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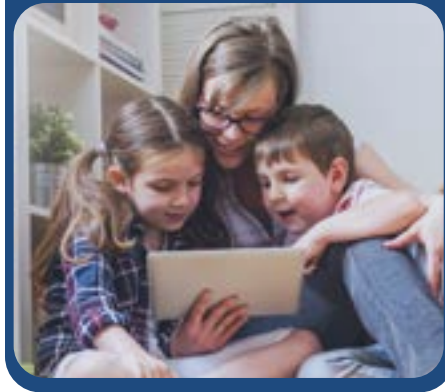
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**A Road Less Traveled, for Now**

Hello all of Ohio, and Pittsburgh too! This is our first issue to be delivered en masse in Pittsburgh. Detroit, Buffalo, Newport/Covington/Cincinnati, Indianapolis, Nashville ... who's next?

*ilrish* is the only Irish paper in the United States that serves the Irish public beyond city or even state borders. From Cleveland to Clearwater, I see how underserved this corridor is; I won't just lament the fact; I aim to change the facts. And so it begins ...

We will add Irish communities within these states as they develop. By people of action, we have been invited

to a few, selected a few, and are open to wherever the road less traveled takes us. If you would like to help, my email is [jobrien@ilrish.us](mailto:jobrien@ilrish.us).

Next month we welcome two new columnists from the Pittsburgh area – the legendary Diane Byrnes, with her Pittsburgh Happenings column, and Irish native and teacher Marie Young, whose students will offer perspectives on the issues that matter to them, in Irish and in English.

There is much more within, the usual mix of news, events, history and history being made, sports, reviews, food and the movers, shakers and music makers, plus activities for the kids too.

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

John

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  - Toledo Irish Molly McHugh

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**About Our Cover:**



**Take Me Out to the Ballgame**

July 15th was Irish night, hosted by the AOH, at the Toledo Mud Hens Baseball Stadium, and it did not disappoint. The rain held off, the food was delicious; and there was a whole section of green shirts, not to mention an actual baseball game! While the Mud Hens did not end up winning the game, they are experiencing a winning season and are currently in second place in their Triple-A-East Midwest division.

The Toledo Mud Hens, a minor league baseball team and a farm team for the Detroit Tigers, have, for the most part, been a part of Toledo since 1896. It's said that the Mud Hens adopted their name, "Mud Hens," because at that time they would play their games at Bay View Park, which was close to a swamp that was filled with mud hens – makes sense!

Today, they play at the lovely Fifth Third Stadium in downtown Toledo. While they may have initially struggled with standings and solid fan base, now the games are almost always filled!

This special Irish night, of course, took a pause last year due to COVID; but the AOH team brought the event back to life this year.

The man, the legend, and the king of one-liners, Toledo's own Maury Collins celebrated his birthday (dare I share the age?) that night by throwing out the first pitch! Jim Burns and the President of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, Ohio, Robert McMahon, kicked off the night by singing both the Irish National Anthem and the United States National Anthem loud and proud. That may have been the



Jim Burns and Robert McMahon, sang the Irish and the United States National Anthems.

first time I've heard the Irish National Anthem sung at a US sporting event.

The anthem, Amhrán na bhFiann, which translates to "The Soldier's Song," was composed as an Irish rebel song somewhere between the years of 1907 and 1910. The lyrics were written by Peadar Kearney, and the music was composed by Patrick Heeney, who was a childhood friend of Kearney. Peadar Kearney's version of the song, originally written in English, was translated to Irish by Liam O' Rinn in 1926; and that's when the song was officially adopted as Ireland's National Anthem.

There has, however, been some controversy about the lyrics of the song. In fact, the song has been dubbed as the Sinn Fein anthem. In the 1980s, when an Irish Rugby player had to retire due to injuries caused by a roadside IRA bomb, a new song, "Ireland's Call," was written. Ireland's Call is sometimes used as an alternative to Amhrán na bhFiann at sporting events, and Amhrán na bhFiann is left to an instrumental version.

Ironically, there seems to be an Irish connection to the creation of our American national anthem too. Turlough O'Carolan, a blind Celtic harpist from County Westmeath, is believed to have been connected to the origin of our anthem.

There isn't much debate that the

melody Francis Scott Key used when writing the lyrics to the American National Anthem came from John Stafford Smith. Smith apparently, though, never claimed authorship of the music. In fact, Turlough O'Carolan's "Bumper Squire Jones" song, composed in the 17th century, used that melody as well.

Decades after the composition of O'Carolan's tune, John Stafford

Smith made that melody famous by adding his own words to the music, and transforming it into a drinking

song called "Anacreon in Heaven." Due to its wide popularity in the 18th and 19th centuries in London, the song made its way across the Atlantic, where it was modified and used by Francis Scott Key as the melody for the US National Anthem. As the saying goes, "Everything comes full circle."

Thank you again to the AOH for putting on a such a nice summer event; we look forward to many more events to come. ■

Molly McHugh is a Toledo native, Co-Host of "Echos of Ireland" radio show, and holds her MSc in Strategy, Innovation and People Management from National University of Ireland, Galway. She can be reached at [molly.mchugh16@gmail.com](mailto:molly.mchugh16@gmail.com)

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**ILLUMINATIONS**

By J. Michael Finn

## Irish Race Congress, Paris 1922

The Irish Race conventions were a series of conventions or congresses held intermittently between 1881 and 1994 by various Irish republican groups. The majority were held in the United States and supported by Irish-American organizations. Others were held in Australia, Argentina, and France.

The reason for these gatherings was to provide a forum to discuss current political activities in Ireland. They



*Delegates to the 1922 Irish Race Congress, Paris*

often included presentations of Irish arts, language and culture. One of the least known, but most revealing, of these gatherings was the Irish Race Congress; it was held in Paris, France on January 21-28, 1922.

The idea of holding a world Irish

Race Congress began in February 1921 with the Irish Republican Association of South Africa. Preliminary work on the project was undertaken by Art O'Brien of the Irish Self-Determination League of Great Britain, and Robert Brennan, under-secretary at the Department of Foreign Affairs in the Second Dáil Éireann.

It was decided to open the congress at the Grand Hotel in Paris on January 21, 1922, the third anniversary of the establishment of the Irish Republic by Dáil Éireann. The South Africans had as their principal aims the international recognition of the Irish Republic and the withdrawal of British troops from Ireland. In addition, the organizers anticipated "a great and proud demonstration of the unity and versatility of the Irish at home and abroad." At least, that was their plan.

On December 6, 1921, the Anglo-Irish Treaty was signed by English and Irish representatives in London. The Treaty established the Irish Free State; removed British troops from Ireland; and reinforced the separation of six counties of Ulster. The Treaty signing ignited political fireworks in the Dáil.

Sinn Féin split into two camps: Anti-Treaty republicans who viewed the Treaty as a betrayal because it failed to grant Ireland republic status; and, Pro-Treaty politicians who viewed the

Treaty as a stepping-stone to eventual republic status. The Anti-Treaty side was led by Éamon de Valera and the Pro-Treaty side was led by Arthur Griffith. Dáil Éireann voted to approve the treaty on January 7, 1922, following a very contentious debate. The vote was 64 in favor of the Treaty and 57 opposed.

On January 9, 1922, the Dáil reassembled and de Valera tendered his resignation as President of the Irish Republic. De Valera, along with his Anti-Treaty delegation, walked out of the Dáil to protest the approval of the Treaty. Despite this political confusion, the parties agreed that the Irish Race Congress must go ahead in Paris on the appointed date.

Ten delegates were chosen to represent Ireland. The Dáil nominated four persons and de Valera was asked to nominate four others to serve as a joint delegation to Paris (de Valera ended up nominating six delegates). The Irish delegation included several well known persons. Among them were Douglas Hyde, Countess de Markievicz, Mary MacSwiney, and Eoin MacNeill.

In addition, the Congress was attended by delegates from South Africa, Australia, United States, New Zealand, United Kingdom, and Argentina. There was even a delegate from Java.

Because de Valera was still want-

ed by British authorities, he had to travel to Paris in disguise and on a faked passport that identified him as a Catholic priest. It was arranged that Father Timothy Shanley of New York, who was visiting Ireland at the time, would accompany him to Paris to reinforce the deception. De Valera arrived safely in Paris in time to be included in the photo of all of the delegates that is shown with this article. This would be one of the last occasions when divided Irish politicians met before the end of the Irish Civil War (June 1922 – May 1923).

A divisive note was sounded from the beginning of the Congress during the inaugural banquet, hosted by Sean T. O'Kelly, the Irish envoy to France. At the banquet, de Valera spoke and proposed a toast to the Republic. This offended some of the Irish and foreign delegates who regarded de Valera's gesture as giving the congress a republican tone.

Michael Hayes, one of the Irish Pro-Treaty delegates, was angry that neither he nor Eoin MacNeill had been asked to speak at the dinner. He accused de Valera of trying to subvert the Congress in favor of the republican point of view.

Most of the business sessions were dominated by conflict and bickering between the Irish delegates. Tuesday's business session was extended by a contentious debate over inserting the word 'full' into one of the proposed resolutions.

On a much more positive note, the Congress featured some memorable lectures given by William Butler Yeats on Anglo-Irish literature; Jack B. Yeats on Irish art; and Douglas Hyde on the Irish language and literature. A concert of Irish music was also given as well as a poetry recitation.

The major agreement by the Congress was to establish Fine Ghaedheal (pron: fin-na gale, meaning Family of the Gael), a single organization that would represent Irish people around the world. The organization's motto was: "Greater than all telling is the destiny God has in mind for Ireland." The motto was clearly written by de Valera.

De Valera understood the importance of controlling Fine Ghaedheal

and using it as a vehicle for the distribution of republican/Anti-Treaty information. He skillfully engineered his own election as chairman of the new organization. He and his supporters saw to it that a managing committee favorable to the republican point of view was elected. Although he accepted the chairmanship as a non-partisan leader, he did all he could to make Fine Ghaedheal an adjunct of his own republican/Anti-Treaty movement.

Eoin MacNeill later declared that de Valera had destroyed the opportunity of Fine Ghaedheal to serve as a vehicle for expressing the unity of the Irish world-wide by making it a purely republican body. MacNeill reported to the Dáil: "From the appointment of delegates by Mr. de Valera down to the last meeting of the Committee appointed in Paris, it was made evident to us that every effort would be made to use the organization for partisan purposes by persons opposed to the Anglo-Irish Treaty."

Because of de Valera's intervention in the process, the new Provisional Government in Dublin showed no enthusiasm for supporting Fine Ghaedheal. When de Valera asked the Dáil to provide funds for the organization, the Dáil turned him down.

As political divisions deepened in Ireland, Fine Ghaedheal became little more than a republican organization and its limited activities had to be funded via republican resources. Sinn Féin had its own financial problems in the mid-nineteen twenties, so Fine Ghaedheal as an organization soon faded into obscurity. Thus the only significant accomplishment of the 1922 Irish Race Congress did not survive. ■

*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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### TAKING THE FIELDS OF GLORY

By Vincent Beach

## Midwest Gaelic Athletic Association

### REGULAR SEASON SCORES

We reported last on games through July 10. Picking up the next week (7/17), the Syracuse men defeated the hosts, Albany Rebels, in Gaelic football by the score of 5-11 (26) to 1-5 (8). Down in Cleveland the same weekend, the Saints hosted a double header at Páirc na Naomh against the footballers – Pittsburgh Celtics and Pittsburgh Banshees.

The ladies squared off first on a very wet day that saw the Lady Saints win their first full-sided match against the Banshees by the final score of 2-3 (9) to 3-5 (14). The Banshees did not go down easily as they scored two late goals. In the second match, the Celtics reigned again. The Saints were competitive in much of the game holding the high scoring Celtics to just one goal (lowest in the season).



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The final score was Pittsburgh 1-10 (13) to Cleveland 0-6 (6).

In hurling, Akron traveled up to Rochester for the final match of the season. Akron won out 5-11 (26) to Rochester 1-7 (10).

We previously missed out on some scoring from the Cincinnati-Detroit series. Back on June 19th Detroit fell to Cincinnati 2-10 (16) to 4-10 (22), but the following weekend were victorious scoring 4-14 (26) to 2-12 (18). The Midwest Invitational

On July 26th on a strip of land between the USA and Canada, the Midwest and Central Division GAA with the help of the Global Games Development Fund and the Detroit Wolfetones GAA hosted the first of hopefully many regional tournaments. On Michigan's Bell Isle State Park, ladies' and gentlemen's football teams competed for the inaugural cup. Matches were kept to fifteen minutes per half except for the finals, which were twenty minutes per half.



Representing the Midwest men were Cleveland, Detroit, and Pittsburgh while Chicago James Joyce stood for the Central Division. The Midwest women included Cleveland and Pittsburgh while Central produced two teams in Chicago Aisling Gaels and Chicago Erin's Rovers. The best teams of each pool of round robin play would meet in the finals.

In the Men's final Pittsburgh beat out the home club of Detroit 0-9 (9) to 0-6 (6). With some excellent scores bombing forward from defense, the Wolfetones' Patrick Newell walked away with the Man of the Tournament belt.

In the Ladies' final Chicago Aisling Gaels beat the Cleveland ladies 5-8 (23) to 1-3 (6). The Woman of the Tournament belt went to the Aisling Gaels' Sinead Molloy.

### THE MIDWEST DIVISION FINALS

The regular season determines the seeding for the weekend long tournament held this year in Pittsburgh. The winners at each level of the competition go on to represent the Midwest at the USGAA Finals.

For Ladies' football there were only two teams: Cleveland St. Pat's – St. Jarlath's GAA (aka the Saints) and Pittsburgh Pucas. The championship was held on Sunday and the game lived up to the hype that is becoming

this great rivalry again. The Banshees came out strong in the first half, but Cleveland won the second half stifling scoring opportunities. The early scores became the difference in the game, as the Banshees raised the cup in front of a home crowd with the final score of 1-12 to 1-8. Both teams will represent the Midwest: Pittsburgh as Junior B and Cleveland as Junior C (Development Level).

Hurling in the Midwest continues to grow and now includes four teams. With Roc City and Cleveland being in their first three years of existence, they can qualify for the developmental level. Bids for the USGAA Finals were won by Pittsburgh Pucas (Junior C) and Cleveland (Junior D).

### USGAA FINALS

This year's finals were held in Boston on August 20, 21, and 22. Good luck, Midweshhht abú!

### OHIO CELTIC FESTIVAL

The Cleveland Saints are gearing up to have a few matches at this year's festival in Mentor. Contact Cleveland-gaa@gmail.com if you are interested in playing; there will be youth games and an over forties "masters" game.

### CLE YOUTH

The youth sessions will continue each Sunday from 3PM-4:15PM for football and 4:15 to 5:30 for hurling each Sunday at the WSIA. All ages will play at the same time on different areas of the pitch. New players are always welcome. We review skills and drills, and then let the players scrimmage. Check the ClevelandGAA.com website for registration.

### AL O'LEARY

The annual tournament will be held by the Akron Celtic Guards on October 2. Reach out to Akron for more details on this great hurling and camogie tournament.

### CLEVELAND GAA GOLF OUTING

Cleveland will be back out whacking in the annual golf outing on October 9th at Copper Top in Valley City. Check the Club website or social media for more details on the scramble and dinner special.

### 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



Midwest Invitational Man of the Tournament Patrick Newell.



Midwest Invitational Woman of the Tournament Sinead Molloy.

Thursdays at the WSIA – both starting at 6:30PM. The hurlers are now training at Edgewater Park (lower rug-by field) at 6PM. The Ladies' will continue with twice a week sessions on Wednesdays and Fri-days at Impett, starting at 6:30PM. Please visit the club website or contact the club directly to stay up to

date on schedules, as the summer times and days could change with sunlight and game schedules.

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



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munity with you. Consider getting involved at any level. Special shout out this month to Pipefitter's Local 120 who are helping us prepare for next year's 7-a-side tournament and for expanding the use of our fields for the youth program by welding up some backstop posts. Local 120's finest includes Marty Somerville, Danny Gallagher, and John McGowen. Fáilte (welcome) to all. The Gaelic Athletic Association is Ireland's largest sporting organization and a bit of home for the Irish abroad here in the US of A. Beyond sports, the Association also promotes Irish music, song and dance, and the Irish language as an integral part of its objectives. Cleveland GAA is open to all who

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

Follow @ClevelandGaelic on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter for the 2020 activities for Men, Women, and Youth. Or visit ClevelandGAA.com. ■

Vincent Thomas Francis Xavier Beach is a proud Greater Clevelander and emigrant of Michigan. He joined the St. Pat's Gaelic Football Club in 1999 and, with much help, is the current caretaker of the Cleveland GAA.

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# Festival Focus 2021



## 19th Kansas City Irish Fest SEPTEMBER 3 - 5

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PLUS: 300 world-class musicians, dancers, folklorists, storytellers, comedians and performers will entertain on seven different KCIF stages, including Gaelic Storm, We Banjo 3, The Young Dubliners, Scythian, Danny Burns and many more to be announced. PLUS: Genealogy; Culture Stage and Heritage Displays and more than 20 interactive workshops; TWO Children's Villages; An Irish marketplace; outdoor Catholic Mass (9:30 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 5th); Art in the Park; The Snug, Irish Fest's members-only VIP pub (for everyone!); Whiskey Tasting Tent; Irish Breakfast Sunday @11 am from renowned Irish chef Shaun Brady

The Kansas City Irish Fest is held at Crown Center Square – Downtown Kansas City:

A complete list of performers and other info can be found on-line at [www.kcirishtest.com](http://www.kcirishtest.com) [facebook.com/kansascityirishfest](https://www.facebook.com/kansascityirishfest) \* <http://www.instagram.com/kcirishtest/> \* [www.twitter.com/kcirishtest](https://www.twitter.com/kcirishtest)



## 30th Pittsburgh Irish Festival SEPTEMBER 10-12

Featuring: Gaelic Storm, Screaming Orphans, We Banjo 3, Rory Makem, Colm Keegan of Celtic Thunder, Brother Angus, The Bow Tides (Katie Grennan, Jessie Burns, and Ellery Klein), Bastard Bearded Irishman, Dennis Doyle, Corned Beef & Curry, Donnie Irish, and The Wild Geese. safely serving all Festival favorite foods featuring Irish Stew, Bread Pudding, Fish and Chips, and Shepherd's Pie, and providing fun and educational programming for all ages!

The Pittsburgh Irish Festival is also exploring options for virtual offerings for those not yet comfortable attending an in-person event. Discounted advanced tickets for the 2021 Pittsburgh Irish Festival are currently available at [pghirishfest.org](http://pghirishfest.org). Full refunds will be provided in the event of cancellation due to the pandemic.

PIF will be held at The Lots at Sandcastle in Pittsburgh. Visit [www.pghirishfest.org](http://www.pghirishfest.org). Fun for the entire family. For updates and more info, check: [Facebook.com/PittsburghIrishFestival](https://www.facebook.com/PittsburghIrishFestival) \* [Twitter: @pittsburghirish](https://www.twitter.com/pittsburghirish) \* [Instagram: @pghirishfest](https://www.instagram.com/pghirishfest)



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## IRISH AT HEART

By Natalie Keller

# Get to Work with the Working Holiday Visa

I'm not Irish by blood. In fact, I'm mostly German and Hungarian. However, the tapestry of my heart is a colorful and eclectic one, sewn together by flags of many different nationalities, all blowing together in one wind. The countries that I have visited throughout my life — particularly the countries where I've lived for long periods of time, England and Ireland, have become as much a part of my identity as, say, my Eastern European descent or American citizenship.

While it's not possible to choose our heritage or birth country, it is possible, even imperative, to visit other countries, appreciate varied cultures and religions, read foreign literature, and forge multinational friendships. In these days of rampant nationalism, citizens everywhere are obsessed with national pride in a way that promotes large-scale superiority complexes. This summer, as people all over the globe tuned in to the Olympics, social media spurred an "us versus them" mentality, plastering Facebook with a day-by-day tally of which country had won the most medals. Although the philosophy behind the competition is to promote world unity, many see it as an opportunity to prove their country is one cut above the rest.

In my own country, I feel bombarded by patriotic rhetoric daily. We vow that America is the greatest country in the world despite its shortcomings in health-care, reproductive rights, race relations, and income equality. I love my country, but I believe that love is a multi-faceted force which must celebrate and criticize in turn, and that national pride without self-critique is not true patriotism, but blind fanaticism.



A rainbow captured from my apartment window in Galway.

One way to combat this trend is world-travelling. My first sojourn abroad was a month-long visit to France following my senior year of high school. As a child, it was difficult to imagine a world beyond the borders of my country or even the Midwest, but on the cusp of adulthood, I set foot on another continent, and the planet felt suddenly vast and enormous. And it only grew larger. At twenty, I studied abroad in England for a year, and at twenty-two, after earning my bachelor's degree, I moved to Ireland.

During those years, I learned that the countries we visit become a fundamental part of us, expanding who we are, how we see the larger world, and whether we feel compassion, rather than contempt, for those who fly a different flag.

### WORKING HOLIDAY AUTHORIZATION VISA

So what opportunities are out there for the average person to travel or live abroad? And how is any of this pertinent to Ireland, or American Irish relations? This is where the little-known Working Holiday Authorization Visa comes in, and how I managed to live abroad in Ireland as a penniless college grad.

In 2008, Ireland and the U.S. signed an agreement creating the Intern Work and Travel Pilot Programme, which allows recent college graduates of both nations to live and work in the opposite country for up to one year. The qualifications for citizens of both countries are almost identical: anyone over the age of 18 who is either enrolled in college full-time or has

graduated from college within the past twelve months is eligible to apply. The program is a celebration of cross-cultural exchange: the Embassy of Ireland describes it as reflecting "the close historical and cultural links between Ireland and the United States."

US citizens can download the application form from the website of the Department of Foreign Affairs and submit it to their regional Consulate, along with a handful of supplementary documents, such as bank statements, travel medical insurance, and the \$350 visa fee.

Irish citizens should consult the websites of the US Embassy in Dublin and the US Department of State for more information about the visa. There's also a phenomenal guide available at [migrantproject.ie](http://migrantproject.ie).

For those searching for an unconventional postgraduate experience, look no further. The visa is relatively affordable and attainable to anyone who has graduated college. Though applications are currently on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the two governments aim to resume processing Working Holiday visas once circumstances allow.

### LIVING ABROAD

The opportunity to live abroad, not merely to travel, but to make a home there, changes us in more profound ways than a two-week sightseeing jaunt. Beyond its advantages for cultural understanding, the Working Holiday visa is a "growing up" experience like no other.

With the company of two friends, I

moved to Ireland and forged my own path. We built a life from the ground-up, crashing in an Air BnB while we secured jobs and an apartment in Galway, set up bank accounts, and obtained PPS numbers and residence permits, all of which enabled us to feel at home in Ireland.

While my study abroad year in England was guided by various mentors and professors, I was the sole orchestrator of my time in Ireland. It was perhaps the first time in my life that I felt like a true adult. Now that I have returned to the States, Ireland is still with me wherever I go. During my time there, I made a lifelong friend who now exchanges Christmas gifts and birthday cards with me across the Atlantic.

When I first met my fellow contributor to this newsmagazine, Regina Costello, at a recent new job, her accent was music to my ears. How strange, that two prior residents of Galway should cross paths in Medina, Ohio! Bonding over this shared past, we became instant friends; yet another example of how world-traveling can enrich your life.

When it comes to nationality, I am inspired by history's great thinkers: Socrates, who said, "I am a citizen, not of Athens or Greece, but of the world"; Thomas Paine, who declared, "The world is my country, all mankind are my brethren, and to do good is my religion"; and Bahá'u'lláh, who wrote so beautifully, "The earth is but one country, and mankind its citizens." I am far prouder to be a member of humanity than a member of some exclusive club; a citizen of Earth rather than simply a citizen of America.

So, from the moment I set foot on the grass outside Shannon Airport, my heart bloomed green. Though I have since returned to America, my soul will always be overjoyed in the coffee-aftertaste of Guinness, the merriment of Irish jigs, the poetry of William Butler Yeats, and the sight of jagged green cliffs jutting out over an open ocean. ■

*Natalie Keller is a graduate of Kenyon College and a former resident of Galway, Ireland. Her poetry and fiction have appeared in various online platforms, and she is currently editing a novel, much of which is set in the Emerald Isle. She loves to hear from readers at [nataliekeller.writer@gmail.com](mailto:nataliekeller.writer@gmail.com).*

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## An Ghaeilge

A new session of Speak Irish Cleveland is about to begin, and hopefully, many of you will be joining us in person to study and use the Irish language. Much of what follows has been covered in previous issues, but is valuable and is included in new student handouts for our class at PJ McIntyre's every Tuesday night, starting September 14th.

There are three regional dialects in Irish: Donegal, Galway and Kerry, as well as an official dialect that was established during the language reform of 1950. The official dialect is what is taught in schools, on-line courses and many self-learning materials.

There are eighteen letters in the Irish alphabet, ABCDEFGHILMNOPRSTU, although you will see the remaining letters of the English alphabet used

in loan words. Vowels can be long or short, indicated by a mark over the vowel called a fada (fah-da), which means long.

Vowels and consonants are broad or slender. Sentence structure is common to other European languages: verb, noun or pronoun, adjective. Although spelling can seem daunting at first, vowels that appear to be extra or unnecessary are there to aid in the pronunciation of the word.

### THE FADA

The fada over the vowel makes it a long vowel, changing it's sound, and the word's meaning as well. The vowels are also grouped into two categories: broad or slender; a o and u are broad while e and i are slender.

Whether the vowel is broad or slender affects the pronunciation of the consonant next to it. The spelling rule is, "Leathan le leathan agus caol le caol" (leh-in leh leh-in ah-gus keel leh keel) "Broad with broad and slender with slender." You will never see a consonant between a slender vowel and a broad vowel.

Typically broad consonants are pronounced as they would be in English, with some exceptions in the letters d and t. Slender consonants can be a bit

trickier; they can be pronounced as they might be in English or with a faint y sound at the very end. For example, in the word beo, which means alive, the b is slender because it is next to the letter e, a slender vowel, so the word is pronounced b-yeo.

### Vowels

#### Short

a – uh  
e – eh  
i – ih  
o – uh  
u – uh

#### Consonants Broad

b – b as in ball  
c – k as in cat  
d – d as in dot  
f – f as in fawn  
g – g as in gone  
h – h as in hall  
l – l as in law  
r – r as in raw  
s – s as in saw  
t – t as in top

As you may have noticed, many consonants produce the same sound broad or slender, but they can be changed by softening or eclipsing them. Some consonants can be affected by both of these changes and some only by one.

#### Long

á – aw  
é – ay  
í – ee  
ó – oh  
ú – oo

#### Slender

b – b as in bill  
c – ky as in cute  
d – dj as in jar  
f – f as in fee  
g – gy as in regiment  
h – h as in heel  
l – l as in leap  
r – r as in read  
s – sh as in sheep  
t – tch as in itch

The letters l, n and r cannot be softened or eclipsed. The letter h rarely appears without another consonant and it too cannot be softened or eclipsed.

Pronunciation is consistent, if you encounter a word such as sláinte (slawn-cha), which means health, and you come across the word táinte, with similar spelling, chances are the pronunciation will be very close (tawn-cha), which means wealth.

A popular toast or saying is, "Is fearr an t-sláinte na táinte" (iss far ahn tlaw-cha na tawn-cha), Health is better than wealth.

### SÉIMHIÚ AGUS URÚ

You may have noticed the letter t in front of the word sláinte in the above phrase. It changed the way we say the word, but not it's meaning. The beginnings of Irish words can be changed by the words that precede them. These changes can be confusing at first, but soon become quite natural. In séimhiú (shay-voe) or lenition, the intent is a softening of the word to allow the language to flow better. This is achieved by placing the letter h after the first letter of words starting with the following consonants and change the pronunciation of the letter.

*Continued on facing page*

## Speak Irish

*Continued from previous page*

### Séimhiú Sounds

#### Broad

b – bh – w as in water  
c – ch – k as in lake  
d – dh – gh as in rogue  
f – fh – silent  
g – gh – gh as in rogue  
m – mh – w as in water  
p – ph – f as in fawn  
s – sh – h as in hall  
t – th – h as in hall

#### Slender

b – bh – v as in void  
c – ch – khy as in loch  
d – dh – y as in you  
f – fh – silent  
g – gh – y as in you  
m – mh – v as in void  
p – ph – fy as in fuel  
s – sh – hy as in huge  
t – th – hy as in huge

### URÚ

Urú (uh-roo) is the process of eclipsing, that is to put a new letter in front of the initial letter of a word and to pronounce that letter in place of the original first letter. Below is a list of the consonants that can be eclipsed and the letters that are used to eclipse them.

b – mb  
c – gc  
d – nd  
f – bhf  
g – ng  
p – bp  
t – dt

The letter s, instead of being softened, will sometimes have a t in front of it. That happens when the word is a feminine noun starting with s and following the definite article an (ahn).

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## TERRY FROM DERRY

By Terry Boyle

# What We Want Isn't Always What We Need

*'There are only two tragedies in life: one is not getting what one wants, and the other is getting it.'*

—Oscar Wilde

These days, it is always difficult to write something that is not related to either politics or the pandemic. Of course, sometimes I think politics can have more negative effects than the virus. At least, with the virus, we know its agenda and purpose. Covid-19 is non-discriminating.

It treats the believer and unbeliever with the same disregard. Money or status make no impression on a biological

entity that views our species as a means of survival. When we compare the actions of the virus to that of the politics in our country, it's hard to know which is to be worried about more.

Power in the wrong hands is as deadly as the virus. Sometimes the politician's plan appears as one thing on the surface, while their real goal lies buried beneath a shallow grave of rhetoric. When it comes to political speak, it's more than simply reading between the lines (that would be easy if we believed politicians were truthful).

### DANGEROUS COURSE

The lines only appear when politicians are forced to be transparent. When, as we've seen recently, disinformation becomes the beloved word of a former president, then we know we're in trouble. If someone in power ever admits to disengaging people from the truth, it should raise a very big red flag. However, the ex-president's recent distractions regarding election fraud are yet another attempt to blind us to the dangerous ecological course we're on.

There is little doubt in anyone's mind that the path we're presently on has become increasingly apocalyptic. Having ignored scientists' warnings, and chosen to listen to politicians (who serve not the

interests of the ordinary person but the needs of large corporations), we have doomed ourselves to a very uncertain future.

Businesses are happy to satisfy our wants, so long as we don't question the damage they, and we are doing to our world. Wildfires, rising temperatures, polar caps melting are a result of our irresponsible actions. Heat domes killing hundreds of people, wildfires destroying whole communities, and any number of floods can be traced back to us. Our world is crying out to be heard, and if politicians are not addressing any of these problems, they may not be serving your needs.

### WILDE WORDS

I'm sure the words of Wilde above would make any large corporation happy. The amount of money spent in creating the notion that you can attain your dream is almost beyond belief. Businesses have tricked us into believing that 'all things are possible if only we believe.'

Disney peddles this notion to millions of children who grow up believing in the unattainable dream. Reality shows love it when contestants use the refrain, 'I always believed I could do it if I tried hard enough.'

The idea that we can simply make things happen if we try hard enough is not a reality for most people. For most of us, myself included, we don't always get what we want, no matter much effort we put into believing.

Instead of ditching the impossible dream as just that, impossible, we simply believe it's our fault for not trying hard enough or it's not our turn. We need to see who benefits most from this ridiculous notion; the record makers, filmmakers, television and any a host of commercial interests indoctrinate us into believing. When we're too old to make the dream happen, we believe it for our kids or grandkids.

When people are desperate, they are easy pickings for the con artist. History has shown us over and over again, how politicians have promised much and delivered little, and yet; we keep hoping they will not disappoint us.

Mark Twain said, 'humor is tragedy plus time.' The American satirist knew that when it comes to personal loss, given time, we deal with the pain by joking about it. We deflect the tragic impetus by making light of it.

### COPING

This coping mechanism is not a bad thing. But we should not allow ourselves

to become the joke when we are skeptical of those who are trying to win us over with clichés and overused aphorisms. The real tragedy would be to not question everything and give in to popular opinion.

It's easy to be bullied into being a team player and cajoled out of natural cynicism if you're prepared to not trust your own judgment. If someone wants you to believe in any cause, it's only fair to ask why. Where is the evidence? It's not enough to take someone's word.

When it comes to the virus, who am I to believe? A politician who knows nothing about viruses, or an expert? If my life is at risk, I am not going to believe someone who thinks vaccines are the government's way of tracking you or someone who plays down the devastating effects of infection.

The key to Wilde's idea of tragedy lies in the word 'want'. We all want something, but the human species does not survive on what it wants. We continue as a race when we get what we need and not what we want (if you're humming a Rolling Stones song now, you're showing your age).

Our needs are basic: shelter, food and the means to sustain our existence. When we see our wants as luxuries and not necessities, then our priorities can begin to change, and we can move forward to heal our planet.

Our dependency on fossil fuels and convenience may make us happy, but if our happiness leads to drastic changes in climate, shouldn't we forego those wants for what we need, a safe place to live. Our myopic view of life will take us to the edge of our existence if we don't look beyond our wants. If we continue to listen to large corporations and politicians whose sole interest lies in monetary gain, and who do not address the global climate crisis, we're well and truly (fill in the blank)!

People who are beginning to wake up from the dream have to face the nightmare that we're really in. Nature, unlike us, cannot be bought or persuaded with idle promises or wishful thinking. We can't control or negotiate with the climate.

If we want to live an existence that is not teetering on the edge of a precipice, we must learn to live in harmony with nature. We need to listen to those who are more interested in our basic needs and less interested in padding out the wallets of commercial moguls. ■

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## COLUMBUS IRISH

By Molly Truex

Fashionable footwear for the event.



Golf Outing Chair Brian O'Reilly (far left) and Team O'Reilly.

President Andrew Shuman (far right) and team.



Team Archibald won the whole outing as well as the Beer in the Bush Award (again).



Team Byrne



VP Karen Komatsu (far right) and team.



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## THE FITNESS DOCTOR

By Dr. Frederick Peters

# Drink Coffee After Breakfast Not Before, For Better Metabolic Control

A new study looked at the combined effects of disrupted sleep and caffeine on our metabolism - with surprising results. A strong, black coffee to wake you up after a bad night's sleep could impair control of blood sugar levels, according to a new study. Research from the Center for Nutrition, Exercise & Metabolism at the University of Bath

(UK) looked at the effect of interrupted sleep and morning coffee across a range of different metabolic markers.

Writing in the British Journal of Nutrition, the scientists show that while one night of poor sleep has limited impact on our metabolism, drinking coffee to perk you up from a slumber can have a negative effect on blood glucose (sugar) control. Given the importance of keeping our blood sugar levels within a safe range to reduce the risk of conditions such as diabetes and heart disease, they say these results could have 'far-reaching' health implications especially considering the global popularity of coffee.

For their study, the physiologists at the University of Bath asked twenty-nine healthy men and women to undergo three different overnight experiments in a random order:

- In one, condition participants had a normal night's sleep and were asked to consume a sugary drink on waking in the morning.
- On another occasion, participants experienced a disrupted night's sleep (where the researchers woke them every hour for five min-

utes) and then upon waking were given the same sugary drink.

- On another, participants experienced the same sleep disruption (i.e., being woken through-out the night) but this time were first given a strong black coffee thirty minutes before consuming the sugary drink.

In each of these tests, blood samples from participants were taken following the glucose drink which in energy content (calories) mirrored what might typically be consumed for breakfast.

Their findings highlight that one night of disrupted sleep did not worsen participants' blood glucose / insulin responses at breakfast, when compared to a normal night's sleep. Past research suggests that losing many hours of sleep over one and/or multiple nights can have negative metabolic effects, so it is reassuring to learn that a single night of fragmented sleep (e.g., due to insomnia, noise disturbance or a new baby) does not have the same effect.

### STRONG BLACK COFFEE

However, strong black coffee consumed before breakfast substantially in-

creased the blood glucose response to breakfast by around 50%. Although population-level surveys indicate that coffee may be linked to good health, past research has previously demonstrated that caffeine has the potential to cause insulin resistance. This new study therefore reveals that the common remedy of drinking coffee after a bad night's sleep may solve the problem of feeling sleepy but could create another by limiting your body's ability to tolerate the sugar in your breakfast.

This study is important and has far-reaching health implications, as up until now, we have had limited knowledge about what this is doing to our bodies, for our metabolic and blood sugar control.

Put simply, our blood sugar control is impaired when the first thing our bodies encounter is coffee, especially after a night of disrupted sleep. ■

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## MADIGAN MUSES

By Marilyn Madigan

# Day of Heroes

This September, we will remember a solemn anniversary in our nation's history. It is hard to believe that twenty years ago our world changed forever, with the tragic events of September 11, 2001. All Americans alive on that day remember exactly where they were and what they were doing.

I was working in the operating room

at University Hospitals when one of our nurses came in to inform us about the first plane hitting the World Trade Center. We all were concerned but continued as professionals. Two of us in that room had family members living in the New York City area and were very concerned for their safety.

I was working with my favorite Surgeon, Dr Tom Stellato, whose daughter lived in Brooklyn. He finished his case and left the room with a very worried look on his face. The phone rang into the room, and it was his secretary.

I told the Circulating Nurse to go get him. His secretary was calling to tell him that his daughter was safe. All of us in that room were very relieved.

As soon as the case left the room, I attempted to call my cousin Casey, but the phone lines could not handle the volume of calls. Finally, that evening,

Casey was able to email her family and friends to let us know that Jim and she were safe. What a relief.

Most of the Surgical Cases for the rest of the day were postponed, except for emergencies, in case blood and supplies were needed to be sent to New York. Sadly, most of the victims were fatalities and these items and personnel were not needed to help in NYC.

When I was able to go home that day, I remember the eerie silence of no planes flying over my home, which is about a mile from the Cleveland Airport. I was glued to the TV for the evening, watching the news coverage of this tragic day.

What made a lasting impression for me was how people were helping each other as then ran from the burning towers, the Pentagon and how those on Flight 93 fought to prevent further massive casualties by sacrificing their own lives. They were everyday heroes.

The heroes of that day were those of the New York area safety forces. New York's bravest, the firefighters were running into the buildings and others were running out. 343 members of the New York Fire Department lost their lives in the service of others.

Fr. Mychal Judge, the Chaplain of the Fire Department, was the first listed death on this tragic day. Twenty-three of New York's Finest of the Police Department and the Port Authority also lost their lives in the service of others on that awful day.

That November, I was in New York visiting my cousin for Thanksgiving. My cousin Rita and I went down to Ground Zero.

As soon as we arrived, we could

smell and see the burning remains of the Towers. Everyone we passed was crying, and as you got closer to the site, the expressions of people went from sadness to anger. How dare this happen to us.

The tragic effects of that day are still with us. The families that lost their loved ones on the day; on the planes, Towers and Pentagon should continue to be in our prayers as they continue without these important people in their lives. We also need to pray for those who have mental, and physical health concerns from the aftermath of working at the site on that day and the many months. Many of these individuals have lost their lives over the past twenty years.

Many individuals have not been supporting our Police and Fire these past few years. These individuals need to look back at the events of September 11, 2001 and see the sacrifice that the finest and bravest and their families made that day. I believe that our country owes them and all that lost their lives on that day or because of effects of that day to always remember them as patriots. ■

Marilyn Madigan is the National Vice President of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians and a Deputy Director of the United Irish Societies of Cleveland. She received a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from St. John College and retired from Nursing at University Hospitals of Cleveland.

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## ON THIS DAY IN IRISH HISTORY SEPTEMBER

**1 September 1830** - "The Wild Colonial Boy", Dublin-born John Donohue (aka Jack Duggan) is shot dead in Australia. Transported from Ireland in 1824, he became a bush-ranger and celebrated criminal.

**3 September 1972** - Mary Peters of Belfast took the gold medal in the woman's pentathlon at the Olympic Games in Munich, with a world record of 4801 points.

**5 September 1724** - Jonathan Swift's Drapier Letter III is published. "Drapier Letters" is the collective name for a series of seven pamphlets written between 1724-1725 by the Dean of St. Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin, Jonathan Swift, to arouse public opinion in Ireland against the imposition of a privately minted copper coinage, which Swift believed to be of inferior quality.

**9 September 1845** - The arrival of the potato blight is reported in the Dublin Evening Post.

**11 September 1649** - The Massacre at Drogheda in which Cromwell captures

the town and slaughters nearly 4,000 people, occurs.

**16 September 1941** - Sixteen Irish soldiers are killed in an explosion whilst conducting tests with anti-tank mines in the Glen of Imaal, Co. Wicklow. This was the worst disaster in the history of Irish defense forces.

**20 September 1803** - Robert Emmett, United Irishmen, is hanged.

**21 September 1881** - Revolutionary Eamon Ceannt, one of seven signatories of the Proclamation of the Republic, is born in Glenawaddy Co. Galway.

**24 September 1880** - Mayo landlord Captain Charles Boycott attempts to exploit workers on land he manages and is sent to "Moral Coventry" (or "boycotted") by the local rural community.

**28 September 1912** - Ulster Day - led by Sir Edward Carson, 237,368 men signed Ulster's Solemn League and Covenant at locations throughout Ulster. 234,046 women signed a parallel declaration.

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## BLOWIN' IN

By Susan Mangan

@SueMangan

# Blackberry Season Begins

Sunlight dips like foam atop an undulating tide across the rocky hills and heathered pastures of County Mayo. Stone appears textured like fawn colored velvet. Deep greens lighten to mint beneath the dappled gloaming of late summer.

Changing light mystifies the beholder into believing that that which is unyielding is supple, that which is hard is soft. Mist falls over a tumble of blackberry brambles that line every lane and barbed wire fence. The last rays of summer soften the blackberry thorns turning the tight green balls a

new shade of dark crimson.

Soon the berries will ripen. Crimson fruit will swell into a rich purple, until the juice falls in lamentation of the inevitable change in seasons.

The irony of this vision does not escape me. Change arrives like the rise and fall of the tide. Children grow and leave the nest much like fledgling birds. Except, humans tend to hold fast to their young rather than nudging them out of their snug homes before they learn to fly.

Metaphor aside, autumn smacks of reality. Children go to school, teenagers leave for college, and young adults seek post graduate degrees. The unsuspecting mother holds her baby through endless nights, blinks, and soon the child is no longer a child. As the leaves change from green to autumnal gold, a new narrative unfolds during this brief time that I have named the Blackberry Season.

Autumn has always been my favorite season. I enjoy the riot of colors and the smell of woodsmoke in the air. As a girl, my mother would bring me to September harvest festivals; there we would indulge in candy apples, freshly

pressed cider, and pumpkin fritters, while yellow jackets vied for the last taste of our treats.

At home, we hung cardboard black cats and jack o' lanterns on every window even though summer had barely relinquished to autumn. Ironically, my mother lived her best life during this beautiful season and died as the September leaves gave sway to October bronze. Poet Archibald MacLeish once wrote, "I praise the fall: it is the human season."

As we are entering our third autumn since my mother's death, I often think about this quote. Autumn is filled with unexplained mystery. How can something that is as beautiful as a maple blazing red against a crisp blue sky indicate the death of a season filled with light?

Darkness and light are conjoined. Leaves may fall, but they will sprout anew and gloriously gold in the spring, like the phoenix rising from ash. This is the paradox of autumn.

The night my mother died, she texted me about her recollection of the "blackberry column" I had written the year prior: "Remind me to tell you about the blackberries that grew in the red clay of southern Missouri." That night my mother thought of the native soil from which she grew and the brambles that reached out across time mingling with my memories, my writings, my love for her. This recollection proved to be her final words to me.

I have always wanted to travel to Ireland and see the ripened blackberries that tangle unabashedly amid the country hedgerows. My mother and I visited Ireland together once before I was married and yet again when my children were small. She spent time

picking wildflowers with her grandchildren as they walked amid the lanes chirping like meadowlarks.

Funny that she never noticed the blackberries that choked the wild fuchsia, until I wrote about this country image many years later. I imagine she was enjoying her best life, hand in hand with each of her three grandchildren and had more time for flowers than unripe blackberries.

And so it is that the years have passed, and the children have grown. Blackberry Season again falls upon my heart and mind.

This year is more than bittersweet as my youngest child is beginning college, while my oldest is leaving home for law school. I know my mother would be proud, because next to health and happiness, she valued education. Though my mother never saw the Irish blackberries blush purple, she surely marveled at the perseverance that the Missouri blackberries must have possessed to grow strong and sweet amid the challenge of hard, red clay.

As death approached, my mother continued to write her narrative of the human season and gifted me with a metaphor that gives me pause and comfort, sadness and clarity. Perhaps this lesson is the truth of Blackberry Season. ■

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

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## COOKING UP A HOOLEY

By Katie Gagne

# Savory, Simple, and Satisfying Mussels & Brown Bread

Summer is winding down and you've had your fill of those seasonal salads and picnic foods, yet you are not ready for full-on cozy, comfort dishes. This very tasty and quick meal is satisfying, and full of lots of flavor.

## SPICED MUSSELS WITH IRISH BROWN BREAD

### Ingredients:

- 4 lbs PEI Mussels
- 1 stick (8 tbsp) Unsalted Butter
- 3 tbsp Worcestershire Sauce
- 1 large Carrot - peeled and diced
- 1 medium Red Pepper -- diced
- 2 large shallots -- diced
- 1 Lemon - cut into slices
- Juice and Zest of 1 Lemon
- 1 tsp Kosher Salt
- 1 tsp Black Pepper
- 2 Bay Leaves
- 1 bottle of your favorite Irish beer. I love red ales like Smithwick's for this
- 1 ½ cups Heavy Cream
- Optional Fresh Herbs - Parsley, Fennel, Lemon Thyme, Lemon Verbena
- I used approx. ½ cup total of these herbs minced

### Directions

Place mussels in a large bowl filled with cold water and allow to sit for thirty minutes.

Remove each mussel and scrub the outside of each to remove any dirt. Remove any strands of fibers (beards) hanging out of the mussels. Discard any mussels that are cracked or open.

Place cleaned mussels on a towel to dry as you prepare the broth.

In a large pot - sauté the carrots, garlic cloves, red pepper, shallots in the butter

over medium heat for approximately 3-4 minutes.

Add in the lemon slices, Worcestershire Sauce, salt, pepper, bay leaves, and beer. Cook for another five minutes until the liquid reduces by half.

Add in the lemon juice and zest, heavy cream and optional herbs and continue cooking for another three to four minutes until it thickens a bit.

Add in the mussels, put a lid on the pot, and cook for another five to six minutes until the mussels open.

Spoon mussels into serving bowl and ladle the broth over the mussels.

Serve with the brown bread.

Serves 4 people.

## IRISH BROWN BREAD WITH SUNDRIED TOMATOES AND ASIAGO CHEESE

While this is most assuredly not your traditional Irish Brown Bread, the addition of the tomatoes and cheese adds delicious flavor to this sweet and crusty bread.

### Ingredients:

- 2 cups Whole wheat Flour
- 2 cups AP Flour
- 2 tsp Kosher Salt
- 2 tsp Garlic Powder
- ½ cup Rolled Oats
- 1 tsp Baking Soda
- 1 ¾ cup Buttermilk
- 2 tbsp Molasses
- 2 cups shredded Asiago Cheese
- ½ cup chopped Sundried Tomatoes (from a jar - packed in oil)

### Directions

Preheat oven to 400\*

Line a round cake pan or cast-iron skillet with parchment paper

In a medium bowl, stir together all dry ingredients.

Add molasses to buttermilk and stir until combined

Make a small well in the dry ingredients and pour the buttermilk mixture into it and with a wooden spoon or rubber spatula mix until a soft stick dough forms.

Add in the cheese and tomatoes and mix until they are fully incorporated.

With well-floured hands, put dough on floured surface and knead a few times and form into a round mound.

Place the round loaf into the pan and cut a cross on the top.

Bake at 400\* for fifteen minutes, then reduce the heat to 350\* and continue baking for approximately twenty to twenty-five minutes.

Once the bread is fully cooked, remove from the oven and drizzle with salty,



sweet mixture and return to oven for two minutes.

Remove from oven and allow to rest for fifteen minutes. This can be served warm or at room temperature with butter. Of course, its terrific to use to sop up the broth from the mussels.

## SALTY-SWEET DRIZZLE

In a small bowl or cup, stir together 1 ½ tsp Kosher Salt, 1 cup Granulated Sugar, and enough water to make a glaze. ■

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

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# What is the Uninsured” and ‘Under-Insured” Automobile Coverage?

## Probably the Most Important Auto Insurance You Can Get – But May Not Have

By Michael O’Shea

Go into that office desk drawer and pull out your auto policy - now. Look to see if you have “uninsurance” or “under-insurance” coverage. It could likely be the most important auto insurance coverage you can have for yourself and your family. So, what is it, and what does it cover?

If you are in an auto accident that is not your fault, the person who caused the accident may not (a) have any insurance at all or (b) may have very minimal coverage. In either case, if you have “uninsurance” coverage (to cover you if the bad driver has no insurance) or “under-insurance” coverage (to cover you for damages that exceed the limits of the bad driver), then you should get the compensation your injuries and damages deserve.

Here is an example of what I mean: You are on your way home from work. The bad driver crashes a light and hits you broadside destroying your car and putting you in the hospital with serious injuries. The driver has zero insurance, and your car repair, your hospital bills and your lost income exceeds \$350,000.00 (which can easily happen in a serious car accident). If you have “uninsurance” coverage, your own insurance carrier



will take the place of the insurance carrier that should have been in place for the bad driver. Your own insurance carrier will pay the \$350,000 claim (if you have the right limits).

Another example: Same scenario as above. Except that the bad driver only had an auto insurance policy with limits of \$100,000. In that case, your own insurance carrier will, after the bad driver’s auto policy pays the \$100,000 limits, pay you \$250,000 to cover the difference of the bad driver’s policy and the value of your claim.

Way too many clients find out AFTER a serious accident with a person without insurance or with minimal insurance that the “under-insured” and “uninsured” coverage in their policy was absent or VERY insufficient. Getting a good amount of uninsured or under-insurance cov-

erage is relatively small in proportion to the coverage you carry for damage you might do yourself. But you have to actually ask the insurance broker or company to add this coverage to your policy and to add the right amount to your policy.

Do not get small limits for this type of uninsured and under-insured coverage. Go big. If you just get \$25,000, and the accident is serious, this amount of coverage will not mean very much. There is not that much proportional increase in premiums you pay for much greater coverage here. I would suggest nothing less than \$500,000.

We just had another client who had a serious automobile accident. Her medical bills total over \$100,000.00 - and those bills are going to continue to climb. The person who caused the accident had only \$100,000.00

worth of coverage - and the health insurance carrier who is responsible for paying our client’s medical bills has what the law calls a “subrogation” right to seize the insurance proceeds of the person who caused the accident.

So, in the case we have now, the health insurance carriers will try to seize ALL of the \$100,000.00 of the auto insurance proceeds (we will fight this of course). Sadly for our client, her “under-insured” and “uninsured” coverage was only \$25,000 - the state minimum. What a disaster for the client.

As we have posted before on our blog, we suggest nothing less than \$500,000 worth of liability coverage to protect your own assets - and an equal \$500,000.00 worth of “under-insured” and “uninsured” cover-

*Continued on facing page*

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**Uninsured**  
*Continued from previous page*

age in case the folks that injure you have no or insufficient insurance. Call your insurance broker and see what the additional coverage costs. You will be surprised how inexpensive the increase is. Do it now - not

after an accident.

Call us with any questions like this. 24/7/365. Lipson-O’Shea Legal Group 216-239-0000.

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## DONNYBROOK

By John Myers

# International Fund for Ireland

The U.S. House of Representatives recently passed H.R.4373, the Fiscal Year 2022 State, Foreign Operations Appropriations Act, which included an amendment sponsored by Rep. Brendan Boyle (Dem, Philly) reaffirming the importance for bilateral and international efforts to promote peace in the North of Ireland by way of the International Fund for Ireland (IFI).

In the IFI's own words: "The International Fund for Ireland was established as an independent organization by the British and Irish Governments in 1986 with financial contributions from the United States of America, the European Union, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. The total resources committed to the Fund to date amount to £728m / €914m, supporting over 6,000 projects across the island of Ireland. The Fund aims to promote economic and social advance as well as encourage contact and dialogue between nationalists and

unionists throughout Ireland." Congressman Boyle stated: "Over the years, the United States has been a leading advocate to help create a strong and peaceful society on the island of Ireland, and our continued involvement is important for maintaining that stability. I am encouraged that my fellow Members of Congress supported my amendment and continue their support for peace throughout the island. The Good Friday Agreement was just the start of the creation of reconciliation on the island of Ireland, not the end."

### THE LAST RIGHT

Delightful and fun aptly describe, "The Last Right," a film written and directed by Aoife Crehan. The flick debuted at the Cork Film Festival, where it won the "Audience Award," and received the "Directors Choice Feature" designation at the 2021 Irish Film Festival Boston. A perfect film to locate on Prime, where it is waiting to stream to your family room on some rainy or snowy night.

The movie starts off at JFK airport in NYC, but most of the film is set in Clonakilty, Cork and chronicles the caper of a trio of characters working their way North to a meet a scheduled burial on Rathlin Island in the Six Counties, with a corpse of a stranger strapped to the roof of their car. This is all in a quest to fulfill the sixth Corporal Work of Mercy, "To Bury the Dead."

Colm Meaney plays the Garda character of Detective Crowley, in a role akin to Inspector Javert in Les Mis. Brian Cox (Succession) has a small role as the parish priest waiting to officiate at the funeral. The Last Right has a story line infused with humor throughout, balanced with some serious issues, as well as death and romance, all with just enough plot twists to keep the film from drifting to far towards oversentimentality.

### ERIC ADAMS, NYC

At a recent gathering in Manhattan at the Fitzpatrick Hotel, Grand Central of the National Organizing Committee of Irish Americans for Biden, the next Mayor of NYC, Eric Adams, stopped in to share greetings from his "cousin" Gerry Adams. While he started off with a light hearted quip, he followed up with a powerful statement, when, as the Irish Times reported Adams asserted, "I served with some of the greatest men and women in the police department, who were proud of their Irish heritage.



**John McCarthy (WhiteHouse), Brian O'Dwyer (Emerald Isle Immigration Center), Stella O'Leary (Pres, Irish American Dems PAC), Eric Adams (incoming NYC Mayor), John FitzPatrick (Fitzpatrick Hotels).**

I have come here tonight to say, this is your city."

While NYC is a much different city today than when, as Mary O'Dowd's song laments for: "When New York was Irish"; it was a most gracious and welcome statement from the incoming Mayor of NYC to recognize the contributions of the Irish to NYC, especially the contributions of our men and women in blue.

### BRITS ATTEMPT TO SWEEP HISTORY UNDER THE RUG

The Tory Government, under the direction of British PM Boris Johnson, have proposed implementing a new "amnesty" law, completely undermining hopes for successful reconciliation between the two Loyalists and Nationalists communities in the Six Counties. With a slight of hand, the London Government is poised to create a new law that would offer amnesty and eliminate any push to determine the underlying truth related to hundreds of controversial killings during the Troubles.

The British establishment is working to make sure another Ballymurphy Investigation never happens, exposing active efforts of the British Government to cover up misdeeds by the British Army and hide evidence of collusion with Loyalists armed vigilantes. While offering a superficial and misleading veneer to community wide healing, continued coverup of the facts by Westminster, precluding determination of the truth,

will only inflame tensions between the two communities. Only the truth will set these victims free.

This is a direct effort to sabotage the Legacy Mechanisms created pursuant to the Stormont House Agreement. The complete lack of shame on the part of Westminster is remarkable. Some have suggested that this blatant attempt to obfuscate the truth is a sop to the Unionist Community to offer a distraction from the Northern Ireland Protocol challenges.

Amnesty can be an important tool towards peace and reconciliation, but it must be given AFTER the facts are determined and the truth be told, NOT before. In most cases, no investigations were undertaken in cases involving British Army and Government abuses. PM Boris's government is hoping to run the clock out on the lives and memories of those involved, banking on time to evaporate the cry for Justice.

Advocates of peace and justice are asked to contact your U.S. Congressman and ask them to sign on to the bi-partisan Boyle-Fitzpatrick letter of protest to the British Government, to end Tory attempts to undermine the search for the truth in the North of Ireland. ■

John can be reached at [IrishCleveland@gmail.com](mailto:IrishCleveland@gmail.com)

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## CLEVELAND COMHRÁ

By Bob Carney

@BobCarneyGTR

# Hercules Mulligan

When we think of Irish revolutionaries, we tend to think of the men and women who fought for a free Irish state, but, men of Irish birth or descent made up between thirty and fifty percent of the American Revolutionary forces. Being under the thumb of the British in their new chosen home as well may have convinced many to join in the fight for independence.



**Hercules Mulligan**

In a letter General Nathanael Greene wrote Nov.5,1777 to Major John Clark, he said, "Intelligence is the life of everything in war." One group's heroic espionage agent is the other group's villain, and lives precariously in two worlds. After America achieved independence, General George Washington publicly acknowledged the work Irish born Hercules Mulligan had done in the pursuit of American freedom, calling him an outstanding patriot and a "true friend of liberty."

The Mulligan family came to America from Colerain, in Co. Antrim in 1746, when Hercules was about six years of age. The family had left at a time when the Irish were suffering greatly under the Penal Laws. Those very laws had an effect on the young Hercules' political views later in life, as he moved from one country oppressed by the British to another where the desire was growing for independence from them.

Hercules attended King's College in New York, now Columbia University. After graduating, he worked at his father's accounting firm as a clerk until he was able to establish his own haberdashery and custom tailoring business.

He catered to New York's wealthy and elite as well as many British officers. He was an ambitious young man and quickly became known by the city's upper class, and with that acceptance, he was able to marry Elizabeth Sanders, daughter of John Sanders of New York, and niece of Admiral Sanders of the British Navy.

On the surface, Mulligan appeared to be politically aligned with the British officers that frequented his shop, but in reality he was supporting the cause for freedom. He became a member of the Sons of Liberty, a secret revolutionary committee looking to bring about American independence.

### ALEXANDER HAMILTON

Mulligan's association with Alexander Hamilton began in 1772 when the seventeen year old Hamilton arrived in New York from the West Indies. Hamilton lived in Mulligan's home when he attended his first year of studies at King's College. Hercules was thirty-two at the time and he greatly influenced the young Hamilton and his view of the British. He too, became a member of the Sons of Liberty.

Five years later, Hamilton was serving as an aide to General Washington and convinced him that his former mentor would be an ideal espionage agent in New York City. Hercules was clothing many of the city's top British military officers.

When officers arrived at his shop, he met them at his door like old friends, personally taking their measurements and fitting them, always being charming and personable, even offering a glass of whiskey. Hercules was able to get many of them to divulge important information about troop movements, strategy and other vital military information that he would pass on to Washington.

### BENEDICT ARNOLD

On two occasions he was able to obtain information on plots to capture Washington and forewarned him, thwarting the attempts. After the first incident, he was questioned twice by the British after being betrayed by Benedict Arnold.

He came through the interrogations well enough that he was able to warn the General of the second attempt. He concealed his work so well, that most patriots in the city thought him to be a friend of the British.

After America's victory, Mulligan was concerned that there may be reprisals by the colonists towards him; Washington went to his store to share breakfast with him. He thanked Hercules for saving his life and praised him publicly for his efforts in the new country's quest for independence.

During his espionage career he was assisted by his slave, a man named Cato. It was Cato that hand delivered the messages to Washington. In a free America, Mulligan, perhaps this time influenced by his friend Alexander Hamilton, became a founding father of the New York Manumission Society, an organization founded to bring about the abolition of slavery in the Land of the Free.

Hercules continued to work as a tailor until he retired at the age of eighty. He passed away in 1825, and is buried in the churchyard at Trinity Church in Sanders Tomb, just a few feet away from his friend Alexander. Hercules Mulligan is often overlooked as a true hero of the American Revolution.

When it comes to reading history, many of us think of it in terms of our

time in school, memorizing names and dates. Nothing could be further from the truth. The people and their stories leading up to those important dates are far more gripping than anything Hollywood can dream up.

I was pleased when the musical Hamilton came out, allowing a vast audience a glimpse of what many miss when it comes to our history. If you would like to read more about America's early espionage agents, Alexander Rose's "Washington's Spies" is an excellent place to start. ■

*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](mailto:carneyspeakirish@gmail.com)*

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3rd - Shamrock Club of Columbus General Meeting

11th - Columbus Day

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21st - West Side Irish American Club (WSIA) Monthly Meeting

25th - #*ilrish* eBulletin drops in your inbox at 3:10 p.m. Signup: [ilrish.us](https://ilrish.us)

27th - October Issue of *ilrish* hits the street

29th - *Irish Songs, Stories & Shenanigans Podcast*40 drops at 5pm. Listen any time after, forever. Signup: [ilrish.us](https://ilrish.us)

31st - Halloween

**Sign up for the Ebulletin and the Podcast at [www.ilrish.us](https://www.ilrish.us). Both are free.**





# OUT & ABOUT IRISH

## HIBERNIANS IN AMERICA

**22nd** - The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Our Lady of the Rosary Division invites you to join us in Celebrating the Eucharist at 11:00 A.M. Mass commemorating the Feast Our Lady of Knock at the West Side Irish American Club Pavilion, 8559 Jennings Road, Olmsted Twp 44138. Make it a Day of Prayer, Fun and Friendship! Then, Mary Agnes Kennedy & Jim Riley will be belting out the Tunes after. The Club will have hamburgers & hot dogs available to purchase. Live, Laugh, Love in Friendship, Unity & Christian Charity! 10/16 - Save the Date: The AOH and LAOH will be presenting the McBride Award to Geraldine Finucane in Youngstown; more details to come.

## BROOKLYN

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Tickets @ mahoninglaoh.com: \$50 p/person, first-come, first serve. Info: mahoning-laoh@gmail.com

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- **Unitarian Universalist Church of Fairlawn**, 3300 Morewood Dr. 7:30 p,m Wednesdays. All skill levels welcome.

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By Megan Lardie

# KIDS CRAIC

## ARE YOU READY FOR SOME FOOTBALL? GAELIC OR AMERICAN?

As the calendar flips to September, football season is ready to kick off! The Cleveland Browns are gearing up for, hopefully, another winning season! Ohio State Buckeye fans can hardly wait for the first kickoff! All the high schools are ready for Friday Nights under the lights. Sunday afternoons are all booked for CYO players.

American football, as we know it, is only played in the United States and in Canada. The rules of the American football game actually came from rugby and soccer. Most of the rest of the world refers to soccer as football. In Ireland, there is also Gaelic football.

Gaelic football is somewhat like American football and soccer. Gaelic football is played with two teams of fifteen players and a rectangular grassy field. Players score by kicking or punching the ball into the other team's goal. Players can score points if the ball

goes between the upright posts above the goal bar or if the ball goes into the net.

Players move the ball up the field by carrying, bouncing, kicking, hand passing, or kicking it up to the hands of another teammate. The positions are similar to the ones in soccer. There are six forwards, two midfielders, six backs, and one goalkeeper.

Gaelic football is one of the few sports left in the world that is only for amateurs. That means none of the players, coaches, or managers get paid any money. The "Super Bowl" of Gaelic football is called the All-Ireland Championship and is held every year at Croke Park in Dublin, Ireland. If you are interested in learning more about Gaelic football in Cleveland, there is a youth league that meets at the West Side Irish American Club. Check the ClevelandGAA.com website for more

information. If you live in another city, there are links on ClevelandGAA.com to find the one closest to you.

### WALTER CAMP

American football has changed a great deal since its early days. American football began in 1879. Walter Camp was a player at Yale University and helped come up with the rules of the game, making it different than the rules of rugby and soccer.

Some of the changes he made were that there would only be eleven players instead of fifteen, a quarterback and center position was created, as were penalties. During this time, football was only played in college and its popularity was growing. Small teams and leagues popped up around the Midwest in cities such as Pittsburgh and Chicago in the late 1800s. Forward passing was not allowed until 1906!

When teams started developing in towns such as Massillon, Akron, and Canton, Ohio became the center of professional football. That is why the Football Hall of Fame is in Canton! The Ohio League was created and supported several professional teams.

Soon after, the National Football League (NFL) was formed, in 1920.

American football has changed since it began. In the beginning, players did not wear any of the protective gear that you see today. The first game that was shown on TV was not until 1939, and it was a college game. Today, players are protected from head to toe, and the Super Bowl is the most watched event on TV.

Sports all over the world have changed and grown in popularity over the years. As I watched the Olympics this year, I was in awe of all the athletes. I was impressed by the events that had been added such as skateboarding and surfing.

The stories of how the athletes got to the Olympics were inspiring; some made me cry, some made me laugh; all wowed me. Whether you play football, soccer, rugby, volleyball, basketball, baseball, swim or run cross country, you should be proud of yourself! It takes commitment to be a part of a team and the team is not the same without you! If you do not play a sport, whatever you do, be proud of yourself for learning how to do it and work hard to achieve your goals. Never let anyone tell you no!

*"You can't put a limit on anything. The more you dream, the farther you get."* - Michael Phelps ■

## TRAIL MIX RECIPE

This trail mix recipe is perfect to bring along in the car on your way to practice. Packed with sweet and salty ingredients, everyone is going to love it! This is just a basic recipe; you can add anything else that you might enjoy or leave out what you do not like!



### Ingredients:

- 1 cup Peanuts
- 1/2 cup Yogurt Covered Raisins
- 1/2 cup Candy Covered Chocolates (M&Ms)
- 1 cup Banana Chips
- 2 cups Pretzels

Instructions: Just mix everything together in a large bowl. Store in an airtight container. Put in small Ziplock bags and take them to go!

## Gab in Gaelic

There is no strength without unity = Ni ceart go cur le cheile  
(Pron: knee keart guh kurr leh kaileh)

## LARDIE'S LAUGHS

**Q:** What is harder to catch the faster you run?

A. Your breath!

**Q:** Why are soccer players good at math?

A. They know how to use their heads!

*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*

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## The Colours of Ireland Monthly Coloring Contest

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

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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.ilrish.us

### 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 *ilrish* or scanned and emailed to jobrien@ilrish.us 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 *ilrish*.







## CLEVELAND IRISH

By Francis McGarry

# Cleveland Geopolitics

Professor Trouillot discussed “tierra nullius” to describe how Old World inhabitants viewed the New World. Artists would more likely use a “blank slate.” That designation according to my professor, allow colonists the ability, among others, to build their settlements as they chose, devoid of a structure pre-determined by previous generations.

In practice, many re-built areas that were already established. The Spanish built churches on top of land that was already deemed sacred by those native to the land. Geological features, and

their advantages, did not stop being geological features just because new people arrived.

Jared Diamond in *Guns, Germs and Steel* outlines what he terms “geographic luck.” A theory of geographic determinism, in that societies develop and have developed differently as a result of geographic causes.

### AGRICULTURE

Why did agriculture arise in certain areas and not others? Diamond responds that soil fertility, the availability of domesticable animals, and the availability of edible crops led to agriculture. Agriculture leads to increases in technology, social structure and even health.

Centralized agriculture in a society allows for some to not be involved in production of and harvesting of crops. Those societies are the first to include a religious and ruling class. Those societies experience population growth and density which results in immunity, real heard immunity, and became resistant to epidemics. In short, if you could produce wheat or rice and had sheep, goats, cows, pigs, horses, Arabian camels, Bactrian camels, llamas and alpacas, donkeys, reindeers, water buffalos, yaks, Bali cattle or Mithun, you had all the advantages necessary to build civilization.

Peter Zeihan in *The Accidental Super Power: The Next Generation of American Preeminence and the Coming Global Disorder* also focuses on the geology of “geographic luck” and how that factors into current global politics. As Americans, we tend to think that our success is based on hard work and commitment to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Zeihan notes that all major expansionary powers have been based in a temperate zone.

He also explains why the USA has never had a foreign power on its soil since the time of the people who came up with the whole life, liberty and happiness thing. It is geography that is a result of geology.

The United States has some of the best soil in the world and a water-way network that supports trade and growth. It has nearly as many miles of internal waterways as the rest of the world, including rivers that permit large ships. On the coasts it benefits from three thousand miles of exposed coastline with dozens of shielded bays. That means ports and shipping. A port

potential equal to the entire rest of the world with access to both the Atlantic and Pacific. Sorry Thomas Jefferson, but we should also be thanking the last Ice Age.

### THE ALLURE OF LAKE ERIE

We also have the Great Lakes. The allure of Lake Erie, which captures the generational attention of Northern Ohioans, also serves to illustrate the importance of geological history as it collides with chronicles of Irish immigrants who worked to build the Greater Cleveland area.

Two million years ago, where Lake Erie surges proudly, a glacier eroded and created a basin that allowed for the water from other Great Lake bodies to drain. While water flowed to the empty basin creating Lake Erie, the sediment carried to the shores solidified the futures of Irish immigrants, who would later arrive in search of the American dream. The Western side of the Cleveland basin was left with limestone shorelines which resisted erosion, while the Eastern side dips drastically deeper as a result of shale rock deposits which are chipped away with centuries of water flow.

That geological difference influenced initial settlement and interaction. Ohio City in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century appealed to Irish immigrants in search of blue-collar work in Cleveland’s booming industrial economy; an economy based on the lake and a crooked river, thanks geology. The geopolitics of Cleveland led to tensions between the City of Cleveland and Ohio City as a greater majority of canal boats were processed through Cleveland, which eventually led to the annexation of Ohio City into the much larger Cleveland and the eastside of the river.

The two cities benefited from a more productive industrial market, which led to a greater demand for labor in the economy. This economic merger and resulting internal migration was a catalyst for the river division.

The westside of Cleveland was more residential, while the Ohio City laborers migrated toward the Eastside of Cleveland, nearer to work sites. Industrial neighborhoods were more diverse as new immigrants arrived and were employed in the laborious jobs. Residential neighborhoods maintained the ability to be homogenous.

Regardless of the side of the river, the Greater Cleveland area proved a

center for Irish immigrants seeking work. The Erie Canal system surrounding the Great Lakes promised a wealth of willing, laboring Irish immigrants. This canal way, allowed by the recession of a glacier and the various erosion processes which followed, remains responsible for the Irish-American population in the Greater Cleveland area.

A vast influx of Irish immigration resulted in changes to the Ohio election results. Wards that were industrial tended to vote Democratic. Wards that were older and had less immigrants tended to vote Republican.

Overall, Cleveland’s booming industrial economy following the Civil War often promised Democratic candidates and Irish immigrants. Fleeing an oppressive government, those immigrants often happily obliged. This is a political distinction whose origins are in the late Cambrian period’s volcanism and orogeny formations.

### BLUESTONE AND SANDSTONE

This same period gave us Bluestone on the Eastside and Berea sandstone on the Westside. It is purely geological fact that the Bluestone, also known as Euclid Bluestone, is the stronger of the two. Cleveland geographic luck some would say, at least by those closer to PA.

Our geopolitics are the local expression of Diamond’s and Zeihan’s studies as part of Erie Basin. I would not argue a singular variable, but definitely a common denominator. We have a few of those on the Eastside.

As Andy Dufrense said, “*Geology is the study of pressure and time. That’s all it takes really, pressure and time.*” While many familial ties to Ireland can be made by tracing only a few generations, a two million old glacier is the reason a vast majority of Irish Americans call Lake Erie home. ■

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

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## AKRON IRISH

By Lisa O' Rourke

# Selkie Selfie

“Hey, I am thinking about writing about Selkies this month, you know with summer ending and all?” “Yeah, sounds good. Make sure that you tell them not to be backin’ up around the Cliffs of Moher, that is a dangerous place for a selfie.”

This silly story is courtesy of a certain pair of eejits, but I had to include it, because not even my seaside loving Irish husband thinks about Selkies, ever. Maybe that is why one of the most pervasive Irish myths swims in relative obscurity in mythical folklore. I’m not sure what to say if you don’t know what a selfie is, but ignorance of the Selkie can be forgiven.

Sailors and the Celts are familiar with a type of mermaid that is part human and part fish. OK, the Selkie is not really a fish, but human and seal, and the parts are not visible at the same time, unlike the mermaid, who is usually half and half.

The Selkies’ appearance is one or the other, human or seal. They are humans who possess a removable seal coat. At some point in their lives, they decide to live on shore with a human family. That could make them seem more like capricious, swimmy humans. Only when they are in their human guise and living on land, they feel the call of the sea incessantly. That call compels them to put their seal coat back on and return to their ocean life.

In the stories that I have heard, the Selkie is female, but they can be both. I need to read more because whatever sex, they are very attractive. Honestly, they would have to be attractive to be that complicated.

The object of their desires is often a

sad, tragic person who lives in a small, sea-side town; it’s just about a Hall-mark movie. They live and love with their selected human until the call of the sea beckons to them and they find their lost seal skin. I may not have mentioned that the human love object always finds and hides the Selkie’s seal skin to try to eternally capture their beloved. It never works, of course. The lure of the underwater kingdom is always better than whatever is going on up here.

This one-way love affair can pay off though. If this mortal, residing near the sea, should ever find themselves in danger, in a stormy sea with no way out, help is on the way. Magically, the Selkie comes to the rescue.

It turns out that they have been watching out for our love-struck protagonist and are ready to save the day. Kindness is repaid; the Selkie knows that he only stole her seal coat because she is so wonderful.

That is the basic Selkie story format. There are stories where the genders are flipped, but the idea remains the same.

It did until the Selkie story somehow went really far south. Instead of being doe-eyed sailor fans, they morphed into a comic book femme fatale. There are other depictions which show the Selkie as dangerous.

However, based on prior adaptations, this idea seems a bit against the Selkie code. One disclaimer here, the standard Selkie can be dangerous if you are a threat to their loved ones, that is kind of fairy tale ethics. I think that those other Selkie depictions come from authors who are not invested in myth nuance and who have decided to morph the characteristics together for their own purposes.

### THE UNDINE LEGEND, THE KELPIES

The Undine is more of what we think of as the standard mermaids. The Undine can range from beautiful fish people to something a little slimmer and serpenty. They also have stories about living on the land.

Then there are the Kelpies. Kelpies

are a kind of sea horse. They are more of the trickster types that you don’t want to encounter at sea. A cynic, looking at these myths, would deduce very quickly that these stories could be figments of a water-crazed person, a symptom of a person too long at sea. And they might be correct. The experience of being at sea itself could be what drove the ancient storytellers to create their legends and what informed their particular vision.

### THE SECRET OF ROAN INISH, ONDINE

Still, it is interesting to think what drives the modern interpretations of the Selkie myth. There have been several fairly recent Irish movies made on the Selkie theme: *The Secret of Roan Inish*, and *Ondine*. They are both variations on the standard boy meets seal-girl, loves seal-girl and loses seal-girl format.

Modern criticisms state that these stories may be about the lack of control in relationships. That may be true. So then, what about the fanged, seductive, dangerous sea monsters? What are those people thinking?

Maybe, Selkies are selfies after all. The qualities that we imbue in our myth certainly have more to do with our perceptions that what is really there. They are myths, after all. In some way, this bittersweet story is evocative of the end of summer. You knew it couldn’t last and still, you wouldn’t change a thing. But darn. ■

*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.*

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**OFF THE SHELF**

By Terry Kenneally

@TerryKenneally

**Old Ireland in Colour**

Sarah-Anne Buckley

Merrion Press

ISBN 9781785373701 304 pp. 2020

This book and the Old Ireland in Colour project aims to bring Ireland's modern history to life through the colorization of black and white photographs. Professional photography was introduced to Ireland in 1841. For over a century, photographers- both professional and amateur- captured and collected moments in Irish history in black and white, the technology of the time. Debates on the colorization of black and white films and photographs have been ongoing since the 1980s. The authors did not want to engage in those debates in this book, the purpose

rather being to reveal the capacity of modern technology to provide realistic images with a wide palette of historical colours.

The 173 photographs in the book address the period just before the Great Famine (1845-52) to the outbreak of "The Troubles" in Northern Ireland. During this time, the population of the island of Ireland went from over eight million to a low of four million in the 1950s. Throughout the nine-teenth century, the importance of religion and the Irish language, the effects of the Great Famine and Land War, and the growth of cultural nationalism can be seen in the photographs.

Work, play, technology, and deviance are mingled between images of Irish landscapes and revolution. There are photographs in colors of familiar personalities and events and images that have been mass produced as well as those which have been rarely seen. Images of evictions and depictions of poverty, alongside earth-shat-

tering events like the sinking of the Titanic and the Lusitania make this book an illuminating look at Irish life, Irish people and the dramatic transformation and change that has occurred over the 125 years covered in this collection.



The best news is that the authors have a second book coming out in September of 2022, called Old Ireland in Colour 2, in which they dig deeper into Irish archives to bring to life more photographic gems. Old Ireland in Colour won the Best Irish-Published Book last year and it is a TOP SHELF read. ■

*Terrence J. Kenneally is an attorney and owner of Terrence J. Kenneally & Associates in Rocky River, Ohio. He received his Master's in Irish Studies from John Carroll University. He can be contacted at terry@tjkenneally.com.*

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**CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

By Linda Fulton Burke

**ACROSS**

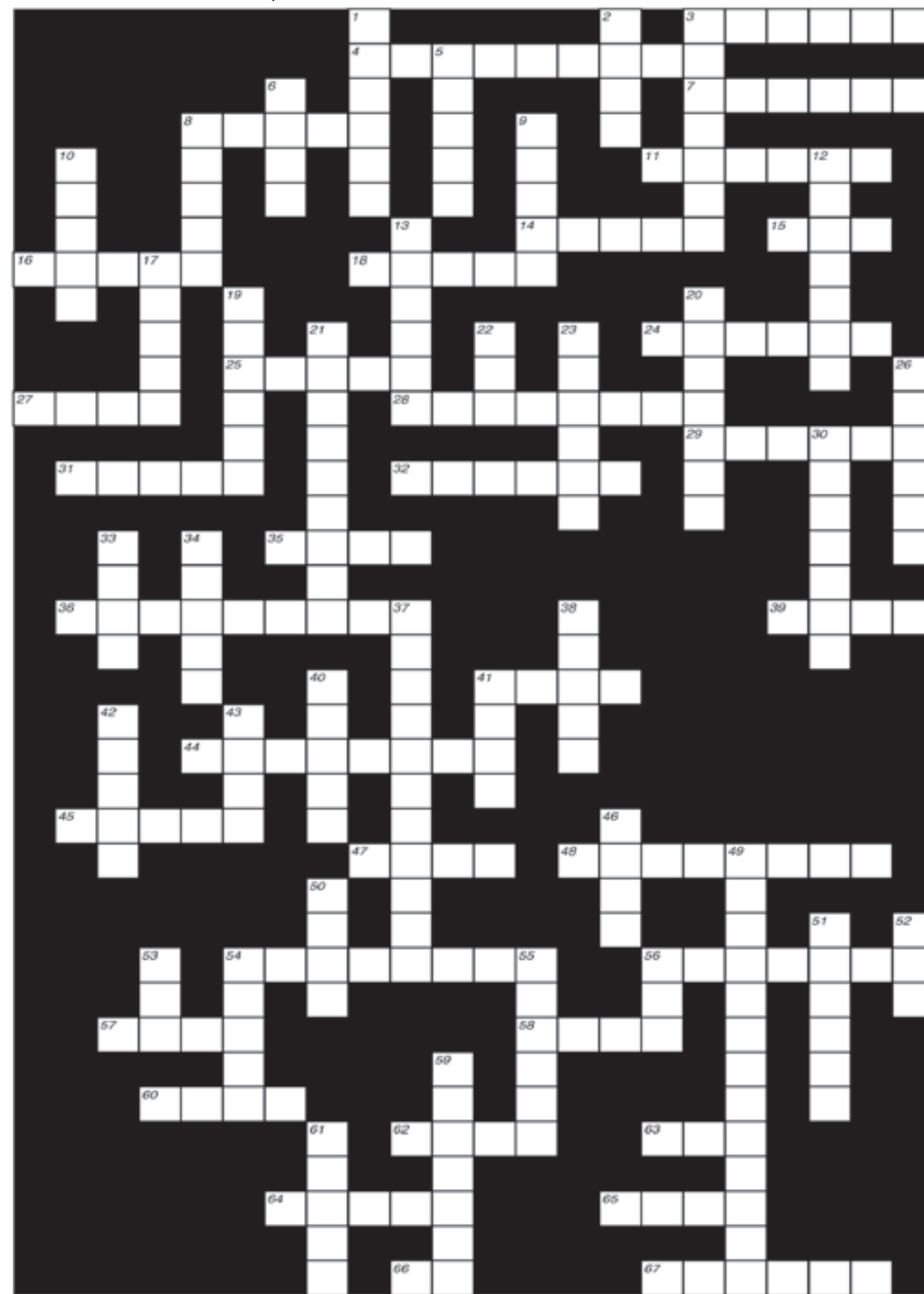
- 3 The Black \_\_\_\_\_ Band
- 4 The Rose of \_\_\_\_\_
- 7 Road
- 8 The \_\_\_\_\_ of May
- 11 (M) \_\_\_\_\_
- 14 Loves Old \_\_\_\_\_ Song
- 15 Is the Rose
- 16 I Knew \_\_\_\_\_
- 18 \_\_\_\_\_ Malone
- 24 The Maid of \_\_\_\_\_
- 25 \_\_\_\_\_ O'Neill
- 27 Oh \_\_\_\_\_ Dear
- 28 \_\_\_\_\_ Rose
- 29 \_\_\_\_\_ Ban Mo Stoir
- 31 (G) \_\_\_\_\_
- 32 Lindsay
- 35 The \_\_\_\_\_ Behind the Hill
- 36 The \_\_\_\_\_ of Mourne
- 39 \_\_\_\_\_ Williams
- 41 \_\_\_\_\_ In the Calico Dress
- 44 Inion an Fhaoit (White's \_\_\_\_\_)
- 45 \_\_\_\_\_ Forget Me Not
- 47 Gold and Silver \_\_\_\_\_
- 48 The Rose of \_\_\_\_\_
- 54 A Mother's Love's a \_\_\_\_\_
- 56 She Moved \_\_\_\_\_ the Fair
- 57 The \_\_\_\_\_ I Loved So Well
- 58 \_\_\_\_\_ Is Teasin'
- 60 \_\_\_\_\_ O'Dreams
- 62 \_\_\_\_\_ and Slow
- 63 Next Market Day
- 64 The \_\_\_\_\_ Girl
- 65 \_\_\_\_\_ for Ireland
- 66 Lovely Irish Rose of Clare
- 67 The \_\_\_\_\_ of Dromore

**DOWN**

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Mother Lullaby
- 2 The \_\_\_\_\_ We Love
- 3 The \_\_\_\_\_ Braes of Screen
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_ Lane
- 6 Take Her In Your \_\_\_\_\_
- 8 The \_\_\_\_\_ Dew
- 9 A \_\_\_\_\_ a Day
- 10 \_\_\_\_\_ O'Canainn
- 12 Mother Ireland
- 13 Gentle \_\_\_\_\_
- 17 \_\_\_\_\_ Spain
- 19 She Lived \_\_\_\_\_ the Anner
- 20 \_\_\_\_\_ Johnny Dear
- 21 (G) \_\_\_\_\_
- 22 The Old \_\_\_\_\_
- 23 Will Ye Go, \_\_\_\_\_, Go?
- 26 \_\_\_\_\_ Annie
- 30 Mary from \_\_\_\_\_
- 33 I \_\_\_\_\_ My Love
- 34 \_\_\_\_\_ Boy
- 37 \_\_\_\_\_ In the Spring
- 38 My Wild \_\_\_\_\_ Rose
- 40 \_\_\_\_\_ Gordon
- 41 from Dungloe
- 42 Those \_\_\_\_\_ Eyes
- 43 The \_\_\_\_\_ Farewell
- 46 \_\_\_\_\_ Green Fields
- 49 (C) \_\_\_\_\_
- 50 You Were Sweet Sixteen
- 51 The Old \_\_\_\_\_ Bridge
- 52 Spanish Lady
- 53 \_\_\_\_\_ Loves
- 54 A \_\_\_\_\_ of Thyme
- 55 The Rovin' \_\_\_\_\_ Boy
- 56 Star of the County Down
- 59 The \_\_\_\_\_ Rose
- 61 The Galway \_\_\_\_\_

**Irish Tunes**

By Linda Fulton Burke



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