- 102 (G) \_\_\_\_\_, County Kilkenny
- 103 (R) \_\_\_\_\_, County Laois

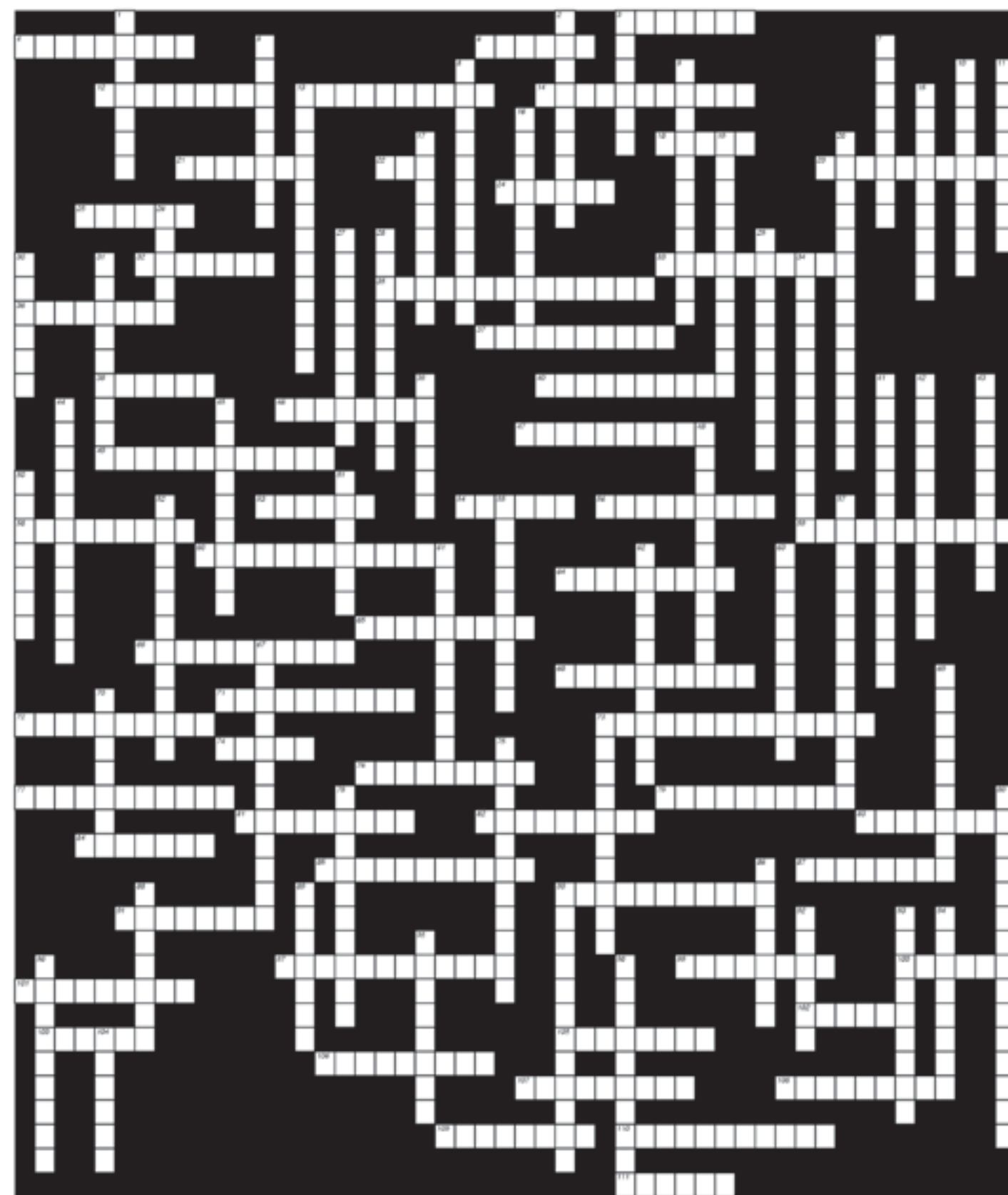
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- 106 (K) \_\_\_\_\_, County Laois
- 107 (K) \_\_\_\_\_, County Laois
- 108 (B) \_\_\_\_\_, County Laois
- 109 (B) \_\_\_\_\_, County Laois
- 110 (O) (L) \_\_\_\_\_, County Carlow
- 111 (N) \_\_\_\_\_, County Carlow

### DOWN

- 1 (K) \_\_\_\_\_, County Kilkenny
- 2 (B) \_\_\_\_\_, County Kilkenny
- 3 (A) \_\_\_\_\_, County Carlow
- 5 (G) \_\_\_\_\_, County Kilkenny
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- 8 (B) \_\_\_\_\_, County Laois
- 9 (B) \_\_\_\_\_, County Laois
- 10 (C) \_\_\_\_\_, County Laois
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- 13 (M) \_\_\_\_\_, County Laois
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- 63 (K) \_\_\_\_\_, County Kilkenny
- 67 (C) \_\_\_\_\_, County Kilkenny
- 69 (J) \_\_\_\_\_, County Kilkenny
- 70 (F) \_\_\_\_\_, County Carlow
- 73 (B) \_\_\_\_\_, County Laois
- 75 (B) \_\_\_\_\_, County Laois
- 78 (S) \_\_\_\_\_, County Laois
- 80 (G) \_\_\_\_\_, County Kilkenny
- 86 (M) \_\_\_\_\_, County Carlow
- 88 (P) \_\_\_\_\_, County Kilkenny
- 89 (T) \_\_\_\_\_, County Laois
- 90 (B) \_\_\_\_\_, County Carlow
- 92 (C) \_\_\_\_\_, County Laois
- 93 (A) \_\_\_\_\_, County Laois
- 94 (P) \_\_\_\_\_, County Carlow
- 95 (K) \_\_\_\_\_, County Kilkenny
- 96 (C) \_\_\_\_\_, County Kilkenny
- 98 (T) \_\_\_\_\_, County Kilkenny
- 104 (E) \_\_\_\_\_, County Laois

# Towns in Counties Carlow, Kilkenny, & Laois

By Linda Fulton Burke



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2nd - Irish Songs, Stories & Shenanigans Podcast 33 drops at 5pm. Listen any time after, forever. Signup [ohioianews.com](http://ohioianews.com)

16th - Irish Songs, Stories & Shenanigans Podcast 34 drops at 5pm. Listen any time after, forever. Signup [ohioianews.com](http://ohioianews.com)

4th - Independence Day Shamrock Club of Columbus General Meeting

19th - #OhioIANews eBulletin drops in your inbox at 3:10 p.m. Signup [ohioianews.com](http://ohioianews.com).

5th - #OhioIANews eBulletin drops in your inbox at 3:10 p.m. Signup [ohioianews.com](http://ohioianews.com).

23rd - Cinci Celtic Fest

28th - August Issue Arrives!

12th - Irish American Club East Side (IACES) Monthly Meeting

30th - Irish Songs, Stories & Shenanigans Podcast 35 drops at 5pm. Listen any time after, forever. Signup [ohioianews.com](http://ohioianews.com).

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