

IAN Ohio "We've Always Been Green!" www.ianohio.com APRIL 2015





The McCluskeys prepare to step off at the 148th Cleveland St. Patrick's Day Parade. Photo by John O'Brien, Jr.

Editor's Corner



John O'Brien, Jr.

Post St. Patrick's Day is a lot like post Christmas – a little sense of letdown, or anticlimax after the show is over. The blessings of (relatively) good weather this year only amplified the sense of celebration the holiday and the onset of spring brings to our family, through our faith. We made it thru the winters of our discontent. Now it is time for the survivor's party of another year of perseverance, procession and progress.

This is our 100th issue. I am excited because I know we have only just begun. Better economic times had translated to more ads, 8 years has translated to trust that we are partners, not vendors in sharing our culture, our business and our values, with our community.

That trust dances with the better times, to guide business owners to advertise with us, and fostered the expansion we have undergone, from 16 pages, to 20 to 24, and last month, 32 pages. If you are not advertising with us, join us, or have a cup of coffee or a beer with me, and help us to be the partner you want to do business with. Good Stewardship requires we balance all the great content available, with paying the bills; it's the elephant in the room.

Did you ever hear about Cindy? The elephant in Ireland that wandered into a pub? Check inside page 16 for that story. This month is the 99th Anniversary of the Easter Rising, the most seminal moment in Irish history. Celebrations and Commemorations are being held throughout the world. It is another elephant is the Irish issues discussion. Ohio is no less able and shines as brightly in our Commemorations.

We will be highlighting those events over the next year, starting with the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Commemoration of the Women of the Rising, at Pride of Erin on Lorain Road in Cleveland on April 24th. Don't Miss this.

In this issue is also related history: the Forever Seven column on Joseph Plunkett and Mike Finn's Illuminations column on Why was Dev Spared from the 1916 executions of 15 rebels. Cathal Liam

reflects on The Foggy Dew's special meaning and Niamh O'Sullivan, former archivist at Kilmainham Gaol, in her Ireland Past & present column on page 6: Unhappy the land that has no heroes," the first states. The second replies: "Unhappy the land that needs heroes."

"Follow me where I go, what I do and who I know; O'Bent Enterprises includes: www.twitter.com/jobjr www.facebook.com/ OhioIrishAmericanNews www.linkedin.com/in/ jobjr/ http://songsandstories.net/myblog/feed/

Humor, history, book reviews and reflections from Sue Mangan, Katherine Boyd and Lisa O'Rourke are found within, as well as all the live music you can handle. Being Irish 365, we get to enjoy that music all year long, not just on the High Holy Day, now a season. Out & About Ohio on pages 24-25 detail a fantastic array of local and national talent coming our way this month.

I am so looking forward to seeing Leo & Anto of the Saw Doctors at Pj McIntyre's on April 25th. I saw them there on their last tour and the show goes down in my concert history as one of the best shows I have ever attended. One show was scheduled, it sold out, so a 2nd show has been added. 7pm and 9pm.

Remember – if we don't attend shows when magnificent talent comes to town; magnificent talent will not come to town. No regrets, No more words; get up, show up. Verbal support and spreading of the news is great and necessary; but showing up is vital.

Slán, John



Happy St Pats from the Toledo Clan

There are over 1.4 million people of Irish descent in Ohio; 475,000 in Greater Cleveland; 176,000 in Cuyahoga County: Want to reach them? Advertise in the Ohio Irish American News: jobrien@ianohio.com.

About Our Cover

Leprechauns Laugh (Clare, Cara and Preston) as the 148th Annual United Irish Societies St. Patrick's Day Parade Captives Cleveland. Photo by John O'Brien, Jr.



Living With Lardie by Richard Lardie



Where Did the Bowl Go?

I had my semi-annual visit to the dentist yesterday. A lovely young lady introduced herself as Bridget Mackin. She would be doing my cleaning. She knew all my grandchildren and my daughter-in-law had baby sat for her. She told me she marched with the West Side Irish drill team. I couldn't be in better hands.

Midway through the cleaning I asked if I could rinse and spit. "Oh, we don't do that anymore." Bridget said. "WHAT" Says I. "We don't even have bowls to spit in anymore." says she. Sure enough, I glanced left and right and the new dental chair had no bowl attached. She then stuck a tube in my mouth and sucked out everything but the kitchen sink.

I closed my eyes and started remembering all the things that are no longer in my life. They were there and now they are not:

Milkmen - Every day the milk truck would come down the street, bottles rattling. The milkman would jump out carrying 2 or 6 bottles of milk and place them in the milk box that most people had at the door. Gone.

Breadman - Same as the milkman except he had donuts. It was a lucky day when one of the kids had some money and we bought a box of donuts. Gone.

Iceman - He brought his horse drawn wagon carrying huge chunks of ice for the ice boxes. We kids would run along behind and when he would split a block there were always a few chips he would give us and we would suck on them like they were candy. My job when I was four was emptying the water from the melted ice in our icebox. Gone.

Paper Rags Man - This was a horse drawn wagon with an old man that took all your old papers and clothing. He also sharpened knives for a nickel. Gone.

Ohio Tax Stamps - The sales tax we now have was

mom would yell, "Let's get the green stamps pasted." That meant we were going shopping and it was usually downtown. Gone.

Going downtown was a whole different experience. We would take the street

car. The driver sat in the front but there was a seat half way back where the conductor used to sit. If you were lucky you could sit in the conductor seat and ring the bell whenever anyone wanted to get off. Once we were downtown we where you could accumulate an entire set of dishes if you went to the same theatre every Wednesday night. Gone.

Phone booths - There were phone booths everywhere. I remember the drugstore at 105th and St Clair had a row of them all together. Now Superman has nowhere to change and can't help out anymore. Almost Gone+++.

Carbon Paper - This was the only way to make copies of anything. I wish I had a dime for every time I had it

upside down and copied on

the back of my original. Gone.

or poor had a coal bin. It was a separate room in the basement that they would dump coal in for the furnace. The coal truck would back into the drive and shovel the coal in. This was also followed up by having to haul the ashes and cinders out every morning all winter. Gone.

Car Hops and drive in

Car Hops and drive in restaurants - We could sit in our car and a girl on roller skates would take our order. When she brought the food out she would attach a tray to the side of the car and we would all eat in the car. Gone.

Typewriters - They are all but gone. There was nothing like being in a busy office with the sound of 20 typewriters banging away and the bells ringing as they slid the carriages to the left. Gone.

Well these were all I could think of for now. I am sure there are many more if I put my mind to it. Some of them are good to be rid of. Some of them I miss with fondness. I am sure my life is better now, but it is nice to think the old days really were the "good old days". We had bowls to spit in.



a temporary tax (that's an oxymoron) and they would give you stamps that represented how much tax you paid. They were about 3 inches square. The state would buy them back at 3% face value. We had tax stamp drives at school to collect them and we would get prizes. Gone.

Party Lines - This was a phone line that two families used. You usually didn't know the other family and often developed ill feelings towards them because they always were on the phone when you wanted to use it. Can you imagine waiting for someone you don't know to finish talking so you can use your own home phone? Land line phones will be a thing of the past very soon. Gone.

Eagle stamps - These were little stamps that were given when you bought something. I think it was one stamp for every 10 cents. Then you would lick them like a postage stamp and put them in books with 50 to a page. When the book was full it could be redeemed for \$3.00 worth of goods. It was great fun when

would have lunch at Woolworths. There was no McDonalds or Wendys so this was the cats' meow. A grilled cheese, French fries and a chocolate shake at Woolworths was the height of decadence. Gone.

Soda fountains - Every drugstore had a soda fountain. You could get an ice cream cone, a sundae, a hot chocolate, a milkshake (with two glassfuls), a phosphate, a cherry coke or anything else you might find at an ice cream store today. Gone.

Double Features - We used to be able to go to the movie show on Saturday or Sunday and watch a double feature. For 10 cents you could get in and watch a newsreel, a cartoon, a Serial (This was a continuing story that usually lasted 13 weeks) and then two full length movies.

If you were lucky enough to have another dime you could get popcorn or two candy bars. You were allowed to stay in the theatre as long as you wanted. If it was a good set of movies we would stay and watch them twice. The movies also had gift nights



Queen Mary Therese and her court

On This Day in Irish History

1 April 2010 - It is announced that Mother Teresa, commonly thought to be Hungarian, is actually Irish-born in a small village outside of Cork in 1910. (April Fool!)

4 April 1774 - Death of Oliver Goldsmith, novelist, poet, and playwright. His works include The Vicar of Wakefield and She Stoops to Conquer.

5 April 19662 - Guinness formally adopts the harp as its symbol.

12 April 1654 - The Ordinance of Union comes into effect, uniting Ireland and Scotland with England.

13 April 1906 - Birth of Samuel Beckett in Foxrock, Co. Dublin; the 1969 winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature.

16 April 1871 - Birth of playwright John Millington Synge. In 1904 Synge, Yeats, and Lady Gregory founded the Abbey Theatre.

21 April 1916 - Sir Roger Casement is arrested by the Crown after an attempt to obtain German help to win Irish independence. He was hanged in August, 1916.

23 April 1926 - Birth in New York of novelist J. P. Donleavy, son of Irish immigrants. He later moves to Ireland and writes The Ginger Man, which becomes one of the top 100 selling books of all time in Ireland.

Congratulations to Eileen Sammon and Pete Leneghan of Stone Mad Pub, Restaurant and Bocce, awarded the 2014 Sean Kilbane Award for their significant Investment in the Detroit Shoreway neighborhood. [Pic]

Congratulations to Karen O'Malley & the amazing gang at The Harp, once again named to GAYOT's list of the Top 10 Irish Pubs in the U.S.

http://www.gayot.com/restaurants/top-10-irish-pubs/ harp-cleveland-oh.html

Congratulations to Cindy Barber and Mark Leddy, celebrating 15 years of unwavering commitment to independent Rock, hosting live music all year round at Beachland Ballroom. Cleveland, and all live music, is forever indebted to your vision and active support.









APRIL 2015 Vol. 9 Issue 4

Publishers John O'Brien Jr. / Cliff Carlson Editor John O'Brien Jr. Website-Cathy Curry & Ryanne Gallagher-Johnson Columnists

Behind the Hedge- John O'Brien, Jr. Blowin' In- Susan Mangan Cleveland Irish- Francis McGarry Crossword Puzzle- Linda Fulton Burke Don't Forget Us-Lisa O'Rourke Guilty Pleasures- Christine Gallagher Kearney

Illuminations- J. Michael Finn Inner View- John O'Brien Jr Ireland Past & Present-Niamh

O'Sullivan

Forever Seven- Anne Waters Katherine Mary V- Katherine Boyd Letter From Ireland - Cathal Liam Livin' With Lardie-Richard Lardie Off Shelf/On This Day-Terry Kenneally Out of the Mailbag- John O'Brien, Jr. Owens Sports- Mark Owens Terry From Derry-Terry Boyle

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1916 Commemorations

The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians and Irish Northern Aid will be sponsoring events during the year to remember the men and women who participated in the 1916 Easter Rising. The next event, Remember the Women of the Rising, will be held

the Rising but have been unknown. Come and meet these important women in Irish History. The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians also sponsor a Irish History Contest. This year's topic is "The Women's Involvement in the Easter Rising".

A Commemorative Honor Ŏur History Pin, Freedom for All Ire-



Friday April 24, 2015, on the 99th Anniversary of the Rising, at the Pride of Erin, from 7:30-9:30pm., with entertainment by Mary Ágnes Kennedy. Donation is just your love for Ireland. Over 200 women participated in

land, designed by Peggy Cornish, National LAOH Chair, will be available for a donation of \$10.

For more information email marilynmadigan@ladiesaoh.com.



Faith and Family

Remember 1916 Friday April 24,2015 at Pride of Erin



The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Our Lady of the Rosary Division and the Cleveland branch of Irish Northern Aid remember the Women of the Rising on the 99th Anniversary of the 1916 Rising.

1916 Rising and the Role of the

. Please join us to share the history of the

- Friday April 24, 2015 7:30-9:30pm
- Pride of Erin 12228 Lorain Cleveland
- · Entertainment by MaryAgnesKennedy
- . Donation Just a love for Ireland







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Listening to Osian

Apprehension? Or slight embarrassment, maybe? Do the reasons actually matter? We are now 12 months away from the Centenary of the Easter Rising, and I am hearing nothing that might convince me that the Irish government have serious plans to commemorate this occasion in any significant manner. How sad.

I return to a quote I have used before, writing about 1916. Bertolt Brecht's two characters talking. "Unhappy the land that has no heroes," the first





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states. The second replies: "Unhappy the land that needs heroes."

Whichever view you hold, hold it proudly. But to hope that an important occasion such as this upcoming Centenary is not of any great importance, or to hope to glide through it with as little fuss as possible, well... What does that say about us, officially, as a country?

When I worked in Kilmainham Prison I brought students of the Irish branch of an American university on tour throughout the jail. Their professor is Irish, and what made these tours so special for me, were his welcome interruptions. If something arose which caught his interest, he would join me in the commentary with such insight, that on occasion after he finished I had to remind myself with a jolt that it was my turn to resume speaking! The tour always ended in the Stonebreakers' Yard, where in May 1916, fourteen men were executed by the British authorities after the Rising had been quelled. We always had the Tricolour flying there. Having worked in Kilmainham for so long, I took this fact for granted.

On the final tour I conducted for this college, their professor spoke up in the execution yard as everybody was still gathering around. I listened, fascinated, as he brought the flag to the notice of his American students. He suggested to them that this was one of the few Irish flags they might note during their stay here. We do not display flags in the same manner as Americans do. I recalled during my various visits to the United States being constantly surprised at how many instances of the Stars and Stripes I saw each time, over shopping malls, over large and small buildings in cities and towns, in people's gardens, everywhere.

Then there is our native language. I grew up in Holland, speaking English and Dutch. I have a fair knowledge of German, even some Italian and French. I regularly watch our Irish language television channel TG4, yet I cannot follow any programme without the English subtitles.

It is heart-breaking to admit that we have a poor record of teaching our native language in our schools. My mother, who devoured every book she could get her hands on as a schoolgirl, used to often be humiliated by winning the Leather Medal for Irish. Debates are regularly held as to whether it was correct to have made Irish a compulsory subject in schools up to now.

My nine year old nephew Osian is growing up in Wales. His father converses with him in Welsh, his mother, my sister, in English. When Osian and his Dad speak Welsh together, I hold my breath listening to their enchanting accents pronouncing strangely wonderful words. At nine, Osian has no doubts about his identity. Even when referring to Snowdon in English, my nephew calls the mountain he can see from outside his home Yr Wyddfa. And I love to hear him calling Ireland Iwerddon.

Where is our sense of pride? Conservative use of our national flag and our native language, our history proving to some slightly embarrassing, perhaps it is no surprise that there does not seem to be much official activity surrounding the fast approaching centenary.

A colourful yet strong presence amongst the women of 1916 – 1923 was the Honourable Albinia Broderick, daughter of a British Viscount, born in 1861. By the turn of the century, she had become enchanted with Ireland during visits to her father's estate in County Cork, educating herself about the country and its people. She became fluent in Irish and gaelicised her name to Gobnait Ni Bhruadair. She became involved in the struggle for Irish freedom, even to suffering imprisonment for her ideals.

If my recollection is correct, it was for the June 1916 issue of the Catholic Bulletin that she wrote an article on the 1916 executions, which I would on occasion photocopy for those contacting the Kilmainham

Archives with queries about her.

I found her message extremely powerful. I believe the piece consisted of roughly three blank pages accompanied by Gobnait's name. Several people to whom I sent this article wrote back enquiring about a possible fault with the photocopier in Kilmainham. They did not quite grasp her point. What, exactly, could one write, or say, about those fourteen executions? What?

To John, my editor: if official plans for the commemoration of 1916 next year do not improve significantly, I am herewith putting you on notice! My article for April 2016 will probably consist of a blank page. I hope you might publish a photo of the GPO somewhere on that page – the shell of the GPO, burned out during Easter Week. And perhaps readers of the column might concentrate closely and faintly discern the four Keeners standing just out of range of the photograph; the Keeners I have written about previously, mourning whatever loss each reader feels most significant. [Consider it done Niamh, John]

But I might not be in Ireland to attend any potential commemorations. Even the precise timing is in question. Are possible events to be observed on the Easter Monday, or on April 24? General Robert E. Lee surrendered to General Ulysses S. Grant on Palm Sunday, 1865. Abraham Lincoln was shot on the following Good Friday. In the US, these events are usually remembered on April 9 and April 14 respectively – the dates on which they occurred, rather than on the individual Palm Sunday or Good Friday of any given year. But as I said, I might not even be here. I might be in north Wales, listening to Osian's lovely Welsh voice melting into music.



Irish American Club East Side President Francis McGarry & John O'Brien Jr.

Sean & Connie McConnell, Proprietors



Terry From Derry

by Terry Boyle



The Wandering Tribe, A Nation of Travelers

When one speaks of the Irish diaspora, the connotation is usually associated with negative reason. There is validity to this way of thinking, but it's not totally true. While the origins of what we think as the catalyst for emigration are generally centered on the famine, the Irish originate from a wandering tribe; the Celts.

This diverse gathering of peoples moving from the Middle East through Europe left their mark in each new settlement. Evidence of their wanderings is continually unearthed by archeologists who are still perplexed at their level of sophistication. Even in the early years of Christianity in Ireland, monks, under the guidance of Saint Columba, took to Northern Europe in search of coverts. And, during the colonization of modern Ireland, artists seeking to find an audience for their work courted the theatres

and publishers of England. The unsettled Irish become fully displaced by the introduction of the Penal laws and more pronouncedly, by the potato blights of the 19th Century. Committing themselves to wander in order to survive, the Irish have continued to make their presence felt wherever they have settled. In each new place they have, like most exiles, sought to preserve those things that are peculiar to an Irish identity. And this love of culture has strengthened the sense of connection to the homeland, while accentuating the sense of loss. The diasporic celebration of all things Irish is inevitably tinged with a profound sense of sadness, sometimes displayed in

mawkish sentimentality, but sincerely felt as patriotism.

The stories of the diaspora have gained more importance for me now that I am away from Ireland than they had before I left. The reason for this change is obvious; I too am now a part of the wandering tribe. However, the sense of loss is diminished these days by the introduction of new technologies that give me an instant fix of Irishness at the click of a button. But this has not always been the case, and I'm forever intrigued by the stories of those who stared at the same sun and moon as their Irish families while their feet stood on foreign soil. The sense of feeling at home, but not quite, is quite aptly felt by those who were forced to leave Ireland for pragmatic reasons.

While archeologists work to uncover evidence of our prehistoric ancestors, I'm enjoying the stories that I hear of our more recent exiled community. The Irish wandered into the new country, sometimes starving as they had in their own land, but driven by a new sense of possibility. The United States boasts of millions who claim Irish heritage, and this is evident wherever you go in this vast nation.

Predictably, they fought against the British to establish American Independence, and it could equally be argued they, predictably, fought against each other during the Civil War. Whatever their political persuasions, there is no doubt that the Irish diaspora has helped to shape what has arguably become the most powerful nation in the world.

And while this sentiment sounds incredibly nationalist, I find myself at odds with simplifying nationalism to a feeling of pride. The concept of national pride is as elusive as cultural identity. For example, have you ever been with a fellow Irish person, drunk or sober, and wanted to distance yourself from all they represent as quickly as possible? Does this mean that you're

national pride is in question?

No. It simply means that, for reasons of simplicity, the sense of what it is to be Irish is often voiced by those we'd prefer not be identified with. I often find myself feeling estranged by what is conceived to be authentically Irish. Those who are from Northern Ireland will more readily understand this feeling. I remember once being at a reading by a notable Irish poet who began his preamble with disdain for the Northern brogue, particularly the influence of the Scottish idiomatic speech of words such as 'wee' and 'aye'. His approach reminded me of growing up in the Troubles and the expectation of Catholics under siege to find a sympathetic hearing among their brethren in the Republic, but this was not always the case. Yes, of course, among the border towns or counties there was always a sense of empathy, but in Dublin, tales of the black North would emerge along with keeping their troubles up there.

Thankfully, since the introduction of the Anglo-Irish Agreement those attitudes have changed. The Republic's involvement with the European Union, and the continued growth in Emigration has united Irish people North and South of the border. The question of Nationalism has changed from what it used to be. It has become more complex, as it probably always was, and as the modern Irish continue to disperse throughout the world they will bring with them new and exciting outlooks that are formed less by religious affiliation, and an older form of patriotism. They will bring with them new stories and continue to leave their mark wherever they land.



During Lent, it's common for people to give up guilty pleasures like chocolate or wine. But for one out of seven northern Illinois residents, guilty pleasures are not an option because even a regular meal is not guaranteed.

As we reflect upon our

utes food to more than 800 community food pantries and feeding programs. In 2014, a volunteer force of more than 23,000 people helped make the food bank successfully operate. "Our volunteers are the

"Our volunteers are the backbone of everything



Lenten experience and come into the Easter season, I thought it would be a good time to learn more about the challenging experiences of our hungry neighbors.

"Here's a can of tuna. I can't tell you how many things I can make with tuna," said Paula, a single mother who turned to a food pantry to feed her young daughters after leaving a domestic violence situation.

For Mike, who is retired and living off of social security, the food he gets from the pantry is his life line.

"This is the margin between surviving and not surviving," he said.

For people like Paula and Mike, having access to a food pantry is life changing. Often, hungry families have to choose between paying for medicine or food, or utilities and food.

"The food budget is one of the first things to get cut," said Erik Jacobsen, the communications manager for the Northern Illinois Food Bank.

The food bank, which serves 13 counties in Illinois, distrib-

we do," Jacobsen said.

The food bank is a clearing-house of sorts where large ship-ments of food—perishable and non-perishable—come in from grocery stores, food manufacturers and other sources. The food is sorted, inspected and repackaged by volunteers before being distributed to food pantries and feeding programs in the Northern Illinois Food Bank network.

"The food pantries and soup kitchens are where we reach hungry neighbors who are seeking food assistance," Jacobsen said. On average, people seeking food assistance in Northern Illinois do so eight times per year, according to data from Feeding America's Hunger in America 2014 study.

"Nutrition is a huge element of our feeding programs. We want to make sure that people in need have access to healthy foods like good fresh, produce," said Jennifer Lamplough, director of nutrition programs at the

Continued on Page 27

IAN Ohio "We've Always Been Green!" www.ianohio.com APRIL 2015

Anchored: My Experience with the 2015 Ohio Rose Selection

By: Maureen Ginley

When I graduated from John Carroll and moved home to live with my parents while in graduate school, I was searching for something to re-anchor myself back into the community and town I'd grown up in.

I expressed this concern to my Grandma while at her house for a visit back in December. This trip was like any other - we sat around her kitchen table and talked about school, my recent wisdom teeth removal, and whatever else was going on in either of our lives. She'd offer me food, and before I could even respond, a plate would be placed in front of me.

As we spent this time together, a thick magazine casually placed in front of me as I sipped on some tea and daintily tried to shove a bagel into my mouth. "What's this?" I asked.

Grandma ignored me and instead filled my cup up with some more tea. I looked down at the magazine and read the title, "Ohio Irish American News."

"Flip to the back, Maureen Rose," Grandma said.

I did as I was told and was met with a brightly colored advertise-

discuss my family's history in Ireland and practicing interviews with my sponsors – I was nervous. I had no time to dwell on this anxiety though, because the moment I walked into the Westlake Community Center, my journey as an Ohio Rose had begun.

During this day, the nine other entrants and I toured around the west side of Cleveland. We went to the Lutheran Home and visited with their residents, took pictures at Crocker Park, spent time at Casey's Irish Imports, Inc. (my sponsors!), and relaxed at PJ McIntyre's and the Hooley House.

As we visited these places with ties to the Irish community, I heard nothing but laughs and jokes. Despite everyone wanting to be named

the 2015 Ohio Rose, we were having a blast. We cranked up the radio and sang along. We danced when silly songs played. We laughed when we recalled St. Patrick's Day memories. We were growing closer to each other and forming close friendships despite only having known each other for a few hours. We didn't want to wait until the next Friday to see each other again.

As we hopped off the limo, the



ment and accompanying photo.

"That's this year's International Rose of Tralee. I think you should consider entering Ohio's Selection this year."

I turned off my alarm on the morning of February 7th, rubbed the sleep from my eyes, and began getting ready for my first day of Ohio Rose events. After doing so, I was on my way. Despite all of the preparation I had done – meeting with my Grandma to

question on all of our lips was, "how slow is this next week going to go?"

As imagined, the following week went excruciatingly slow. Despite being busy with school, my mind was more often than not wandering to the past weekend. I met for coffee with Annemarie - one of the other entrants - so I was able to get a small bit of Rose love, but the two of us were both so eager for what was to come that we spent the en-

tire morning going over our interviews and the tour ad nauseam, no doubt annoying people around us as we cackled at the memory of dropping it low and dancing like a crazy people as we were out on Saturday. We were just so full of pride for our Irish heritage and Rose



Casey's Irish Imports' Vera Casey, Maureen Casey Brubaker, Maureen Ginley & Kathleen Casey Proctor, Maureen's proud Ohio Rose of Tralee sponsors.

sisters that we couldn't contain it.

Before I knew it, the second weekend of Ohio Rose events began. This weekend was special not just because the new Rose was going to be crowned, but also because we were being joined by Roses from all over the world. They traveled with us as we took photos and discussed our lives as modern Irish women.

We spoke of the favorite parts of our heritage, and even revealed to each other our most embarrassing stories. The 2014 International Rose of Tralee, Maria Walsh, was even there! Before going into the cocktail party with the Ohio Centre's corporate sponsors, she told us of how she got involved with the festival.

"When I moved to Philly a few years ago, I was looking for my anchor. Like any person who moves to a new city, a new place, I was looking for something to root me to a community, and what better way to do that than a celebration of Irish heritage like the Rose of Tralee?"

I remember this because of its poignancy and relevancy to what I had been going through in moving home. Much like Maria, I was searching for something more, something real to help me re-establish myself in the community I had grown up in.

Selection Night took place on Valentine's Day. Despite the weather, we stepped our way through the snow, determined to get one more night of fun with each other in before having to return to our real lives. We arrived in full hair and makeup and were

dressed to the nines in pajamas, leggings, and velour jumpsuits. To me, this image is nothing short of hilarious.

Some of our last minute fun included experimenting with snacks the West Side Irish American Club had laid out for us. Almost everyone took a small

> nibble of a piece of cheese the color of shamrocks, noting its minty after taste.

As we laughed at this, my heart felt both heavy and light. I was surrounded with wonderful women who had taught me so much about my Irish heritage in just a few weeks' time. The friendships we formed in had grown to be so special to me because they were rooted in something more than a mutual

interest in a TV show or a book. We were bonded together as a family of Roses, Irish women who know and exemplify strength, humility, and poise. I didn't want our time together to end.

My time as an Ohio Rose is nowhere near over. I was not selected to represent Ohio this year, but I grew in so many ways. I learned from my sponsors that the strength and kindness of an Irish woman is deeply engrained in each and every one of us. My Rose sisters showed me the best parts of what it means to be a modern Irish woman in America – humor, generosity, kind-heartedness. The bond with my Grandma, the reason I am so deeply proud of my heritage, grew to be stronger than I even knew possible. My experience with the 2015 Ohio Rose Selection was nothing like I thought it would be, and in the best way possible. It was enriching, entertaining, and life-changing. Most importantly, it helped me to find my anchor.

There are over 1.4 million people of Irish descent in Ohio; 475,000 in Greater Cleveland; 176,000 in Cuyahoga County: Want to reach them? Advertise in the Ohio IAN: jobrien@ianohio.com.



Spring Forth

Recently, I was asked where I get all my ideas for this column. Laughing, I waved my arms like Glinda, the Good Witch from Oz, gesturing toward my family and friends. To paraphrase Glinda's answer to the tired and befuddled Dorothy, "The way home has always been inside you, there in your heart." That is where I find most of my inspiration, but my true secret comes from places that to me are as colorful as the imagined Emerald City, yet to others, are as real and passed over, as the spring robin right outside one's windowpane.

When I was a 'tween-age girl, my family would drive to Billings, Missouri, to celebrate Easter with my grandmother Mim and all of our relations. As we left the city streets of Chicago at 5am, the sky was often thick with mist and rain. A touch of residual winter still hung in the air. Hunkering down in my seat in the back of our Ford station wagon, I woke up for lunch somewhere near the St. Louis Arch.

When I was little, it was tradition for my family to stop at the Diamonds Restaurant and Motel for cafeteria-style food and a trip to the gift shop. Clear plastic containers hosting Mexican Jumping Beans and Ozark t-shirts proclaiming words of hillbilly wisdom beckoned to be purchased. What I most remember though is the clean smell of sweet grass in the humid air enveloping the truck stop like a line-dried linen sheet.

The year we traveled during my early teen years, I longed for the nostalgia of the Diamonds, as the sights and fragrances of my girlhood seemed to be dissipating with an ever-quickening pace. When at last we arrived up the drive to the Diamonds Restaurant and Motel, we realized that it had closed down. The building was present, but boarded-up, a ghost overlooking the foothills of the Ozarks.

Most teen-age girls are prone to tears and I was no exception. Crying in the back of our wagon, I sensed that a small piece of my innocence had gone. Interestingly, when I sniffed back my tears, I realized that through the opened window, the fragrance of sweet-grass was still around me, welcoming my prodigal family back to the farm, the Ozark hills,

and the red-clay cliffs.

I possess this unique ability to time-travel in my mind. My mother's brother, a favorite bachelor-uncle who showed kindness and utter generosity to his many

nieces and nephews, recently passed away. When he wasn't working on a barge in Illinois, he lived with my grandmother Mim in their lovely, old, rambling farmhouse. Upon his death, the house was to be sold. My mother and I spent a long time talking about Uncle Ted, the house, and our shared memories. I divulged to my mother that I had long been able to travel back to specific times and places that were special, or that in some way captivated my imagination.

I told my mother how strange it is that I can walk through the heavy walnut doors that opened to Mim's front parlor and still feel the coarse wool of the carpet on my bare feet. In my memory, I can vividly smell the musty odor of the attic and hear the dry creak of sun-warmed floorboards where I once crept up the stairs during games of hide-and-seek. Mostly, I can smell the sweet odor of hay and cows forever suspended in my mind like an impressionistic pastoral scene, rich with sensory detail, and alive with memory.

Like a framed portrait, memories do not always need to begin with personal experience. When I first traveled to Ireland with my yet-to-be fiancé and in-laws, my future father-in-law shared with me his favorite sites on Achill Island. There is a stretch of road as one travels into Achill that I call "Rhododendron Alley." Now, whether this is the actual coined name for this area or not, I am unsure, but it does aptly describe a narrow country road flanked by fifteen-foot flowers.

When my future father-in-law drove us through this densely hedged road, he explained in vivid detail the colors and heights of the flowers that "grow like weeds" when in bloom. That was in August and the time for rhododendrons had long passed. During our honeymoon, my husband and I traveled back to Ireland in early June. Fortunately, we saw the purple beauty of the rhododendron in its glory and my father-in-law's vision came to life.

The year we traveled to Ireland with our young family after my fatherin-law had died, the rhododendron were again putting on a display. I could almost hear my father-in-law whisper through the purpled hedge, "Didn't I tell ya." His spirit was as alive as the towering violet blooms.

One caveat of growing older is that the world seems to open up. No longer bound by rigorous academic schedules, newborn feedings or fledgling jobs, there is more opportunity to look at life from

a different perspective. Fresh insight may come from travel, new hobbies, or simply a greater appreciation for the simple things in life. I recall seeing that red cardinal perched upon a leafless branch, framed by winter's snow. An image such as this, no matter how ordinary, may make an impression for life.

Last April, I visited places in London that I had only read of in books. Awash with flowers, tourists, and school children, spring had arrived in Kensington Gardens with grand style. Carefully following our map, my son and I arrived at the iconic Peter Pan statue; admirers left fresh flowers at Pan's feet, while an artist had set her easel to take advantage of the afternoon light shining on Pan's bronzed head. As the woman studied Peter Pan, I studied the woman. Quiet and focused,

the artist could have been in one of Monet's garden paintings. Her palpable serenity was as memorable as the statue of Peter Pan.

Unlike J.M. Barrie's boy who will never grow up, my son with whom I traveled to London has grown taller and will soon be entering his own 'tween years. As my memory of our day in Kensington Gardens becomes more distant, I know that I will find comfort in my ability to time-travel. I will always be able to smell that little boy scent of my son's soft hair, warmed by springtime sun, and feel his small

fingers holding mine in trust and awe of our shared experience. In word and memory, that moment will always be ours.

The frames for my images may change with the memories, but as long as I have family to love and nature to treasure, I will never be without a story to tell.

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



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10

The Forever Seven

The Seven Men Who Signed the Proclamation

By Anne Waters



Joseph Plunkett

Joseph Plunkett can be captured in two words, tenacity and determination. He was the youngest Signatory to the Proclamation and overcame tremendous odds to be present in the General Post Office (GPO) when the Proclamation was first delivered by Padraig Pearse.

Joseph was born in 1887 into an affluent family. His father was a scholar, a Papal count, an ardent nationalist, standing as a candidate for the Irish Parliamentary Party in a number of elections. Joseph Plunkett's early education was quite erratic, obtained in a variety of private schools and culminating in Stonyhust College in England for a period of two years.

He suffered from tuberculosis from a young age and accounts indicate that his mother was somewhat reluctant to believe he was quite so unwell. Nevertheless his illness necessitated







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long periods of convalescence, which enabled Plunkett to become widely read on a variety of subjects. He developed an enduring interest in poetry and photography and his fascination with Marconi and communications was a useful asset during the planning of the 1916 Rising.

In addition, his interest and knowledge in military strategy, much of it gained in Stoneyhurst College, was invaluable during the planning stages. Joseph Plunkett's friendship with Thomas MacDonagh, another Signatory, developed when MacDonagh provided Irish language lessons for Plunkett. They became close friends, and although they shared a common interest in Irish nationalism, their relationship transcended politics, both marrying two sisters, Muriel and Grace Gifford. Thomas MacDonagh assisted Plunkett with the publication of his first book of poetry in 1912, entitled 'The Circle and the Sword.' Subsequently Joseph became involved with MacDonagh in publishing the 'The Irish review', initially featuring articles on literature and arts, but eventually the articles became more political. (ref 1)

The 1913 'Lockout' in Dublin, which culminated in striking workers being locked out of employment by their employers, inspired Plunkett and his political activism became more noticeable. Plunkett's sister Geraldine was as active as her brother and their sympathy for the workers caused such a rift with their mother that she halted their allowance. Joseph's interest in Irish Politics continued as did the interest of his Father and his other siblings. In 1913 he was elected to the Provisional Committee of the Irish Volunteers.

Originally he was more in tune with the political thrust of John Redmond's followers but became increasingly frustrated by them and eventually was sworn into the more militant Irish Republican Brotherhood, in 1914. His family owned a large estate house 'Larkfield' on the outskirts of Dublin and Joseph and his sister moved into a small cottage on the land, allowing the premises to become the centre of training and an operational base for the 4th Battalion

Dublin Brigade of the Volunteers in readiness for the forthcoming Rising. (ref 1) The outbreak of the First World War and, the call from John Redmond, leader of the Irish Parliamentary Party, for Volunteers to join the British army, confirmed Plunkett's decision to break with the politics of Redmond. The opinion of the Volunteers split, the majority favouring Redmond and others like Plunkett, O'Neill and Pearse opposing.

Joseph Plunkett's problems with his health and his ability to travel for health reasons proved a useful subterfuge



when he was chosen to travel to Germany in 1915. He was to meet with Roger Casement and to enlist military aid. Despite his efforts, no military assistance was forthcoming, although it was agreed to send a consignment of arms. On his return, Plunkett kept a low profile, venturing into public only to attend the funeral of O'Donovan Rossa.

Meanwhile, Joseph's father and both his brothers fully committed themselves to the cause of Irish Independence and moved into the headquarters in Larkfield. Joseph Plunkett's health was still a major concern and days before the rebellion he underwent an operation on his neck, necessitating the holding of Military Council meetings by his bedside. (Ref 3). On Easter Monday he was assisted by Michael Collins and WT Brennan-Whitmore to Liberty Hall, where he joined the march to the GPO with the main group

of Volunteers, including a regiment led by his brother George. Plunkett's grit and determination to be central to the rebellion was inspirational for the other volunteers. He is remembered for his flamboyant gesture when he brandished a sabre thought to have been that of another patriot Robert Emmet, (ref 3).

Desmond Ryan is quoted as saying, 'During the worst stages of the shelling no one was more assiduous in keeping up the spirits of the defenders' (ref 2) and Desmond Fitzgerald recalled Plunkett looking 'appalling ill but at the

same time very cheerful' (ref 1)

Roddy Connolly, a son of James Connolly, remembers querying who was this sickly man and Connolly replying, "That's Joe Plunkett, and he has more courage in his little finger than all the other leaders combined'"

Plunkett was involved in the decision to negotiate terms of surrender. At this point he was in a very weakened state and was taken firstly to Richmond Barracks and eventually transferred to Kilmainham Jail. After a courtmartial and as a Signatory on the Proclamation, he was sentenced to death. His brothers were also court—martialled and imprisoned.

The poignant conclusion to Joseph Plunkett's short life was the celebration of his marriage to Grace Gifford in the small chapel in Kilmainham Jail on the 3rd May. On learning that a marriage was possible Grace hastily obtained a licence and a wedding ring. The gaslight in Kilmainham Jail had failed, so Grace was led

in a procession by soldiers with fixed bayonets glinting in candlelight, to pledge her wedding vows. As soon as the short ceremony was over she had to leave. They met just once more and were permitted to speak only a few words, surrounded once more by British soldiers. When Grace left she took with her a lock of Joseph's hair.

Joseph Plunkett, the youngest of the Signatories, was the last to be executed. His final words to his priest: 'Father I am very happy. I am dying for the glory of God and the honour of Ireland.' (ref 2)

References:

Ref 1 16 Dead Men (Anne Marie Ryan , Mercier Press 2014. Ref 2 Last Words (Piaras Mac Lo-

chlainn) OPW Govt Pub. 2006

Ref 3 http://thewildgeese.com/profiles/blogs/joseph-plunkett-and-grace-gifford3

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Dedicated to Dad

This winter has been a trying one. My father, who is slipping into the quicksand of Alzheimer's, slipped a little further away. He no longer knows my name. But in his eyes, I see a glimpse of recognition. And that's something.

My mother fell. She broke her hip and needed emergency surgery. But she's on the mend. And then there was my sweet son. He ended up in the ICU for a week, and in the hospital another week after that. It's been tough.

But, today, I saw the first glimpse of spring. And with it came hope. The hope of new life, new beginnings, and the gift of sharing family memories with the next generation.

So this month, I dedicate my column to my Dad; he turns 81 this April. I have so many wonderful memories of time spent with him treasured in my heart, even if he can't remember a single one.

The gardening bug bit me early. When I was 10, my family moved to a new house. It had a big back yard and Dad decided we needed a garden. He plotted out a rectangular patch of land in the backyard, then grabbed a shovel and started digging. Dad's hands were blistered and bloodied by days of forcing that shovel into the earth... turning it from lush lawn to rich soil. I couldn't figure out why Dad



Katherine Mary the V

By Katherine Boyd



seemed so happy even though his hands hurt and his back was stiff from all the digging.

"Creating new life is never easy," Dad explained one evening as he washed-up his muddy hands with the hose. "But connecting one on one with nature gives joy to man's soul."

That summer, Dad and I worked side by side in that 10 by 20 foot patch of garden every day. I was in charge of watering and pulling weeds. Dad was in charge of mulching and keeping the rabbits out. Thirty-five years later, I can still remember the excitement of seeing our seeds turn to sprouts. And those sprouts turn into big bushy plants.

Day after day, I couldn't wait to wake-up and run down to the garden to see what was new. It was hard work, but I loved spending time with my Dad and watching something so beautiful grow where there was once nothing but dirt.

By July's end we were rewarded for all our sweat and soreness. We had baskets of beans and tomatoes and peppers; Mom would chop them

up and use them in salads for lunch, or as a side for dinner. I beamed with pride that I was able to help feed the family.

My joy now is sharing a love of gardening with my three children. This will be the sixth year we've had a plot in the community garden.

It's only 6-feet by 20-feet, but it contains some of the best lessons in the world. And I know we're not just growing veg-



gies for today, we're growing memories that'll last a lifetime.

*Katherine Boyd is an Emmy winning TV reporter and is currently an anchor on WTAM1100. She's also a proud fifth generation Irish American.



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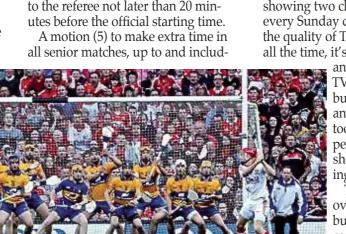
2015 GAA Congress

I had the honor of going back home a few weeks back to represent the North American GAA at the annual GAA Congress, which was held this year at the Slieve Russell Hotel in County Cavan, the home of the new GAA President Aogán Ó Fearghail. It was a busy agenda with some 67 motions being discussed – although it amazes me that every year they manage to always come up with over 60 new motions!

One of the most discussed was that of the one-on-one penalty in hurling. Prior to this motion the rule was that three players were able to stand on the goal-line whilst an opponent prepared to hit a penalty. The motion passing is that only the goal keeper can be on the goal-line and the penalty taker must strike the ball on

system to end championship games was another motion that failed to pass. The system was due to start this year, but Congress has now voted to retain the current time-keeping system with an 83% majority.

All inter-county panels must now be registered by 9am on Thursday under a new rule approved today. It passed with a 52% yes vote. The penalty for breaking the rule is the withdrawal of sideline privileges for the manager and/or a €1000 fine. On the day of the match itself, a prescribed team list (as issued by the committee-in-Charge from time to time), confirming the starting 15 and maximum 11 additional panel members, must be submitted to the referee not later than 20 min-



or outside the 20-metre line, but not beyond it. The motion passed easily, by a margin of 85% to 15%. There was a motion presented by the European GAA board to introduce the 'black card' into the game of hurling - this

failed miserably by a margin of 29-71. Congress also rejected a motion that would have seen all county grounds opened to non-GAA sports. The motion from the Miltown-Malbay club in Clare received just 37.9% of votes from delegates. Ireland's bid to host the 2023 Rugby World Cup depends on GAA grounds being available to other sports. This vote will not affect that, as GAA Central Council still has the power to authorize the opening of any ground specifically for the Rugby World Cup.

The introduction of a clock/hooter

ing All-Ireland Finals (submitted by JK Brackens, Tipperary) was heavily defeated by a tally of 12-88. One of those vocally in objection to the motion was former GAA President Sean Kelly, who cited the benefits of both promotional and revenue that would be affected if passed. He was well supported by the members.

As with most Congress sessions, the rules of the games come into question, the hand pass in football made its way onto three separate motions – the most debate done being Motion 14 stipulating that a goalkeeper must kick the ball if hand-passed to him – this was defeated by a tally of 36-64. All other hand pass motions were defeated.

The controversial motion 23 to allow

a player sent off for a second yellow card in hurling to be replaced failed to generate sufficient support when it failed 31-69.

On the Friday evening of Congress, the Director General of the GAA, Páraic Duffy, gave his annual report on the organization. One hot topic was that

of TV coverage and the opening up of broadcast rights last year to Sky Sports. Although there was little discussion from the audience itself on the deal, Duffy – while defending it – made comment that perhaps too many games were now in fact being shown live.

"We will show around 100 games live this year. Is that too much?" he asked. "Championship attendances are down on 10 years ago and while they have stabilized in recent years, we have to ask if we're doing the right thing by showing two championship games live every Sunday during the summer. With the quality of TV production improving all the time, it's attractive to sit at home

> and watch two games. Live TV coverage is good for us but it's vital to get the balance right between offering too much and encouraging people to stay at home or showing less and attracting them to the games."

There will no change over the next two years, but Duffy said that TV coverage was an issue that should be closely examined before the next rights deal kicks in for the 2017 season.

Last month's question: Ireland will play in the 2015 Rugby World Cup later this year when it is held in England, although a few games will be held in Wales – who will be their 1st opponent in the group stages? Canada, will play Ireland on Saturday September 19th at the Millennium Stadium, Cardiff Wales.

This month's question: The new President of the GAA is Aogán Ó

Fearghail, who was his predecessor? *Mark Owens is originally from Derry City, Ireland and has resided in the Cleveland area since 2001. Mark is the Director of Marketing for Skylight Financial Group in Cleveland. Send questions, comments or suggestions for future articles to Mark

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Mo chuisle Mo Chroí (???)

History is the study of the past in its most general understanding. It is a narrative of past events as they relate to the human condition. The production of history is a relationship between those who seek out the past, while they live in the present. The work produced by the historian, at any level of scholarship, affects the understanding of the now. It engages the current.

I have been writing on the history of the Irish in Cleveland with a particular focus east of the Cuyahoga. That in part represents a connection to my current positions and my family history. I want the story of all the Irish in Cleveland to be part of the discussion and recognized as a part of our history. It makes my Ma proud and that makes my life easier. In order to tell this story, I went in search of history. I researched Mc-Garry. I found Gaghan, Fulmer, O'Malley, Marley, Murray, Look, Lawless, McLaughlin, Di Julius and half of Euclid. I researched the Catholics in Ohio, the Fenians, the AOH and the Irish Catholic parishes of Cleveland.

After all of that searching, history began to find me. In one of my articles, I mentioned a Daniel Sheehy as the first Irish Catholic in northeast Ohio. He was born at Clonmell, County Tipperary in 1759. His uncle Nicholas Sheehy, a Catholic priest, and cousin Edmond were executed for rebellion against England. Edmond was connected to the Whiteboys, a

secret society in Ireland that fought for agrarian reforms and the protection of the Irish Catholic Church. The Whiteboys and similar groups like the Ribbonmen and Defenders were the precursors of the Ancient Order of Hibernians.

Daniel Sheehy served in the in the American Revolution and in 1796 contracted with John Young to purchase 16,000 acres from the Connecticut Land Company. Story has it that Daniel once walked to Connecticut to settle a misunderstanding with John Young and then turned around and walked back. This land became Youngstown, Ohio, which is a few miles from the focus of my research. At least, that is what I thought at the time I conducted the research.

In 1825 William Woods married Mary Sheehy, the daughter of Daniel Sheehy. Woods was an Irish Catholic from County Tyrone. They rode 35 miles on a single horse to be married by a Catholic priest in Dungannon, Ohio. In 1817 the first Catholic Mass in Northeast Ohio was celebrated there in the cabin of Daniel McCallister. Daniel McCallister, Jr. married Margaret Sheehy, the sister of Mary and daughter of Daniel.

All of this history is in a letter from Albert Reilly dated February 15, 1929 to a Reverend Laurence J. Kenny at St. Louis University. Albert is the son of Mrs. Emily Woods Reilly, the grand-daughter of Daniel Sheehy and daughter of William Woods. I received a copy of this letter from Albert Reilly's son, Patrick,

who is a member of the Irish Club and retired police officer.

After the Club's Corn Beef Dinner we discussed Daniel Sheehy and his family history. Such pride emanated from Pat's speech. His engagement with the past was clear. His passion was evident. He thought this was a Youngstown story. He was amazed Daniel Sheehy was in the Ohio IAN.

Patrick Reilly is an example of our relationship with the

She talked of her parents and her grandparents and for once I didn't talk. I listened; and, as I listened, I admired her compassion, pride and articulation of the connectedness her family shares. I thought of how proud her family must be to have her as a narrator and how fortuitous to make her acquaintance. Hers was a story of sacrifice and appreciation. It was a story of wanting the best for those with whom you share life. It was the

my friend from Youngstown for sharing their narrative. Listening to their narratives was an honor and an inspiration.

I am proud to see so many people and organizations committed to being actors and narrators of our history and culture, each being true to our history and sharing with the next generation the chronicle of previous generations. History lived at the Catholic Mass in Dungannon. History has lived



now and the past and how that relationship engages each of us as actor and narrator. History does not exist in a discrete past maintained by singular narratives. We are all actors who can be either true or false to the history we choose to acknowledge. None of us are devoid of history and all of us have a narrative.

A little over a year ago at our Hibernian Mass and Brunch I had to the pleasure of making the acquaintance of a nice Irish Catholic young ladyNAME??? She is a product of Youngstown and Catholic school, the tangential heritage of Daniel Sheehy. She and her family, except Kirby and Luna, are now all members of the Irish Club. Her parents are Eucharistic Ministers, just like my Ma. Her father is a Hibernian.

She took me to the Flat Iron for my birthday. After dinner we stood at the Famine Memorial and talked about all those who came before us, so that we could be where we are today.

story of every Irish immigrant.

That evening I thought of all the Daniel Sheehy's, of all the parents, grandparents and great grandparents. I thought of all those who made the sacrifices and are our history. I thought of all the children who spend their lives validating the sacrifices. I wanted to thank my great-great grandfather Thomas McGarry and I wished I could buy him a pint.

I think often of my history and of our history. It is not the first time for those thoughts. Walking down the Avenue on St. Patrick's Day, I have those wishes. Sitting in the pews of historic churches, I have those thoughts. I am honored to walk in the footsteps of the Irish in Cleveland. I am honored to share a communal Irish blood.

History has recently taught me a lesson. It has found me and I have discovered it is a narrative without boundaries, a narrative of interconnectedness. I thank Patrick Reilly and since then in all the Irish neighborhoods and parishes in Cleveland. What we choose to do as a community makes that history live today. We tell the story of all the Daniel Sheehy's with our collective and individual voice.

*Francis McGarry is the President of the Irish American Club East Side and the Bluestone Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians. He can be reached at w.francis.mcgarry@gmail.com.

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Irish Sports Prepare to Take the Fields of Glory, in the USA

I grew up playing Gaelic Football, as my father did before me. Ohio and the surrounding areas have a thriving Irish sports community. We will show highlights each month as we support the Midwest Division of the GAA Cleveland, which is made up of the following eleven clubs:

Akron Celtic Guards Albany Rebels Buffalo Fenians Cincinnati GAA Cleveland St. Jarlaths Cleveland St. Pats **Cleveland St. Pats Ladies** Columbus Naghton Street **Detroit Wolfe Tones Detroit St. Annes** Kalamazoo GAA Pittsburgh Celtics **Pittsburgh Banshees** Pittsburgh Pucas Rochester Erin's Isle Syracuse Gaels

A Note from Midwest Division President John Young:

Greetings to Ohio Irish American News Readers,

Plans are being made, fundraisers are being had, March of 2015 is upon us and The Midwest Division Gaelic Athletic Association is gearing up for another exciting 2015 Championship Season.

This year we will have 11 different cities with 16 teams from 4 different states - 100's of Athletes and Thousands of supporters gearing up for the chance at watching their club hoist the winners cup in Mens National Championship Football, Mens Divisional Championship Football, Ladies Championship football and our Divisional Warriors will compete in the Hurling Championship.

Championship games will officially begin on May 30th this year and run until August 9th.

We hope this year will be a little different as the competition has been revised to create Divisional Champions that will advance on to The NACB Playoffs in Chicago, where teams will compete over a 3

day period against the Nations best to have the right to call themselves National Champions. National Champions is a term that is not easily earned.

This year our Midwest Division season will end with a "grand finale" of sorts, during The Divisional Championship Weekend, held at Founders Field in Pittsburgh PA.

Teams from across the Midwest Division

will converge on The Steel City in August with the intention of being crowned Divisional Champions, so they can go on to represent The Midwest Division in Chicago.

The event is August 8th and 9th, with games played over the two days.

The event will be a festival type atmosphere, with up to 20 teams playing in full regulation games on the Saturday and the different Finals to be held on the Sunday. Food and beverages will be available all weekend, with a social evening on the Saturday Night.

If you have an interest in playing Gaelic sports in your area please contact me and I will put you in touch with the closest club. My Email address is chairperson.midwest.usa@gaa.ie [pic Midwest logo]

Monthly Club Summaries feature:

Cincinnati An Runai [logo]
The Cincinnati Gaelic Athletic Association is a community-based organization committed to the promotion of Irish culture and heritage through the Irish sport of Gaelic Football. Our club is a proud member of the North American Gaelic Athletic Association

and our teams compete against clubs from Louisville, Columbus, Indianapolis, Cleveland, Pittsburgh and Buffalo. We also have our very own club Gaelic Football leagues for men and women right here in Cincinnati!

As a social athletic club, Cincinnati GAA is also very active off the field. So – whether you're sporting or not, young or old, male or female, Irish or not – we have something for everyone! For more info please visit our Facebook



page or send us an email at CincinnatiGAA@gmail.com. Cleveland St. Pat's Pre-

pare to Defend Mid-West Championship [logo]

After completing an undefeated season and winning the Mid-West divisions crown in 2014, Cleveland St. Pat's head into this season looking to build on their success.

"The core of our team is strong, very strong," said St. Pat's Head Coach Martin Wall (of Carlow). "We've made some off-season additions that will add some strength and athleticism at mid-field and open up scoring opportunities for our forwards."

Since taking over as Head Coach in 2013, Wall has stressed the importance of pre-season strength and conditioning, which is why St. Pat's season began in an indoor training facility in early March.

training facility in early March. "When you look back at what separated last year from previ-

ous efforts, it was definitely our level of fitness," said Colm English (Mayo). "Most of the lads are in the gym year-round. Now, when we hit the ground, we hit the ground running."

Wall's fingerprints are all over the latest round of success for St. Pat's, and his formula is simple. Assemble a team of experienced, veteran players, and continue to recruit new athletes with passion for competition.

"It's a simple game," said Wall. "You give me a lad who

knows his way around the field and wants to compete, I'll make him a football player."

St. Pat's will open their season on June 6th against the Pittsburgh Celtics in a re-match of last year's Mid-West championship final. If you'd like to learn more about Cleveland St. Pat's GFC you can visit them on Facebook at www. facebook.com/stpatsgfc, or by email: stpatsgaelic-footballclub@gmail.com.

Columbus Naghten Street Irish Football Club [logo]
The club, founded in

2011 by Steve Pickett and Pat Coyne, saw a large amount of growth and success in 2014, with the club's player base doubling to about 60 players. Naghten Street has also added several new board members to help take the club upward and accommodate even bigger numbers this year.

The 2015 board members of the Naghten Street Irish Football Club are: President: Conor Hart; Recruiting Directors: Courtney Schoenbohm, Darren O'Shea, Chris McAndrew; Communications Director: Sean Russell; Competition Director: Pat Coyne; Financial Director: Blase Pinkert; Personnel Director: Shane Van Bibber.

Beginning in May, Naghten Street will be hosting the 2nd annual Columbus Irish Football League, beginning in May. The CIFL is a co-ed 7vs7 league sponsored by The Blarney Stone Tavern. With up to 100 participants expected this year, weekly practices

beginning Wednesday, April 1st for new and returning players. The club is also fielding a competitive men's team in the Midwest Division of the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) this year. The competitive season will begin in July.

Anyone interested in joining the team or sponsoring the club can contact Naghten Street at naghtenstreet@gmail.com www.naghtenstreet.com www.facebook.com/NaghtenStreet.

Up Naghten Street!
Pittsburgh Celtics Gaelic
Football Club; Pittsburgh
Banshees Ladies Football Club:
Pittsburgh Celtics Youth Teams

The Pittsburgh Gaelic Athletic Association was formed in 2010 and acts as the representative body for the Pittsburgh Celtics Gaelic Football Club, the Pittsburgh Banshees Ladies Football Club, and the Pittsburgh Celtics Youth Teams.

The PGAA's mission is to further the development of Gaelic sports in the city of Pittsburgh. Since its inception, the PGAA has overseen the Celtic's three consecutive Midwest Championships in 2011, 2012, & 2013 as well as their back-to-back National Championships in 2011 & 2012. The Banshees have also seen great success during this time with Midwest Championships in 2011, 2013, & 2014 and a first-ever National Championship in 2013.

The Pittsburgh region has a rich history of Gaelic Football and this unprecedented era of success was built upon years of hard work by both current and former club members.

The PGAA includes a mix of American and Irish born players of all ages and skill levels throughout the Pittsburgh area. This year's main goals for the PGAA will be to capture both Men's and Ladies National Championships while re-establishing a Youth program that had found success in years past

For anyone interested in learning more about Gaelic Football in Pittsburgh please contact Public Relations Officer Sean O'Connor at (412) 508-9650 or pro@pittsburghgaa.com IAN Ohio "We've Always Been Green!"

the story as it appeared in the

the late Patsy Glynn Snr took a picture of her coming out of



"The resting place for Castlerea's most famous elephant, Cindy, has been marked after 42 years. According to the history books the story goes that Cindy became famous when

Stephen Mannion's Bar on the Main Street in the town in June 1958. While parading through the town, before the circus performance, Cindy wandered into Stephen Mannion's pub

on Main Street. Patsy Glynn Snr. captured the moment and the photograph appeared in many newspapers and in the Vintner's magazine with the caption 'customers come in all shapes and sizes'. When Cindy died in Athenry in 1972, there was much discussion as to where she would be buried. Castlerea Towns Trust offered a site in the Demesne and Cindy was buried there. It wasn't until 2014 that Seán Browne got the brainwave to mark the grave site and with the help of local businessmen Benny O'Connell and John Keenan and the expertise of stone mason Declan Hawthorne, his dream became a reality.

Chris Kane from Williamstown wrote the epitaph. The grave has become quite popular with locals and visitors alike."

Castlerea is a rural, agricultural town. As well acquainted as the locals are with animals, the sight of an elephant walking the streets must have been something very exotic altogether. Combine this with the elephant herself going in to the

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Don't Forget Us!



This story and photo are so

charming that it is tempting to

not question it at all. Honestly,

I wouldn't have. But, with

is the realist, the one who

every group of friends there

has to tell you the real story,

for your own good, lest you

believe too much nonsense. So,

I was told that Cindy no more

walked into that pub on her

backed and pushed into the

own volition than the man in

the moon might have. She was

pub by several locals and circus

employees. The photographer

was put in place and it actually

APRIL 2015

local pub for a quiet one, and you have a phenomenon. Sean Browne is a local man about town, who is always promoting Castlerea and looking for those things about it that are significant and unique. Therefore, it is no surprise that he wanted to mark the grave in the local Demesne, pronounced (de' main). The Demesne in Castlerea is a lovely spot; comprised of a few acres of woods, river and winding paths.

It is also timely thought since the Ringling Brothers' Circus has announced that they are removing elephants from their

took a little while to get things just right for the photo. It was a stunt designed to benefit all concerned. which must have exceeded their expectations in publicity. I am not sure how many people looking at the photo would suspect that it was staged. These times, we are told,

are ones where moments of unity are hard to find. Choice has exploded our ability to choose what to do, who to listen to, where to go and what to watch. We have things that are designed to cater to our tastes; thousands of television channels, bands, radio stations, and the list goes on. While it is convenient and appealing, it also erodes our sense of community. That sense that other generations had seeing in Elvis and the Beatles on television

for the first time; a collective experience. It is incredibly difficult to capture our collective imagination. It takes something extraordinary, something huge. Cindy was both.

Many thanks to Ciara McCaughley, Journalist of the Roscommon Herald, the late Patsy Glynn Sr. and the current owner of Glynn's Photography, Patsy Jr.



Cindy

What did the elephant say

when she walked into a pub? Ouch! Sorry for that, but it is

April! Bad jokes aside, there is an elephant that might have had plenty to say if she

could only have spoken. That

As legend has it, one day in

elephant's name was Cindy.

1958, Cindy escaped a tour-

ing circus and wandered into

tlerea, Co. Roscommon. Her

the late Patsy Glynn Sr. The

in both the local papers and

the national Irish papers. The

event gave the small Midwest

town of Castlerea a moment

in the sun. Here is a piece of

image then went the 1958 ver-

sion of viral; it was reproduced

exit from the pub was captured

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circuses completely, largely in response to protests from animal rights organizations like PETA. But these were different times. Respecting animals then consisted of making sure that they were well-fed and not abused. They did not consider an animal's intellect or sensitivity very deeply. And really, Cindy was let go for a pint, how bad could her life have been?

Things to Do and See in County Kildare

by Linda Fulton Burke

APRIL 2015



DOWN

1 Place a bet on the dogs at the Newbridge_ Stadium. 2 Spend a day with your children at Clonfert___ Farm in Maynooth. 3 Have a family outing to Nurney Lakes for a great day of _____ with the kids. 5 Be a combat ____ for a day at Redhills Adventure just outside of Kildare. 7 Put some Euros on the ponies at the Racecourse, Ireland's premier international horse racing venue. 8 Tour the Maynooth ___ ins next door NÚI Maynooth. 9 Take a Formula 1 Racing class and drive a few laps around Mondello Park International ___ Racing Circuit in Naas. 13 Stroll the grounds and buildings of St. Patrick's ____ in Maynooth. 14 Stop at the Old Kilcullen Monastic Site with a round and two high crosses. 16 Walk the pathways along the River ____ in Clane. 18 Stroll though the lovely _ Gardens after visiting the horses in Tully 19 Shoot a round at the famous Golf Club in Straffan. 22 Visit the thoroughbreds and miniature horses at the Irish National ___ in Tully. 23 Stop for some photos of the upside down cone-shaped Wonderful_



and its 2 smaller clones in Leixlip.

ACROSS

3 Fly a Boeing 737 simulator ___ 30 and 60 minutes at Leixlip's Simcheck. sters __ riding at Clonfert Equestrian Centre in Maynooth.

6 Learn about Sir Ernest _____, the explorer, at the Athy Heritage Centre-Museum.

7 View the magnificent 8th century 17.5 ft. tall Moone High _.

8 Have a picnic or ____ at Wallaby Woods Donadea with trails and interactive animal experiences.

10 Tour Burtown House ___ in Athy.

11 View the collection of working steam ____at the Straffan's Steam Museum.

12 Let your children spend __ for a rainy day at Tricky Trick-Castle in Naas.

15 Tour Castletown once home to Speaker Connolly in Celbridge.

17 Visit Castledermot's Round Tower and two Crosses.

19 Do some souvenir shopping in Athy's Crookstown ____ Village

20 Spend the day racing through the Kildare ___ or play some crazy golf.

21 Take the family to the Kilcullen Nature ____and Farm.

22 Stop at the Newbridge tor's Center for some great shopping.

24 Spend an afternoon at Saint Brigid's _____ and Round Tower in Kildare.



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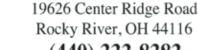
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Taking Your First Vacation to Ireland

By Sally James

Having the opportunity to take a trip home to Ireland is the ambition of many Irish Americans, and for good reason. Ireland is a wonderful place to visit; choosing to visit the Emerald Isle will also provide you with the opportunity to find out more about where you come from, spend time researching your family history and visit the regions where you're ancestors originally resided.

It is a wonderful reality that there are few groups of immigrants that have settled in America that are so deeply linked to their homeland as Irish Americans. However the realities of visiting Ireland may vary from your expectations, as the realities of modern Ireland are very different from the

perceptions of the country purported by the wider media in America. It is true that the Emerald Isle is verdant and beautiful, and it is also true that the people are generally friendly. You will have plenty of opportunity to enjoy a pint of Guinness or two as well.

But Ireland is a country filled with so much more. Here are a few hints and tips for taking your first vacation to Ireland:

Think About Your Transportation Options: Many of the more picturesque sights that Ireland has to offer are in understandably remote locations, meaning that seeing much of Ireland is very difficult to undertake purely using public transport. You may consider renting a car when you arrive so that you can see as much as possible, at your own pace, and stop to enjoy the view whenever the fancy takes you. If this sounds like an attractive proposition, let's brush up on the international driving laws you'll need to abide by to drive in Ireland: remember that Ireland drives on the left hand side of the road: something that can take some getting used to!

If you would rather not drive yourself, another wonderful option is to hire a private driver. When you hire a driver you not only get to enjoy the view as you travel around the country, you also get your own tour guide, with a font of local

of the amenities and facilities you need once you arrive.

There are tourist information centres to help you plan stay and organise any days out you want to enjoy, and banks and money exchange services to give you regular access to any funds you may have put



knowledge and with many fabulous stories to tell. This is a wonderful transportation option, but much more expensive than hiring your own car.

Pack Wisely: The climate in Ireland is notoriously temperamental, no matter what time of the year you choose to visit. On any given day you

aside for your vacation back home. And of course, shopping centres, museums and galleries with the same incredible transport links you would expect for any metropolis are prevalent. If the idea of seeing the modern heart of Ireland appeals to you, there is no better place to visit than Dublin: a wonderful

> city offering something for everyone.

Four winners of the Nobel Prize for Literature have originated from Ireland, meaning that Dublin is also the heart of literary Ireland and a wonderful place to explore. Spend time in the Dublin Writers Museum or Trinity College's beautiful Old Library

home to the famous Book of Kells. Both sites much more interesting than those leprechaun filled tour buses so often aimed at visiting vacationers!

Uncover Your Heritage: For an Irish American, visiting Ireland can feel like finally coming home. Before you plan and take your trip, why not spend a little time tracing your family line and discovering more about your ancestry? Having as much knowledge as possible about your own family lineage before you travel will enable you to ensure your trip includes sights cities and villages that hold special importance to you. You may even be able to uncover and meet some long lost relatives as part of your trip!



can experience all four seasons in quick succession. That is why packing several layers is key to packing wisely.

Light layers are easy to carry, as well as being easy to add on and take away. Not having to worry about predicting the weather because you are prepared for all eventualities, you will find you are much more laid back, and able to enjoy your trip.

Be Sure To Visit Dublin: Many imagine Ireland to be full of thatched cottages and expect visiting to feel like stepping back in time. In reality though, Ireland is a modern country with several large cities and towns just like any other; you will find all

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"'Twas England bade our wild geese go, that small nations might be free;

Their lonely graves are by Suvla's waves or the fringe of the great North Sea.

Oh, had they died by Pearse's side or fought with Cathal Brugha, Their graves we'd keep where

the Fenians sleep, 'neath the shroud of the foggy dew."

These words from the song 'The Foggy Dew", written in c. 1919 by Canon Charles O'Neill [1887-1963], a parish priest from the small village of Kilcoo, Co. Down, takes us back a century or more. Its tone and intent call on Irishmen and women to give their all for Ireland not England. I think of this work as an anthem for Easter 1916.

Each of O'Neill's six verses, full of political and historical imagery, is an Irish nationalist lament centred on the thought what if.' What if some or all of the 200,000 Irishmen who'd joined the British army during the First War stayed home and fought for Irish independence? What if the 50,000 who gave their lives in Europe spilled their blood on Irish soil? Like Irish patriots [Fenians] before them, would their sacrifices have met a greater reward 'neath the shrouds of the foggy dew' than in the mudchoked killing fields of France? O'Neill seems to think so.

The first line of the verse quoted above mentions two historical events. The wild geese references Patrick Sarsfield's Jacobite Irish army who fled to France under terms of the Treaty of Limerick, ending the Williamite War, 1690-91. This sour settlement resulted in the Protestant/ British dominance of Ireland for more than two centuries.

O'Neill also restates the popularly given reason for British and Irishmen entering the First War in 1914...to protect the rights of European small nations' from oppression, particularly Catholic Belgium

and an overwhelmed Serbia. Of course, there were other reasons for both joining the war in 1914, but that's another story.

Next, the song turns its attention to the Dardanelles, to the sweeping shore of Suvla Bay and the horrific Battle of Gallipoli in August, 1915. This WWI British amphibious assault, intended to relieve pinned down Australian and New Zealand troops [AN-ZAC], proved a colossal failure. Over 15,000 Allied causalities were recorded in less than a week's time. The chief British officer, Lieutenant-General Sir Frederick Stopford, was promptly relieved of his command for literally sleeping on the job.

Continuing, I think O'Neill's mention of graves along 'the fringe of the great North Sea' is likely a general reference to the many Irish graves found on foreign soil. The author laments that too many Irishmen have died fighting for causes other than their own.

Finally, he mourns those Irishmen, who'd fallen on foreign soil, hadn't died fighting with Patrick Pearse and Cathal Brugha, two of the 1916 Easter Rebellion leaders. If they had, maybe the outcome of 1916 might have been victory instead of apparent defeat.

So, it is fitting on this the ninety-ninth anniversary of the Easter Rising, we pause to consider O'Neill's words and think about the greatest watershed moment in Ireland's recent history.

Sure, I realise I've devoted much copy in recent months to the 1916 Rebellion and its centenary remembrance, now just a year away. I know my words can only pay small tribute to the people and events of those weighty times. Thankfully, most of you have been tolerant of my cantankerousness, but mercifully, as of this writing, I'm feeling better about what's on the table. Apparently, through some diplomatic pressures or self-realisation, members of British royal family will NOT be

making an appearance in Dublin at the 1916 centenary observance.

Just recently, Ireland's Sinn Féin political party has stepped into the breach and announced its comprehensive centenary programme. Held in Wynn's Hotel on O'Connell Street in the City Centre, the site of the first Irish Volunteer [1913] and Cumann na mBán [1914] planning sessions, Sinn Féin launched its list of 1916 Commemorative events. The program kickoffs with the re-enactment of veteran Fenian Jeremiah O'Donovan Rossa's funeral on 1 August this year.

As you remember, it was exactly one-hundred years ago that the Irish Republican Brotherhood honoured their revolutionary hero by staging his funeral procession through Dublin streets for burial in Glasnevin cemetery. On that day, Pádraig Pearse eulogised the man and challenged the British government with his famous words "...but the fools, the fools, the fools; they have left us our Fenian dead, and while Ireland holds these graves, Ireland unfree shall never be at peace."

Arguably, 1 August 1915 was the day Ireland issued a public challenge to England, declaring its intent to seek independence. Nine months later, Ireland did just that.

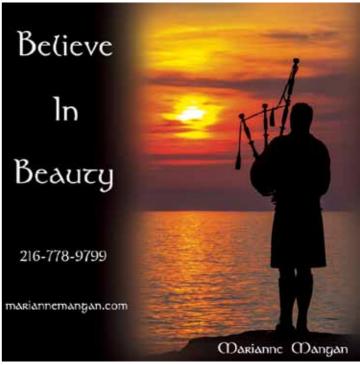
Additionally, a special visitor exhibition entitled "Revolution 1916" will open on 27 February 2016 in the Ambassador Theatre. It will feature a dayby-day retracing of the Easter Rebellion events. Furthermore, dawn vigils will be held outside Kilmainham Gaol marking the fourteen executions of the Rebellion's leadership during the early days of May 1916.

Other events will be held in Dublin, Belfast and Cork City to honour appropriate persons and happenings. Check the Web for updates and a complete listing of parades, honours and remembrances. Note, these goings-on are in addition to events planned by the

Irish Government over Easter weekend 23-28 March 2016.

If you are hoping to attend, it's not too early to begin making plans. Hotel space in Dublin City will likely be dear and limited. I'm sure several of the major tour companies will be offering travel packages soon, so don't forget to check with them. Unless you plan to go outside the city, you won't need a car. Between public transportation and your own two feet, most venues will be easily accessible but likely crowded. Hope to see you there.

Up '16, no royals and Éire Abú, Cathal







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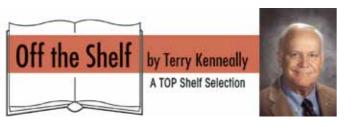




Things to Do and See in Co. Kildare

by Linda Fulton Burke





Vivid Faces: The Revolutionary Generation in Ireland, 1890-1923

By R. F. Foster Allan Lane; 475 pp ISBN 978-L-846-14463-9 2014

With the 100th anniversary of the Easter Rising in 1916 just around the corner, a slew of books have been published recently dealing with virtually all aspects of the revolutionary period in Irish history, 1916-1923. This month's Off the Shelf review is about one such book, Vivid Faces: the Revolutionary Generation in Ireland 1890-1923. The author,

R. F. Foster, is a professor of Irish History at The University of Oxford, and the author of the highly acclaimed Modern Ireland, 1600-1972.

Controversy is already swirling around the historic event of Easter 1916 from former Fine Gael taoiseach John Bruton's "What If?" claim that a rejigged Home Rule Bill might have brought a better result for Irish independence than the Rising and the War of Independence, without the bloodshed and bitterness that accompanied the setting up of the Free State.

Foster does not come out and say he agrees with Bruton's assertion. But at times seems to be sympathetic to the idea. He argues that it is unlikely that armed conflict would have come were it not for the military posturing and the cult of guns initiated by the arming of the Ulster Volunteer Force in 1912. This fact along with the enactment of the third Home Rule Bill 1914 were two key factors which led ultimately to the armed rebellion.

Foster's book speaks to the revolutionary generation made up of ordinary people. He discusses these ordinary people (many of whom the readership will quickly recognize as key players in the events of that generation) within the context of chapters titled Learning, Playing, Loving, Writing,

Arming, Fighting and Reckoning.' Foster's contribution to the historiography of this period is enhanced by the breadth of his painstaking research into such a diversity of sources - letters, diaries, novels, and short stories, plays and essays - has resulted in an abundance of nuggets of information. His research sources included the Bureau of

Military History, National Archives of Ireland, Trinity College, Dublin Archives, and the UCD Archives, among others.

He highlights many of the secular, socialist, and feminine currents of 1916, including the lesbianism of some of the women radicals, and, of course, the homosexuality of Roger Casement. The book includes Notes, Bibli-

ography, and a useful Biographical Appendix. I found the book to be overall a fair depiction of the events portrayed. I rate this book a TOP SHELF read.

FOSTER

*Terrence J. Kenneally is an attorney and owner of Terrence J. Kenneally & Associates Co. in Rocky River, Ohio. His practice consists of representing insureds and insurance companies in insurance defense litigation throughout the State of Ohio. He holds a Master's Degree in Irish Studies from John Carroll University and teaches Irish History and Literature at Holy Name High School.



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Laminacions

By J. Michael Finn



Why Was De Valera Spared?

As preparations are made for the 100th Anniversary of the 1916 Easter Rebellion in Ireland, it is important to understand that there remain lingering historical questions about the event and its aftermath. One of those questions concerns Éamon de Valera; after executing 14 of the Rising's leaders, why did the British spare de Valera's life?

The most common answer to that question is because he was born in America. De Valera was born in New York City on October 14, 1882. While he was still an infant, his Spanish father abandoned his Irish mother in New York. De Valera's mother felt she was unable to raise the child alone, so she sent Éamon to Ireland at the age of two, to be raised by her family in County Limerick (de Valera never saw his mother again until 1919).

During the Easter Rising, Éamon de Valera commanded the 3rd Battalion of Irish Volunteers at Boland's Mill on Grand Canal Street in Dublin. His chief task was to cover the southeastern approaches to the city. Stories of De Valera's bravery in action were countered by criticism of his alleged erratic behavior at his post.

He stayed awake for days, became disorientated and issued confused, sometimes ridiculous, orders. Some of his men at Boland's Mill claimed afterward that he had a nervous breakdown during the fighting. After a week of fighting the order came from Patrick Pearse to surrender. Boland's Mill was the last Volunteer fortification to surrender. De Valera was court-martialed by a British military tribunal, convicted, and sentenced to death along with the other leaders.

While de Valera awaited execution in 1916, many Irish-Americans, as well as, de Valera's wife Sinead, communicated with the British government reminding them that De Valera was born in the US. Copies of de Valera's US birth certificate were sent to the American Embassy in Dublin to prove this. After it was announced that his sentence of death had been commuted to life in prison, newspapers mostly in America,

reported that the commuting of the sentence was due to his American birth. Since 1916 the 'American birth' reason has been the most often repeated reason for de Valera's reprieve, even in Ireland. Is it correct?

Notre Dame Professor Robert Schumhl, writing in the magazine History Ireland reports that when President John F.



Kennedy visited Ireland in 1963, he asked then President de Valera what had saved him from the firing squad. De Valera replied that he had lived in Ireland since his early childhood, but he was born in New York City, and because of his American citizenship the British were reluctant to kill him.

Then, in 1969 de Valera changed this version of history by stating that, "I have not the slightest doubt that my reprieve in 1916 was due to the fact that my court martial and sentence came late." He noted that British Prime Minister H. H. Asquith wanted, "no further executions save those of the ringleaders which they interpreted as those who signed the Proclamation. The fact that I was born in America would not have saved me." This was repeated in de Valera's authorized biography that was published in 1970. It should be noted that Tom Clarke. who was an American citizen, although not born in the US, was executed for his role in 1916.

According to Professor Schumhl, a discussion took place in 1916 between British prosecutor W. E. Wylie and British Commander General John Maxwell. Maxwell inquired about whether de Valera might cause future problems if his life was spared. Wylie is reported as replying, "I wouldn't think so, sir, I don't think he is important enough. From all I can hear he is not one of the leaders."

There was no reported mention of de Valera's birth or citizenship. De Valera's MI5 dossier reportedly contained very little intelligence, only that he was a member of the Irish Volunteers and had no previous Fenian connections. He was not one of the signatories of the Proclamation and was not involved in most of the planning for the Rising.

Maybe de Valera was spared because he was just not that important. This fact would have run counter to the mythology that de Valera carefully cultivated for himself after the 1916 Rising of being the 'lone survivor' among the rebel leaders, the inheritor of the republican mantle. The 'American birth' reason certainly sounded more reasonable and repeating it only added to his future creditability in republican circles.

We do know that the way in which the British handled the executions was drawing considerable negative response from both inside and outside Ireland. The popularity of the republican movement was growing as the executions continued. The negative public response directed against the British was having its effect on the government.

Stopping the executions could have been a natural response to political pressure and the British may have realized that they were only creating martyrs (the sentence of Countess de Markievicz was also commuted to life imprisonment along with de Valera, as both were scheduled to be the next in line to die). Good luck may have played more of a factor than de Valera would have admitted.

Valera would have admitted.

An alternative theory has been proposed by New Jersey historian John Turi in his 2010 book, England's Greatest Spy: Éamon de Valera. As the title indicates the author claims that de Valera was a British informant who was recruited while he was in prison and this spared him from

execution. Turi claims that all of the events leading up to his imprisonment, indicate that de Valera was terrified of dying and that it would have been easy for a British intelligence officer to turn de Valera into a collaborator.

Turi's research also failed to find any evidence in Irish or British sources that de Valera was ever court-martialed, although de Valera claims that he was. He also notes that de Valera was the only one of four Dublin commandants not to be tried and executed. He dismisses theories that de Valera was spared because he was born in America or because the British realized that further executions would be a mistake.

The only reasonable explanation, according to Turi, is that de Valera was "turned." In all, Turi sets forth a dozen instances of what he calls "de Valera's machinations that aided British interests" to support the informant claim. These include splitting the Irish-American lobby on his 1919 visit to the US and his possible involvement in the circumstances surrounding Michael Collins death.

In summary, the answer to the key question seems to be that historians remain unsure what exactly motivated the British to spare de Valera. De Valera himself seems to have changed his opinion with time. It shows that as much as we think we know about history there are always some questions that we may never be able to answer.

De Valera died in 1975, outliving most of his 1916 contemporaries. As the 'last man standing' he had the opportunity to write and, in some cases, re-write his own history. In the book Ireland 1912-1985, author J. J. Lee notes, "It may safely be predicted that the paradoxes of de Valera will intrigue historians for generations to come."

*J. Michael Finn is the Ohio State Historian for the Ancient Order of Hibernians and Division 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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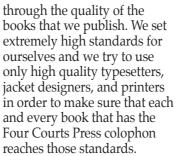
In 2013 Four Courts author Colmán Ó Clabaigh, won the Irish Historical Research Prize, awarded by the National University of Ireland. The last time a book by a publisher other than Four Courts Press won this prestigious award was 2007.

Four Courts Press operate on an anonymous peerreview process. There have been over 10,000 reviews of their books, spanning forty-three years and almost fifteen hundred titles. Excerpts from more than a thousand of these reviews can be found under the Reviews section of each book on the Four Courts website.

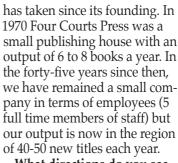
Q & A with Four Courts Sales & Marketing Manager, Anthony Tierney:

Tell me about you and your history with Four Courts?

I joined Four Courts Press in 2001. I studied English, History and Politics in The National University of Ireland Galway and went on to do a Masters in English Literature and Publishing. On completion of the MA Course I applied to every publishing House in Ireland and some in the UK and in America. The Publishing Industry is extremely difficult



We each take an active role in the commissioning, production, marketing and selling of the books that we publish and we there is an enormous sense of pride here in our office when each new book appears. Michael Adams worked extremely hard for almost forty years creating the a reputation for Four Courts Press as "Ireland's Premium Academic Publish-



What directions do you see it going? and for academic authors, what suggestions / advice can you offer?

The past three years were lean times for all publishers, not just in Ireland, but throughout the UK and in America. There is still a long way to go, but there are some positive signs in the economy and I think we are seeing people and

libraries and Universities buy books again. The key I believe is to keep your standards high and if the books are good enough they will sell.

We have noticed an upsurge in the amount of submissions that we are receiving here at Four Courts Press and unfortunately this means that there are more rejections as it is simply impossible, physically and financially, to publish them all. But I would urge all academic

authors to keep trying. The best way to approach any publisher would be to check their website out first and make sure that your book would fit in with their list. If it does, then send an e-mail (a short e-mail) outlining what your book is about and you should then hear back from the publisher.

We have a sampling of new titles accompanying the column; overall, what stories, themes, issues do most of these and Four Courts books overall cover or represent beyond their classifications into Celtic, Medieval and Modern History, Art, Literature and Law?

We believe that our list offers something for everyone. For those interested in everything that we have a list that has something for everybody. Any words for your American friends?

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Four Courts Press has always had a wonderful relationship with America. We have a US Distributor based in Portland, Oregon and we ship copies of all of our titles to America within four to five weeks of them being published here in Dublin. So many Universities and Colleges in the United States have wonderful Celtic History Departments, Medieval history departments and also 16th/17th/18th/19th and Modern History departments, who order our books and use them on undergraduate and postgraduate courses. This all helps to spread our name throughout the US.

The librarians in all of the major Universities and Colleges in the United States all receive our Annual Catalogue each year and this helps generate sales of each title in the United States.

We also attend conferences in the United States like the Annual Medieval Congress at Kalamazoo in Michigan and we try to forge links between Four Courts Press and groups like the American Society of Irish Medieval Studies (ASIMS).

Irish people and Irish American people love to read about their own family histories, their towns and localities and general Irish history and it is always a tremendous feeling to see one of our books do well in the American market. We also have a large number of American born authors on our list and look forward to this number increasing in the coming years.



to get in to and there were not many openings at the time. Luckily, Four Courts Press contacted me and I was fortunate to get through a long but very pleasant interview process that consisted of a lengthy lunch and a proper grilling on my attitudes towards every aspect of publishing imaginable. The main lesson I learned at that lunch was that I had an awful lot to learn about the publishing industry. I still do.

Four Courts Press is called exemplary, prestigious and a model, what does this mean to you and for Four Courts Press?

At Four Courts Press we all love what we do. It sounds like such a cliché, but we all love books and more than anything we try to show this

ing House" and we intend to make sure that this reputation is upheld, and enhanced.

What dictated the direction(s) Four Courts has taken since its founding in 1970?

The growth of the publishing industry in Ireland, the expansion of the University sector in Ireland, the numerous advances in technologies that benefit publishers, and more recently the World Wide recession and cutbacks faced by Libraries and Universities, and the personal choices of Michael Adams, and subsequently the Managing Director, Martin Healy and our editors, Martin Fanning, Michael Potterton and myself have all had a direct impact on the direction(s) Four Courts

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3rd - Matt Johnson's Piano Fiasco, 4th - Usual Suspects, 10th Big in Japan, 11th - Monica Robbins & the Ninja Cowboys, 17th - Charlie in the Box, 18th Velvet Shake, 24th - Jukebox Heroes, 25th - The Players Club. 10310 Cascade Crossing, Brooklyn 216-362-7700. 1FunPub.com

Cleveland

The Harp

1st - lonesome stars, 2 - Irish session, 3rd - the porter sharks, 8th - chris & tom, 10th - hillbilly idol, 11th - brent kirby, 15th- lonesome stars, 17th - pitch the peat 18th- foir gael, 22nd - chris & tom, 24th - marys lane, 25th - chris a., 29th - lonesome stars. 4408 Detroit Road, 44113 www.the-harp.com

Stone Mad

5th - Holleran Traditional Irish Session, 12th - Marcus Dirk w Cuyuga, 19th - Chris Allen, 26th - Kate Kearney & Dallas. Live music entertainment every Sunday. Traditional Irish Session 1st Sunday of ea/month, Happy Hour Monday-Friday 4 to 7. 1306 West 65th Street Cleveland 44102 216-281-6500

Flat Iron Café

6th - Joe Rollin Porter, 13th Donal O'Shaughnessy, 20th -Jimmy-O, 27th - Becky Boyd & Claudia Schieve. 1114 Center St. Cleveland 44113-2406 216. 696.6968. www.flatironcafe.com

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Don't forget T-Shirt Tues: wear any PJs T-Shirt get 15% off bill! Whiskey Wed: ½ off every whiskey in the house. Thurs - Craft Beer \$2.50. NEW CRAFT BEER REFRIGERATOR. PJ McIntyre's is a Local 10 Union establishment. Home of the Celtic Supporter's Club and the GAA. Book all your parties & Events in our Bridgie Ned's Irish Parlor Party Room. 17119 Lorain Road, 44111. www.pjmcintyres.com 216-941-9311.

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3rd - Walkin' Cane, 4th - Joe Rollin Porter, 10th - Brent Kirby, 11th - Kristine Jackson, 17th & 18th - New Barleycorn, 24th - Bar Flies, 25th - Stacey & Mike of Rumors. 323 East Prospect, Cleveland 44115 216.781.7782 www.flannerys.com

Cincinnati

Irish Heritage Center

6th -1916 Commemoration, w/ James Connolly Exhibit, 9th-Blue Rock Boys Irish Band, 16th-Irish Pub & Music Night w/ Mick McEvilley & Mai Hernon. 19th -"Tempest" cincyticket.com or call 513-533-0100 for tickets, 24, 25 & 26th-Ir Am Theater Co performs "Cavalcaders". 5/19-24th-Acting Irish International Theater Festival - held @Cincinnati Irish Heritage Center and consists of five evening and two matinees. Call 513-533-0100 for more info. Irish Teas/Library / Genealogy Detective/ all three by appointment. 3905 Eastern Avenue www. irishcenterofcincinnati.com.

Columbus

Shamrock Club Events
4th – Central Ohio Folk Festival
Benefit Concert; 10th – Singer's
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Bros. Happy Hour Fridays
5-7pm! 60 W. Castle Rd. Columbus 43207 614-491-4449 www.
shamrockclubofcolumbus.com
Tara Hall

Traditional Irish music w General Guinness Band & Friends 2nd Friday 8:00 - 11:00pm. No Cover. Tara Hall 274 E. Innis Ave. Columbus, 43207 614.444.5949.

Euclid

Irish American Club East Side 3rd - Mad Macs @ Good Friday Fish Fry, 17th- Loch Erie @ Club Dinner, 24th - Craic Brothers in Pub. PUB: 7:30 – 10:30.

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www.sullysmedina, 44256 www.sullysmedina.com Hooley House Montrose 3rd-Mo Mojo, 4th - Top Dog, 10th - Matt Johnson Piano Fiasco, 17th - Michelle Romary Band, 18th - Phillip Fox Band, 24th - Pop Culture, 25th - Cocktail Johnny. 145 Montrose West Avenue Copley, Ohio 44321 (234) 466-0060 www.1funpub.com



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The Twisted Paddy

7079 Lakeshore Boulevard, Mentor, OH 44060 (440) 525-5565. https://www.facebook. com/thetwistedpaddy

Olmsted Township

West Side Irish American Club 16th – General Meeting, 19th -Ceili Mor w/ the Portersharks 4-8 pm. \$10.00 ceiliclubcleveland@gmail.com. 5/3 - "25" Card Tournament contact: Frank Buckley 440-937-4518. Great Food and live music every Friday in The Pub. WSIA Club 8559 Jennings Rd. 44138 www.wsia-club.org. 440-235-5868.

Westlake

Hooley House.

3rd - Sunrise Jones, 4th - Sunset Strip, 10th - Pop Culture, 11th - Jukebox Heroes, 17th - Faction, 24th - Carlos Jones, 25th - New Barleycorn. 24940 Sperry Dr Westlake 44145. (440) 835-2890. 1FunPub.com

Willoughby

The Wild Goose

4144 Erie St, Willoughby, OH 44094. (440) 951-6644 www.wildgoosewilloughby.com

Croagh Patrick's Pub 4857 Robinhood Dr, Willough-

by, OH 44094. (440) 946-8250 www.croaghpatrickspub.com.

Mullarkey's

3rd – The Thrifters, 4th – Kevin McCarthy, 10th – Eric Butler, 11th – West Side Steve, 17th – Nick Zuber, 18th – Dan McCoy, 24th – 107.9 Band, 25th – Mossy Moran. Wed: Karaoke, Thurs: Ladies Night w/ D.J. 4110 Erie Street www.mullarkeys.com

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Session – 2nd Monday of the month 7 - 9 Slow Train Café,

55 East College St., Oberlin. Informal all experience welcome: www.oberlin. net/~irishsession

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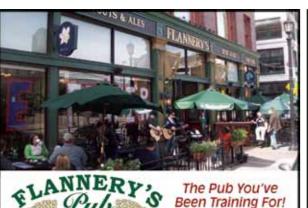
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5/10 Mother's Day Mass & Breakfast contact: Eileen O'Brien at 440-331-4233 for details and tickets

5/22 Steve Mulloy, Sr. Reverse Raffle info / tickets: Brendan Mulloy 216-262-6496, Tom Mulloy 216-533-2203

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Mike Dever Named Director of Public Works for Cuyahoga County

By John O'Brien, Jr.

HUGE Congratulations to Mike Dever, named Director of Public Works for Cuyahoga County. I have known Mike for most of my life, worked with him for more than eight years and had a blast last year sharing Parade Honorees with his Dad, Grand Marshal Andy Dever. Knock em dead Mike!



From Cuyahoga County Executive Armond Budish's March 3rd Press Release:

Cuyahoga County Executive Armond Budish Announces Michael Dever as Director of Public Works

CLEVELAND – Cuyahoga County Executive Armond Budish today announced senior staff nominations.

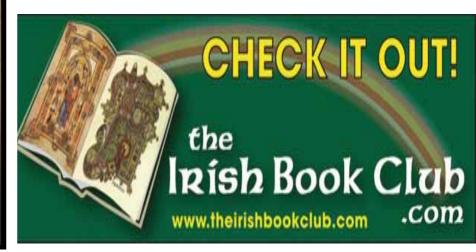
Mike Dever, currently Deputy Director of the Department of Public Works, is nominated to serve as the next Director of Public Works. "Mike's nominations reflect our

continued efforts to find the best and the brightest individuals to lead County government," said Budish. "I'm proud to promote Mike Dever to Director of Public Works. Mike's years of experience in the Department of Public Works has shown him to be an excellent, qualified leader. Mike will provide the consistency and expertise to manage the hundreds of Public Works staff, as well as keep our major development projects moving ahead as we approach the Republican National Convention."

Dever has worked in the Department of Public Works since 2001, serving as the Deputy to the Sanitary Engineer and most recently as the Deputy Director and Maintenance Administrator since 2011. In that capacity, he manages over 350 employees in the divisions of Facilities, Sewers, Road and Bridge, Fleet, and Airport.

Mike earned his Masters in Public Administration from Cleveland State University's, Levin College of Urban Affairs and a Bachelor of Arts from Slippery Rock University in Pennsylvania.

As Director of Public Works, Dever will oversee a diverse staff of nearly 600 employees that plan, design, construct and/or maintain a network of Bridges, Buildings, and Sewers throughout Cuyahoga County. Additionally, the County's Airport and Animal Shelter are under the charge of this Department. Dever will also be responsible for continuing supervision of major development projects such as, the construction of the Downtown Pedestrian Bridge and Towpath Trail Extension.



Pope Francis Represented at Anniversary Celebrations for Historic Irish Church

On Thursday, 5 March, New Yorker, Archbishop Charles Brown, who represents Pope Francis in Ireland, celebrated Mass with the priests, people and friends of St. Patrick's Parish, Belfast. The Mass marked the 200th anniversary of the Parish.



For 200 years, St. Patrick's has faithfully provided for the spiritual and pastoral needs of the people of inner-city Belfast, as well as workers and visitors to one of Ireland's principal cities. It has also played a significant role in the Diocese of Down and Connor, hosting the Episcopal consecration of a number its bishops.

St. Patrick's follows in a long and noble Christian tradition within the City, tracing its roots to the most ancient foundations of the Faith in this part of Ireland. Its origins are first recorded in the 1306 Taxation of Pope Nicholas.

St. Patrick's has also served as a beacon of light for the people of Belfast during some of the City's darkest and most troubled years. The death-toll of parishioners during that 30-year-period of sectarian strife known as 'The Troubles' stands at 100. Some of the worst atrocities of that conflict were committed within the Parish bounds, and its people still bear the physical and emotional scars of that traumatic chapter in Ireland's recent history.

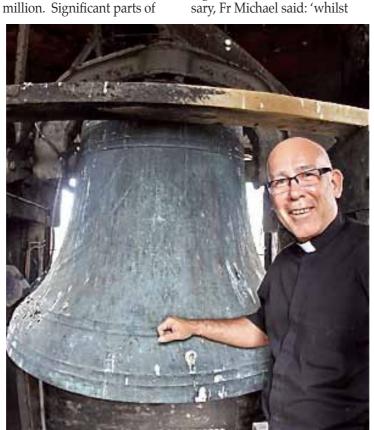
The present Church is an imposing edifice, rendered in sandstone and in the Romanesque style. Its treasury boasts artifacts of international significance, chief among them a relic of St Patrick's arm, enshrined in a priceless medieval silver

reliquary. It also has a triptych altarpiece entitled 'Madonna of the Lakes' painted by Sir John Lavery, himself a celebrated son of the Parish. Lavery used his wife Hazel as model for the Blessed Virgin. Hazel was elsewhere used by Lavery for his depiction of the personification of Ireland, Cathleen Ni Houlihan, which featured on Irish banknotes until the 1970s.

To mark the Parish's bicentenary, on the eve of St. Patrick's Day, the Parish hosted a Gala Ball in Titanic Belfast. It is hoped the event will raise much needed funds to restore the Church's disintegrating stonework. Latest estimates cost the first phase of restoration at £1.5 million, and the total estimate for restoration works stands at a colossal £5

in the City's history. A Mission was also given by one of the Church's newest orders, the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, in early March. Throughout Lent, global Catholic television network, EWTN, is broadcasting Scripture reflections given by priests associated with the Parish. On 20 April, the Parish will host an exhibition and lecture on the life and works of artist Sir John Lavery. The year of celebration will conclude with a Parish Pilgrimage to Rome in October, and an audience with Pope Francis.

Parish Administrator Fr Michael Sheehan remarked: 'we are deeply honoured that Pope Francis' representative in Ireland should join us for this very special milestone in the life of our Parish.' Commenting on the Church's anniversary, Fr Michael said: 'whilst



Fr Michael rings in 200 years

the original stone carving were completed by James Pearse, father of Patrick Pearse, a leader of the 1916 Easter Rising.

On 9 March, eminent historian, Prof. Eamon Pheonix, gave a lecture at Belfast's City Hall, on the role of the Church this year provides us with an opportunity to reflect on and celebrate our past achievements, we also look forward to building on these to ensure that St. Patrick's continues to be a place where future generations encounter Christ.'

Guilty Pleasures Continued From page 7

food pantry or feeding program in Northern Illinois. Healthy Hearty Cab-



Northern Illinois Food Bank. But what remains central to the organization's heart are the people who seek food and are fed. Because of the food assistance, Paula was able to enroll in community college and is studying to become a nurse; and Mike is able to pay child support for his son and eat regular, healthy meals.

"The face of hunger is changing, and this is an issue that ex-



ists in every community," said Jacobsen. "Don't assume those around you have access to a regular meal—for our hungry neighbors, guilty pleasures often aren't even in the picture."

To volunteer or donate, go to www.feedingamerica.org to find your local food bank.

If you're a Northern Illinois resident, visit Northern Illinois Food Bank's website at www. SolveHungerToday.org for information on how to get involved. If you know someone in need of food assistance, visit www.SolveHungerToday. org/gethelp to find the nearest bage Soup

By Jennifer Lamplough, director of nutrition programs at Northern Illinois Food Bank

Yield: 10 servings Serving Size: 1 cup **INGREDIENTS** Cooking spray 2 medium carrots, diced 2 celery stalks, diced 1 large yellow onion, diced 1 small green cabbage, cored and roughly chopped

1 pound lean turkey breakfast sausage, crumbled

40 ounces fat-free, lowsodium chicken broth 1 14.5-ounce can

diced tomatoes ½ teaspoon salt ¼ teaspoon ground black pepper

½ teaspoon dried oregano 1 small loaf Irish Soda Bread **DIRECTIONS**

- Coat a large soup pot with cooking spray. Add carrots, celery, onion and cabbage and sauté over mediumhigh heat for 3 minutes or onions until clear. Remove from pan and set aside.
- Add turkey sausage and cook until brown, about 6-7 minutes. Add vegetables back to pan and mix.
- Add remaining ingredients (except soda bread) and bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer for 30 minutes.
- Serve with Irish Soda Bread.



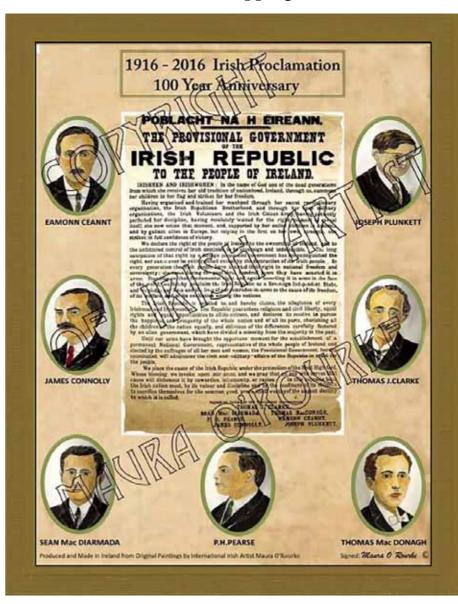
1916 Proclamation

Commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Easter Rising with one or both of these prints

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