

WORDS OF WISDOM, from our advertiser partners:

"Casey's Irish Imports, Inc. has been advertising with OhIAN since its' beginning! It is the one constant advertising venue that we use on a monthly basis. The response has been tremendous. As a retail store we find that putting in a monthly coupon draws customers in. We distribute the OhIAN at the store and it is also a wonderful tool to use to inform customers what is going on in the Greater Cleveland Area. We have people that come stop by monthly to pick up the latest issue. The staff at the OhIAN is great to deal with and the ads always look great. We highly recommend advertising in OhIAN."



"My name is Sean Lackey and I'm the owner of Lackey & Company, CPAs and the producer of Flanagan's Wake, both of which are advertisers in "IAN Ohio." By advertising in the OhIAN, I have been able to reach a whole segment of the market I was not able to reach. Due to the large circulation and unique presentation, I have been able to get the word out, which has translated into increased business. The staff at the OhIAN is also very helpful and knowledgeable of the Northeast Ohio market. This has helped me to streamline my ads to make sure I'm sending the most effective message. I will continue to advertise with them and look forward to each and every issue."

- Sean P. Lackey CPA

"John and the staff of the OhIAN have been nothing but great in helping me with our advertising needs in both the pub and Irish dance school. From last minute phone calls to bail me out, or putting together a last minute ad, John has always gone above and beyond in making customers satisfied.

The benefits I have seen are an increase of 20% in sales for the pub, and 10-12 new dancers a year. John is a very customer oriented person, and always has a very high aptitude for service. His willingness to explore new businesses and avenues is truly amazing. He never hesitates to take the extra roles, which are often well beyond the job scopes. I wish John and all the staff at the ChIAN all the success in the world. I look forward to continuing our business relationship going forward!"

- Pat Campbell, Owner, PJ McIntyre's Irish Pub and Brady Campbell School of Irish Dance

"We started advertising with IAN Ohio two years ago and have found it a tremendous asset into our advertising budget. This magazine has a deep and loyal Irish following, which is the root of our customer base. The IAN Ohio staff is professional and extremely helpful with layout and advertising experience to get the most bang for your buck. I highly recommend using this magazine for advertising and also for the interesting and up to date editorials and news. We have found it beneficial to our customers for upcoming events and the expansion of our business. Thank you, John and your staff at IAN Ohio!"

- Paul Jones, Treehouse Bar



Let us help you grow your business: Contact

John O'Brien, Jr. 216.647.1144 jobrien@ianohio.com

Ancient Order of Hibernians Division Installs Triplet Sons of Charter Member



The Amsden Triplets, from left: Alex, Father- Eric, David & Luke

The Irish Brigade Division #1 of Medina County Charter Member Eric Amsden brought his seventeen year old triplet sons to be installed in the division. Eric was able to lead his sons in the pledge of the Order. The newest Hibernians are Alex, David and Luke Amsden. All three are juniors at Midview High School in Grafton, Ohio.

The division is always glad to see the sons of members join, but was especially pleased to have this unique experience happen.



Live Music & Food in The Pub every Friday

Upcoming Events:

6th - Wine Tasting

23rd – 1916 Easter Rising
Centennial Celebration

24th – Annual Style Show & Luncheon



General Meeting 3rd Thursday of every month.

Since 1931

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Editor's Corner



John O'Brien, Jr.

How mad was the March madness in your March? Mine was mighty, warm and filled with faith, friends and family. I am an active advocate of telling people you love them, how much you appreciate them, while they are still here to hear it. We too often don't take the time, until after time has already run out.

Many St. Pat's Honorees got to hear how much they are loved last month, during all the parade and surrounding activities. I love hearing their stories, preferably first hand. I like watching older folks unobserved, to see the light in their eyes, what stirs them. I wonder what they have seen, what they are remembering, and how to connect with them, so they will share with me.

As I get older, wisdom, perhaps, allows me to see the tragedy in her story, the hurt and the beauty in his eyes, behind the shining. The beauty in a person or a people is readily evident, despite instant gratification impulses. Gotta let it steep; gotta let them know.

"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/

About Our Cover

1916 Commemorations were the theme in the 149th Annual Cleveland St. Patrick's Day Parade, the 3rd oldest/5th largest parade in the United States. *Cover photo by John O'Brien, Jr.

One of my favorite people is Pulitzer Prize winning author and columnist Regina Brett. She writes with and of common sense, caring, leaving the judgement at the door in a life well-lived and the lessons learned. She says in her book, God Never Blinks, "People don't want to be saved; they want to be loved; that is how you save them."

We could all use a little saving I

and breaks we have received. To those that paved the path, that planted seeds or nurtured their growing, to those who received the honors and the appreciation, and those who did it without any recognition at all, I wish to say, Thank you.

The Easter Rising Commemorations are in full swing. Many events are listed within. Comsuppose. In turbulent times, De-memoration is important, to not mons draft with glee. But a little only say thanks, but to learn or



love leaves a long legacy. Some- remember; who we are is not times, people just need a break. Surely tomorrow, that extra bit of time you gave today won't be missed by you. But for them, it will be life changing.

St. Patrick's Day, like Christmas, or Thanksgiving, or perhaps too, the festivals, slows things down enough for us to see the gathered gifts we have gotten, the graces

limited by from where we came, but it is certainly influenced by it. Knowledge is power and there is power in remembering, and saying Thanks.

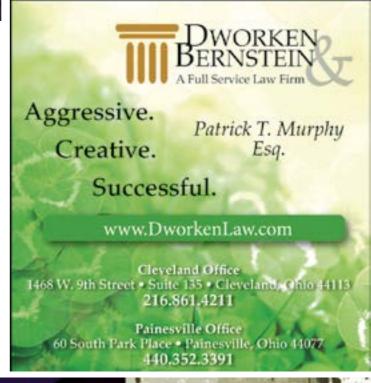
...Go dtí an mhí seo chugainn, slán a fhágáil

(Until next month, goodbye)

The Irish in Action

Are you running for an elective office? There are over 1.4 million people of Irish descent in Ohio; 475,000 in Greater Cleveland; 175,00 in Cuyahoga County: Want to reach them? Advertise in the Ohio Irish American News Cleveland, and throughout Ohio. jobrien@ianohio.com 216.647.1144





The Lyrics

By John O'Brien, Jr.

of Irish Freedom: Notes of Turbulent Times



by John O'Brien, Jr www.songsandstories.net

O'Bent (O'Brien Enterprises)

April Book Signings: April 3rd2pm West Side Irish American Club

April 23rd - As part of 1916 Easter Rising Centennial Celebration 6pm West Side Irish American Club





Our condolences to Paul and Peggy Baker, on the loss of Paul's mom on Friday March 11th. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your families.

Congratulations to: The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Irish history contest year focused on the women's' involvement in the Easter Rising. The winners

Level 1: 1st place - Ashlyn Garthwaite; 2nd place - Brigid Donnelly; 3rd place -Brian Royea. Level 2: 1st place - Morgen

Donnelly; 2nd place - Liam Craig; 3rd place - Delia Lowry. Honorable Mention Sophia Murphy

Congratulations to Writer and Director Sean Lackey, whose movie, 'The Yank', a romantic comedy about a clueless fourgenerations Irish descendant returning to Ireland for the wedding of his friend, will be now available in DVD & VOD by Vision Films.

Congratulations to Katherine Boyd, named Host on the Morning Edition, WCPN Ideastream's 90.3.



On This Day in Irish History

by Terrence J. Kenneally

4 April 1818 - Birth of Thomas Mayne Reid, a novelist who wrote over thirty adventure stories including The Headless Horseman.

5 April 1962 - Guinness formally adopts the harp as their symbol.

20 April 1916 - Arrival of Aud in Tralee Bay with cargo of arms for Irish Volunteers, arrested by British Naval patrol vessel.

21 April 1916 - Sir Roger Casement lands from German submarine at Banna Strand, Co. Kerry on a mission to warn MacNeill that expected German aid would be insufficient for insurrection.

22 April 1916 - Eoin MacNeill, chief of staff of Irish Volunteers, issues countermanding order cancelling activities planned for next day.

23 April 1916 - Military council meets at Liberty Hall, Clarke residing: unanimous decision to strike next day at noon.

29 April 1916 - Unconditional surrender of Pearse, Connelly, and MacDonagh ends rebellion; some 3000 casualties, including 450 dead.



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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 Growing up Irish- Maureen Ginley Illuminations- J. Michael Finn Inner View- John O'Brien Jr Ire. Past & Present- Niamh O'Sullivan Livin' With Lardie- Richard Lardie Off Shelf/On This Day-Terry Kenneally Our Sports Man- David McDonnell: Out of the Mailbag- John O'Brien, Jr. Speak Irish / Cleveland

Comrá - Bob Carney Terry From Derry-Terry Boyle

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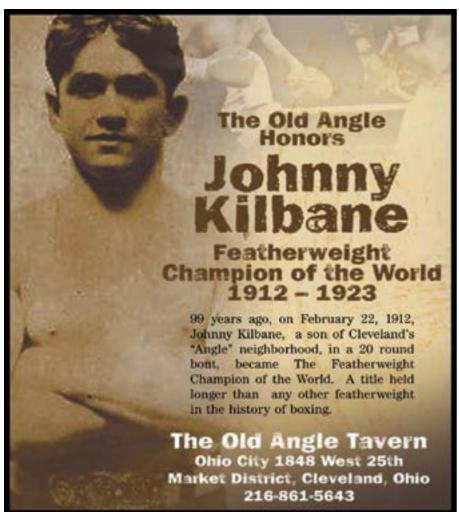
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Óró sé do Bheatha 'Bhaile

By Padraig Pearse

Óró, sé do bheatha 'bhaile Óró, sé do bheatha'bhaile Óró, sé do bheatha 'bhaile Anois ar theacht an tsamhraidh

'Sé do bheatha, a bhean ba léanmhar, Do b' é ár gcreach túbheith i ngéibheann Do dhúiche bhreá i seilbh méirleach, Is tú diolta leis na Gallaibh.

chorus

Tá Gráinne Mhaol ag teacht thar sáile, Óglaigh armtha léi mar gharda, Gaeil iad féin is ni Gaill ná Spáinnigh, Is cuirfidh siad ruaig ar Ghallaibh.

chorus

A bhuí le Rí na bh-Feart go bhfeiceam, Mura mbeam beo ina dhiaidh ach seachtain, Gráinne Mhaol agus mile gaiscioch, Ag fógairt fáin ar Ghallaibh.

English Translation

Oh-ro You are welcome home, Oh-ro You are welcome home. Oh-ro you are welcome home, Now that summer's coming!

chorus

Welcome lady who faced such troubles You capture brought us to our ruin With our fine land usurped by thieves And you sold to the foreigners!

chorus

Gráinne O'Malley comes over the sea, With armed warriors as her guard They're Irishmen - not French or Spanish And they will rout

the foreigners!

chorus

May it please dear God that we might see, Even if we only live for week after, Gráinne Mhaol and a thousand warriors-Routing all the foreigners!

chorus

The earliest form of Irish known to us is referred to as Primitive Irish. It is primarily known through the Ogham alphabet, which has been found throughout Ireland in the form of mostly personal names inscribed on stone. Around the 5th century, Primitive Irish became what we call Old Irish. With this form of Irish we have many written examples that appear in the margins of Latin manuscripts thanks to the growing presence of monasteries in Ireland. During this time, "the dark ages" learning and culture all but disappeared from the continent of Europe. The heritage of Western civilization would have been lost if not for the holy men and women of Ireland painstakingly transcribing Greek and Roman manuscripts as well as the works of the Jewish and Christian faiths.

By the 10th century, Norse influences are found due to Viking invasions and settlements, unprotected monasteries were an easy target for marauders and Irelands fertile lands were very attractive. From the 12th century on, Modern Irish slowly evolved into what we speak today.

English occupation had a devastating effect on the language, the 17th century saw a ban on the language and its teaching prohibited. Still the language held on, mostly in remote areas, and was the language of the majority of the

population. Over one million Īrish speakers were lost during the great famine due to death and immigration, which contributed significantly to

Fortunately, there were some who realized what a loss it would be for the people of Ireland to be without this rich heritage:

Ní tír gan teanga There is no nation without a language

In 1884, The Gaelic Athletic Association was founded as a way to separate Ireland's identity from the ever growing Anglicization of the country. The GAA did this by promoting native sports such as hurling and Gaelic football and discouraging participation in English games like cricket and rugby. The GAA laid the foundation for a group of scholars and teachers to form the Gaelic League.

Founded by Douglas Hyde and others in 1893, The Gaelic

League, or Conradh na Gaelige, encouraged the use of Irish to preserve the language and culture of Ireland. Originally The Gaelic League was non-political, striving only to educate, this was its greatest success. The Gaelic League ran Irish classes all around the country, they also taught the native speakers of the Gaeltacht regions how to read and write in their own language.

www.ianohio.com

By 1903, the Irish language became part of the curriculum in 1,300 national schools, within five years it became mandatory for entrance to the newly instituted National University. Hyde said, "There is no other way to revive Irish than for a crowd of people to spread it."

Spreading Irish also brought about pride. Many of those who rose to leadership roles in the Republican movement, such as Padraig Pearse, came to the movement through The

Gaelic League. Eventually, the league dropped its non-political stance and the link between Gaelige and republicanism grew stronger. After the executions of the leaders of the Easter Rising the bond was solidified.,

Eamon de Valera's choice of Douglas Hyde as The Republic of Ireland's first president in 1938 was a tribute to the Gaelic revival and the importance of the Irish language. It was fitting that President Hyde's inaugural address was delivered in Irish.

On this one hundredth anniversary of The Easter Rising of 1916 it is important for all of us to remember and reflect on the role Irish had in bringing together the men and women who set the events in motion that brought Ireland freedom. Perhaps it is our duty to ensure the continuation of our language.

Saoirse (freedom)

Bob Carney Carneyspeakirish@gmail.com



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Growing UP Irish



When Rose Sponsors Become Friends

from Denise McConville telling me that Casey's Irish Imports would be my sponsor for the 2015 Ohio Řose Selection, I remember thinking, 'Cool. I got my claddagh ring there. So did Dad.' I was excited to have an existing connection with the team of people I would soon be working closely with, but little did I know that that seemingly random/put-in-motion-byinto one of the most enriching

When I received an e-mail and fulfilling relationships of my life. One I am grateful for everyday, and one that is rooted in a deep appreciation for all things Irish.

While my specific relationship with Vera, Maureen, and Kathleen didn't blossom until the last year or so, our families have been intertwined for quite some time. Vera did my mom and (maternal) grandmother's hair for years before giving Denise pairing would turn them some lovely 'dos for my parents' wedding in 1988.

My family recalls these times fondly, noting often that Vera's kindness and warmth filled the room, creating more joy than was already there.

Knowing of this connection, I went into my first meeting after discovering they'd be sponsoring me for the 2015 Ohio Rose Selection with an excitement equitable to that of a kid on Christmas morning. Our lunch that day was spent in constant conversation - Vera, Maureen, and Kathleen asked me questions about school and my family, and I inquired about the store, what their trips to Ireland were like, and more. Laughter was the soundtrack to that afternoon, and I went home with a heart full of eagerness about what was to come.

Throughout the rest of the Ohio Rose Selection process that year, I received text messages; e-mails; Facebook posts, messages, and likes from the Caseys, offering me support and encouragement as I debatequately express to the judges what my Irish heritage meant to me. Any anxiety regarding the experience melted away whenever my phone dinged, indicating another greeting and positive affirmation from my new friends.

"You're going to do wonderful. Just be yourself and enjoy the experience."

Simple enough words, but simple words sometimes carry the greatest meaning, especially



Kathleen Casey Proctor, Maureen Ginley, Maureen Casey Brubaker & Vera Casey at Casey's Irish Imports

While I have nothing but posi- While the Irish diaspora extends tive things to say about any and all of my experiences with the Ohio Rose Centre, I went into the 2015 Selection with no idea of what to expect. I was a semirecent college graduate living at home beginning a new program. ed what to wear, and how to ad- I was searching for something, anything, to make me feel (more) rooted back into the community that raised me. The idea of the Ohio Rose Selection seemed fun, but was it really for me? Was it really a good idea to give it another go in 2016? (Note: it definitely was.) That afternoon I met with the Caseys for the first time as their Rose, I knew I had stumbled upon something good.

To me, the best part about being Irish is the relationships made through this wonderful

in times of stress or anxiety. community we have in Ohio across the globe, our not-so little group here in the Buckeye State is filled with genuine warm-hearted, and dedicated individuals that work to bring out the best in each other. Vera Maureen, and Kathleen have shown me this kindness time and time again, opening their hearts and welcoming me into their family like I was somehow always meant to be a part of it.

> My relationship with the Ca seys has helped me to be more open to new experiences, to not be so timid when it comes to expressing the love I have for my hobbies and passions. I am a better person because of the bonds we share, and I am so grateful that fate brought us all together last February.



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Gunshots

We've made it to the 100 year mark. The long since beautifully repaired GPO is the centre piece of O'Connell Street; Dublin is alive once more. Sadly, we continue to clash over the legacy left behind in the erstwhile smouldering ruins of our capital city. We are one of few countries remaining in the world who appear to feel more comfortable apologising for our hard won independence.

Many do celebrate with pride. Indeed, numerous events connected to the Centenary of the Rising are on offer. I have been involved with Irish history for over 30 years, immersed in the complexities, the sadness and the stories of bravery and loss. I have met many relatives of Kilmainham's beloved prisoners, whilst examining their families' history and pouring over their photographs. I would have it no other way.

However, I'd prefer to celebrate the Centenary by sharing stories of people I met in Kilmainham Prison along the way. I frequently did not know their names, but small gestures of theirs, stories they narrated, objects they shared - ordinary people all – remain with me forever. They are the people that Pearse had loved, finally answering together. Visitors honouring these selfless countrymen who did not live to witness the gift they bestowed as their last full measure of devotion was tested in the bleak dawn light in the Stonebreakers' Yard.

I came to recognise tiny gestures made by visitors over the years, the most moving being the fleeting touch of a hand against a particular prisoner's cell door. Barely noticeable unless you recognized what it was, they would reach out gently when passing with their tour; their own private thank you.

I clearly recall an elderly lady, a selfconfessed thief, approaching me shyly in the Execution Yard with the evidence. Eyes glistening, she joyously revealed a few blades of grass clutched tightly in her hand, grass which had managed to grow by the plain black cross marking the spot where James Connolly was shot. Her sacred loot, to be brought home and displayed with pride.

During the winter of '92, a group from Dublin's inner city, women who

possessed few worldly goods and many inspiring human ones, such as endurance, humour and generosity, specially requested an evening tour. Their only available time to visit was after the prison closed. Darkness had fallen before we set off. Spotlights in the Stonebreakers' Yard / Execution Yard had been switched on in readiness.

We saw the chapel where Joseph Plunkett married Grace Gifford; we made our way cautiously in semi darkness down narrow corridors where some 1916 men spent their final hours. We stood in the East Wing where others received shortlived farewell visits from their families. Finally we entered the Execution Yard, every shade of grey in the high stone walls effervescent in the unforgiving bright light. Huddled against the frosty night, their cloudy breaths illuminated in the cold winter air, the women listened in respectful silence to the facts of the fourteen executions, all the while taking in the two small crosses looming large in the shadows at either end of the yard.

We were about to cut across the uneven slabs of stone in the Well Yard on our route back inside, when one of these perceptive women interrupted. She wondered would it be fitting to say a brief prayer for the men who had here paid the price for their dream of an Irish Republic. That era may have passed; perhaps a request of this nature will never be voiced in that yard again. A good thing, or a bad? I cannot answer. I know only that the heartfelt Our Father we whispered together for those whose souls left the world at that precise spot, was among the most poignant I ever heard.

On another occasion in Kilmainham I learned the story of a stranger paying his respects to the executed men by standing unobtrusively outside the gate leading into the Stonebreakers' Yard one evening long ago... This melancholy stranger confessed to being a member of the firing party which had killed one of them.

I listened to an account from an elderly lady who in 1916 lived in one of the redbrick houses just beyond Kilmainham. She had heard the shots fired at dawn, those distant days of May. Brigid Lyons, one of the 77 women held in Kilmainham after the Rising, spoke in later years about how she would wake

up for months after her release from the prison at the same time every morning. The exact time those shots sounded in the early dawn.

One of my colleagues, an experienced piper, celebrated 1916 in a spontaneous, special manner when he played old pipes belonging to Eamonn Ceannt in the archives building. The sweet, slightly out of tune, single lament echoed as a fitting 21st century counterpoint to those crashing shots.

Eamonn Ceannt had gone searching for his second-in-command, Cathal Brugha, during Easter Week. When Ceannt found the seriously injured man, Brugha called weakly: Come here Eamonn Ceannt and sing God Save Ireland before I die. Ceannt knelt and embraced him.

Amidst life's callousness, cherished work can be derailed. No longer in Kilmainham, I miss it every day. I know how I would have honoured the insur rectionaries of 1916. Paraphrasing Wil liam Faulkner, it is ever open to me, any time I choose, to return in my mind and stand once more in that dreary, soulless yard. In spirit, I will be present there one final time, at roughly fifteen minutes to 4.00am on a morning I choose from 3 May to 12 May, 2016. I will take a deep breath then reach out my right hand and place it squarely, tenderly, against the rough cold wall of the Execution Yard; my tribute And the gunshots won't matter anymore

In early May 1916, held in nearby Richmond Barracks awaiting his court martial, Sean MacDiarmada heard them too, taking the lives of his comrades. He knew that he, also a signatory to the Proclamation, was on his way to that yard. He was undaunted. They are our victory, he prophesied.



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IAN Ohio "We've Always Been Green!" www.ianohio.com **APRIL 2016**

Laminacions

By J. Michael Finn



lin is the iconic symbol of the 1916 Easter ally, "high office of the post.") Rising. The building will be forever re-

membered in Irish history as the headquarters of the Irish Republican forces during the Easter Rising. But, with the 100th Anniversary of the Easter Rising upon us, you may be curious about the history of the structure and why the rebels chose it to be

their headquarters.

On January 6, 1818, the new post-office on Sackville Street (now O'Connell Street) was opened for business. The foundation-stone of the building, which is built after a Greek Revival Style design of Irish architect Francis Johnston, was set by the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, Charles Whitworth, on August 12, 1814. The structure was completed in the short span of three years

for the sum of £50,000. With the exception of the front portico, which is of Portland stone, the whole of the building was built of Wicklow granite.

The building was designed and built to serve as the main post office. Today, over two hundred years later, it is still serves that original purpose. The name

The General Post Office of the building in Irish is Ard Oifig an The General Post Office (GPO) in Dub- Phuist (pron: rd eff-ig ahn fohst, or liter-

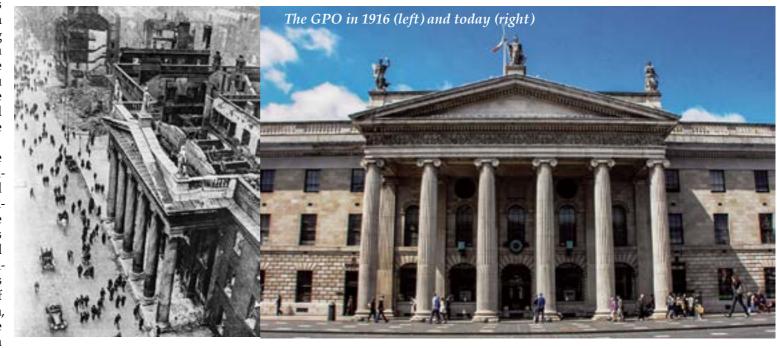
the command of James Connolly, who was in charge of the building defense and directed operations. In addition to Connolly, the command group included four other members of the Irish Republican Brotherhood Military Council: Patrick Pearse, President and Commander-in-Chief of the Rising, Tom Clarke, Sean Mac Dermott and Joseph Plunkett. Michael Collins also served in the GPO as an aide to Joseph Plunkett.

Almost immediately after occupying One of the questions always asked the building, they removed the British

Dublin and on the columns of the GPO.

Patrick Pearse had selected the GPO specifically to serve as the headquarters for the Rising. The building was selected for several reasons: First, its location in the center of Dublin on the wide expanse of Sackville Street ensured that its seizure and the outbreak of the rebellion itself would be widely observed by many Pearse's hope was that the population of Dublin, seeing the success of the Rising would rise up and join the rebel forces.

Second, the GPO was the central com



about the GPO is, "What are the three statues on the top of the building's portico?" When facing the building, the three statues are: Mercury, the messenger of the gods, is on the left; Fidelity, with a hound at her feet and a key held in her right hand, is on the right; and Hibernia, a classical representation in female form

> of Ireland, resting on her spear and holding a harp is the center statue. They were all sculpted by Irish artist John Smyth. In addition to the statues, the building originally had the Royal Coat of Arms within the triangle forming the roof of the portico. This was wisely removed when the building was restored.

On Easter Monday, April 24, 1916 the GPO was occupied by approximately 350 combined forces of the Irish Volunteers, the Irish Citizen Army and Cumann na mBan. They were under the proclamation were posted around

flag from on top of the building and ran up two flags, one was the solid green flag bearing the words Irish Republic, which flew from the main flagpole; the other was the now familiar tri-color of green, white and orange, which was raised on the lower flagpole.

Irish writer James Stephens recounts a humorous story regarding the first few minutes of the take-over of the GPO in his book Insurrection in Dublin, "The story goes that about twelve o'clock on Monday an English officer had marched into the General Post Office and demanded two penny stamps from the amazed Volunteers who were inside. He thought their uniforms were postal uniforms. They brought him in, and he is probably still trying to get a perspective on the occurrence."

At four minutes past noon, Pearse, Connolly and the other leaders exited the front of the building and from the front portico, Patrick Pearse read aloud the words of the Proclamation of the Irish Republic. This document declared Ireland to be a republic, proclaiming its independence from England. Copies of

munications hub for Ireland. In addition to handling all of the mail it was the center for both telephone and telegraph communications for all of Ireland. This did not benefit the rebellion, but it did hinder the British in effectively commu nicating to their forces outside of Dublin

Third, the GPO was a very visible sym bol of official authority north of the River Liffey. To many it was an unacceptable manifestation of British influence in the country, probably second only to Dublin Castle itself.

The occupation of the GPO, therefore had both a practical and symbolic pur pose. However, it was not the perfect strategic location. The wide expanse of Sackville Street made any escape from the front impossible and the narrow Dublin streets surrounding the building made escape from the rear extremely difficult The rebels, however, had no intention of escaping.

For nearly a week, the rebels held the GPO. The British forces bombarded the GPO and the city of Dublin with artillery With the GPO on fire and crumbling around them, the rebels tried to break



Continued on next page

The General Post Office Ireland in 1916, Patrick Pearse at his court

through the surrounding army cordon, but failed. Pearse, realizing the futility of further fighting and to prevent the further destruction of Dublin, made the difficult decision to surrender on Saturday, April 29, 1916.

The building was, for all practical purposes, destroyed as a result of the Rising. Reconstruction of the building began in 1925. It was completed in 1929. The front façade and original design of the building was maintained. The front portico was retained. You can still see the damage from bullets and artillery to the front columns.

In commemoration of the Rising, a statue depicting the death of the mythical hero Cúchulainn sculpted by Oliver Sheppard in 1911 was originally set at the command post in the center of the GPO main hall and it is now housed in the front window of the building.

To summarize the Rising and the men and women who fought and died to free

Ireland in 1916, Patrick Pearse at his court martial was asked if he had anything to say before the sentence of death was issued. His words present a prophetic description of the years that would follow. He said, "We seem to have lost. We have not lost. To refuse to fight would have been to lose; to fight is to win; we have kept faith with the past and handed on a tradition to the future. You cannot conquer Ireland. You cannot extinguish the Irish passion for freedom. If our deed has not been sufficient to win freedom, then our children will win it by a better deed."

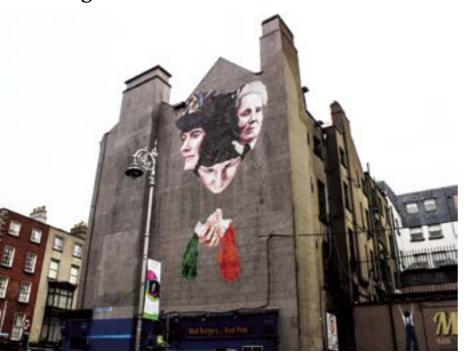
*J. Michael Finn is the Ohio State Historian for the Ancient Order of Hibernians and Division Historian for the Patrick Pearse Division in Columbus, Ohio. He is also Chairman of the Catholic Record Society for the Diocese of Columbus, Ohio. He writes on Irish and Irish-American history; Ohio history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



Shamrock Club, Columbus; Shamrock Selfie, courtesy of Heidi Motika

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.

The Women Of 1916 Mural on George's Street Unveiled



Irish artist Gearoid O'Dea has installed a 35 foot street art installation inspired by the Women of 1916, with the piece being unveiled on International Women's Day. The installation is on the corner of South Great George's Street, the same location as

Joe Caslin's iconic Marriage Equality mural.

The title of Gearoid's piece is 'Le Chéile I Ngruaig', which translates as 'Together in the hair'. It features three women who each played an important role in

the Easter Rising: Countess Markievicz (left), Margaret Pearse (right) and Grace Gifford-Plunkett (bottom). The piece was drawn in full colour using the mediums of colouring pencil and gouache, with a focus on meticulous detail. It was then scanned and digitally reproduced on a large scale.

Speaking about his installation, artist O'Dea said: "This 1916 Easter Rising centenary year seems like a great opportunity to re-imagine the kind of Ireland we could live in. Following the example

of the drafters of the Proclamation and their landmark declaration of equal rights for men and women, I want to explore the role that women played in the 1916 Rising.

"Countess Markievicz is the icon. She is often depicted as a revolutionary gure (having taken an active role in the Rising as second in command to Michael Mallin at St. Stephen's Green), but I wanted to portray her in contemplative passivity. Her reflective pose shows another side to this famous gure."

"Margaret Pearse gave her son, Patrick, to the Rising. Her sacrifice might have been greater than his, her sense of loss more enduring. She had to witness the Civil War, and see an Ireland emerge that fell far short of the Rising's ideals.

"Grace Gifford-Plunkett was a political cartoonist. Her husband Joseph was executed in Kilmainham Gaol on the day of their marriage. His execution began to turn the public in favour of the rebels.

"I feel that, taken together, each of these women strike a balance. Each played a different kind of role in the Rising. Some are well remembered, oth ers not. These portraits will be woven together by strands of hair. For me, the texture of the hair suggests a toughness a gentleness, and something more mys terious. Hair was an important symbol in Celtic mythology, empowering and magical. As a composing element in this piece, it feels right."

For more information contact Darragh Genockey

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Living With Lardie by Richard Lardie



She Was Mortified

They make cars better now so I don't want this to be a "good

2015

Cars were more fun back in the 50s and 60s. I have owned cars that rattled, squeaked, banged, thumped, pinged, and roared. The power glide transmission old days were wonderful" story. My memories are that most of





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my early cars would not be allowed on the road today, but I enjoyed each and every one of them.

My first car was a 1950

Chevy with a power glide transmission. I paid \$65 for it (in three payments I might add). allowed that car to go from 0 to 60 in about an hour and a half. It burned oil badly; I swear I used more oil than gas.

ship, the gas gauge broke, so I never knew how much gas I had. I ran out of gas about 6 times in that car; gas cost 27 cents a gallon. Who could afford to fill it up at those prices?

That was the car that taught me the cost of maintenance was the big problem. The good news was that cars were easy to work on even if you were not handy (and I wasn't and am not). My toolbox consisted of a pair of pliers, a butter knife, electrical tape, and a hammer.

One thing I never see today is anyone buying used parts. I never bought a NEW tire till I was married. I bought used generators, thermostats, batteries, water pumps, antennas, fan belts, and anything else that was needed. I would get a friend to drive me to the junkyard on St Clair and 176th street; there was a guy named Al behind the counter. He had a stubby cigar that he kept lighting.

The cigar was so short he had to turn his head so he wouldn't burn his nose. He called me two dollar Lardie because I always wanted something for two dollars. We would negotiate and he would get mad and finally send me to the yard to find the part and take it off a junk car for two dollars. I had a guy at the corner gas station (They did mechanical work then) that watched out for tires that were my size when he took them off a car. If they had more tread than mine, I would buy them for...... two dollars.

had a floor shift and was a cool looking car in 1958. It was so cool it landed me a date with a popular cheerleader. She wouldn't give me the time of day until she saw me drive through Manners one night in that "hot car".

To say the date didn't go well would be an understatement. Just prior to picking her up the generator started acting up and it wasn't registering a charge. She hopped in and was all pretty and enthusiastic about us going out and eventually driving through Manners in Two months into the owner- my car. We went to the drivein on Euclid Avenue. When the movie ended, she was bubbling about going to Manners; the car didn't start. I was grinding the starter as she was yelling how mortified she was to be seen in a car that wouldn't start. I told her to relax as I can just give it a push, jump in, pop the clutch, and we would be on our way.

> I need to stop here and explain the ignition on a 1941 Nash. It had a key that needed turning, then there was a switch that needed to be flipped, and finally a starter button to be pushed.

> I turned the key, flipped the switch and got out with the driver door open and pushed it. I got it rolling pretty good, hopped in and popped. Nothing. I got out and started pushing again. She is now lying on the seat, so no one can see her in a car being pushed, while she told me how mortified she was. I jumped in and popped the clutch. Nothing.

> I was now sweating profusely; she was being profusely mortified. I pushed that car almost to the end of the aisle, and after it didn't start, I just sat there to catch my breath.

> Looked down, I noticed the switch was off. I remembered making sure it was on. I asked if she turned the switch off? "Of course I turned it off. My daddy says if you leave that switch on you will run down your battery and that is probably why it won't start".

I glared at her with sweat pouring down my face and My next car was a 1941 Nash decided not to say what I was with a 1950 Chrysler engine. It thinking. I flipped it back on, really does make the man??

got out, gave it a short push jumped in, popped the clutch and that Chrysler engine roared to life. We headed out of the drive-in and she was all sweet and giddy again.

"Let's go to Manners now," she said. I responded, "You are going home, you are not passing go, you are not collecting \$200" I dropped her off and went to Manners sweaty and alone.. happily.

Then I bought a 1954 Pontiac for \$30. It was a nice looking car but it had no reverse. I always had to watch where I parked because I couldn't back up to get out of a parking place. I learned how to be very creative. I junked that car for \$10.

I had a 1953 Old's convert ible that had no back window; I took a girl out in February at 10 degrees. We went to the Ice Capades at the old Arena with great seats on the ice. She was freezing getting into the car freezing walking to the Arena freezing at the show and back in the car with no back window Don't know why she never went out with me again.

I then bought a nice looking 1954 white Ford. It was running good, but it cost me another girlfriend. I picked up my date and she looked amazing; she was a cute blonde with a great tan, a white top that contrasted her tan and matched her bright white shorts. I had my car for one day, and as we were driv ing she asked if it had a vent. I looked and told her to pull the black knob under the glove box She did.

I don't know who owned the car before me, but he must have worked at a coal mine. When she pulled the vent knob, black soot blew out all over her pretty white top and shorts. It went in her hair and all over her beauti ful tan.

She was soon crying as she asked to be driven home. I told her I would wait while she cleaned up. She mumbled some thing about hell freezing over before she would be getting in a car with me again and ran into the house; I decided to upgrade my cars from then on and was soon dating my wife. The car

OUR IMMIGRANT STORY BY J.A. GALLAGHER

ORY GHER

Patrick and Margaret By James Gallagher

Part I From Achill to America: Their Not Uncommon Story

My grandfather, Patrick Neil Gallagher III, was born in 1894 on Achill Island, off the west coast of Ireland. The island's townland of Sraheens rests on a navigable inlet along a rocky shore of the North Atlantic. As a young boy, Patrick worked on the family farm with his siblings while generations of his family looked on.

The first son of Patrick Neil Gallagher II of Sraheens and Nancy Quinn-Gallagher of Doreens, he was the first of our Gallagher clan to leave Achill and settle on the south shore of Lake Erie in Cleveland, Ohio. He returned only once to Achill, to attend the funeral of his father in 1958. Within months, Patrick himself would pass.

The 80-acre farm was anything but those we imagine from the American Midwest. Set in a half-bog, stone-laden hillside, with soil suitable for growing little else but potatoes and hay in a short, wet growing season. A blacksmith's forge for hammering horseshoes and plow blades sat on the property,



and a herd of cows roamed the farm while a single—and very popular—bull provided a significant source of income to the family. A freshwater spring emerging from the mountain behind the farm still provides sweet water today as it has for hundreds of years. While the struggles of farm life never seemed to ease, the land provided a fertile playground for young Patrick and his brothers, cousins, and schoolmates. It was a happy time in Patrick's life.

Patrick attended Achill Sound National School, a simple, one-room schoolhouse

that required each student to bring a clump of peat daily in order to heat the

schoolroom. Like many Achill children, Patrick would endure long periods of absence from his education, as he would leave his family to travel to Scotland for seasonal work as a "tattie hoker" (a potato field worker).

His meager earnings were needed to support his family through Achill's harsh nongrowing season. One can only imagine the anguish felt by parents who sent their children, sometimes as young as 11 years of age, away from their family and country

for months on end to endure long days of field labor. As times became more difficult, men and women of all ages would leave their Achill homes and families for work in Scotland, England, and beyond. This was, and still is to some degree, the story of Achill and Achill's migration.

As a teenager, Patrick became a skilled

grocer at Sweeney's Market in Achill, which still operates today as it did over a hundred years ago. This would serve him well later in life. In 1914, Patrick, then 20 years of age, attended Trinity College in Dublin. During this time, he and his brother Martin, at the urging of their family, left behind the troubles with the English for opportunities in America. Patrick immigrated to Cleveland's West Side and would join the Fisher Brothers Co. grocery store in 1914, just as Europe was going to war.

His departure from Achill would be the first in a series of family events that, through immigration and death, would leave his parents all alone in a short period of time. Patrick's parents remained in Achill until their passing in the 1950s. The Gallagher farm, which provided for the family for over 150 years and four generations, ended with them. Patrick never saw his parents again.

Just a stone's throw across the Achill Sound inlet from Patrick Gallagher's childhood home, Margaret Mary Healy was born to Pat Healy of Belfarsad and Margaret Cafferkey-Healy of Polranny-Sweeney, Achill, in 1893. A two-room stone cottage with a thatch roof and dirt floor—a wedding gift from the Cafferkey family to Margaret's parents—served as home for Margaret, her five siblings, and their parents. It stands today as a silent sentinel, unoccupied since the day of their final migration to America



n 1908.

Margaret's time in Achill was short—a mere 13 years—but full of family. With just a short stroll along the rocky shore in either direction, she could find generations of cousins and relatives. She recalled searching the ocean's floor at low tide to collect cockles, mussels, periwinkles, and fish in order

to augment the family's diet of potatoes and bread. She would smile as she recalled the close calls when the rushing tide chased her back to shore—this was no small concern as she could not swim. This was not uncom mon as Achill's rocky shoreline, and cold water, as well as the feared basking shark kept many children from the water.

It wasn't too long into young Margaret's life before her father Pat, a farmer and boatman, grew tired of his many years of traveling for seasonal work. Reluctantly he made the difficult decision to leave Ireland and his family of eight in search of prosperity and the opportunity for family unity in America.

Pat Healy set off alone and ar rived in Cleveland in 1901, where he settled in the notorious Irish "Angle" neighborhood. Drawing on his experience as a boatman, he found work on the banks of Cleve land's Cuyahoga River, loading ore and operating tugboats. Once Pat found his footing, he sent

for his children as his savings for passage would allow. It would be nearly eight long years before his wife Margaret and young est daughters Margaret and Anna would be able to join him and finally reunite his family. They left Achill and would never return to their humble beginnings and family who remained.





Don't Forget Us!



Longford House: Douglas Hyde

I did it, I missed a historic event in my family. At the time, I was blatantly dismissive, there were too many other things going on. In hindsight, where everything is always crystal clear, I see the significance not just to my family, but also of the event and the man associated with it.

The historic event was the commemoration of the house where my Mother-in-law was born. My mother-in-law, the former Teresa Kelly, shares that birthplace with the first president of Ireland, Douglas Hyde. She also grew up in that house, Longford House. It sits on an elevation off the main road just outside of Castlerea, Co. Roscommon. No less than the President of Ireland at the time, Patrick Hillary, landed in Castlerea for that commemoration and to place a plaque on the house. You would know immediately that the house was something special since it has a name. Longford

century grandeur.

Not only was the house special, but so was Douglas Hyde for multiple reasons. The memories of him from the locals always reference his splendid

mustache. He was very well-liked, especially considering he was the son of a Protestant rector in the era of the Easter Rising. The residents were proud of his accomplishments and of the attention that he brought

My Mother-in- law remembers him playing golf on the local links with her uncle Paddy and that he was affectionately called Dougie by the locals. He was known to befriend his neighbors and was seen going into little thatched cottages to talk to people.

He was born 17 January in 1860. He was a sickly child and was primarily home-schooled by his father. The family was known to be bookish and intelligent. Being home instead of sent away to boarding school gave young Dougie access to all the local people. He was known to wander around the small thatched cottages in the area listening to old stories and trying to understand them. He was very friendly with

an estate gamekeeper named Seamus Hart.

He taught young Dougie the Irish language. Sadly, Seamus died while Hyde was still young, and it nearly stopped his education in Irish. Douglas persevered though and developed a passion for all things Gaeilge, especially the language. He was learning the language at a time when it was considered obsolete.

Hyde eventually went to Trinity College, where he

primarily studied linguistics. Dublin provided him with a small community of educated people interested in Irish culture. He married an Englishwoman, Lucy Kurt,z and had two daughters, Nuala and Una. He lived a better part of his life around Castlerea and the neighboring villages.

Somehow, the Irish language carried a stain from the famine and was associated with poverty and ignorance. This meant that Irish was not being learned by young people and was the language of the old; already veering toward extinc tion. Douglas' love for the Irish language and culture only grew with time. He was a founding member of the Gaelic League, in Irish, Conradh na Gaeilge, in the 1880s. He pub lished poems in Irish under the pen name "An Craoibhín Aoibhinn" ("The Pleasant Little Branch).

Historically, Hyde lived through both the Fenian move ment and the Rising, both promoted a steady revival in all things Irish culturally. The revival in Irish language and culture was never was a completely comfortable fit in Ireland, but was strong with the nationalists of the Easter Rising in 1916. Hyde was not political, although he believed in, "The necessity for de-anglicising the Irish nation, arguing that Ireland should follow her own traditions in language literature and even in dress". (Wikipedia) He even filled out the 1911 census in Gaeilge.

In all of this, Hyde was a romantic and a nativist, but not a political radical. He was not involved in any party or the Sinn Fein movement. He was elected to a Senate seat for a brief time and then defeated in the next election. He then returned to the comfort of academics and teaching.

He eventually retired from teaching, and would have probably been content with that. History had another idea He was nominated to be the first president of Ireland. The national leaders saw in him an opportunity to cement their new government with a legitimate, well-liked, apolitical leader to serve as a figurehead, much like the English queen The fact that he was Protestant was another asset, since it lent an air of validity to the office and distanced the gov ernment from the sectarianism of the war. In 1938, Douglas Hyde became the first president of Ireland. He was only about two years into his seven year term when he suffered a small stroke. He carried on with his presidential duties but was often seen seated. Douglas Hyde died July 12, 1949 He was given a state funeral and buried in Frenchpark, Co Roscommon.



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Douglas Hyde



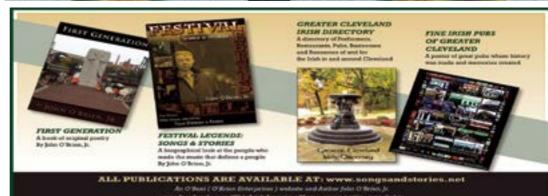
There is a common Irish literary convention where the plot is advanced by an outsider. Historically, you can go right back to Ireland's favorite Roman, Patrick, to see how the outsider manages to mix things up for the Irish. Although not an outsider in the traditional sense, Douglas Hyde was born with privileges and religion that separated him from the common Irishman at that time.

His birthright could have placed him in a comfy position as a benevolent Protestant rector or something similar. He defied family tradition, and spent time with local people, listening to their stories without being able to understand them, at least initially. He learned Irish so that he could communicate with and understand the stories and songs of the local people.

Douglas Hyde, seen at the time as old fashioned, looks much more modern now, right down to the

facial hair. His embrace of the common people and native culture is a contemporary mindset. Much like our own first president, he was a good fit for the job; humble, likeable and not too concerned with power or appearance. He was very like the house that he was born into. He is one of the relatively unsung heroes of modern Ireland and definitely a man who lived to preserve the quality that he saw around him.



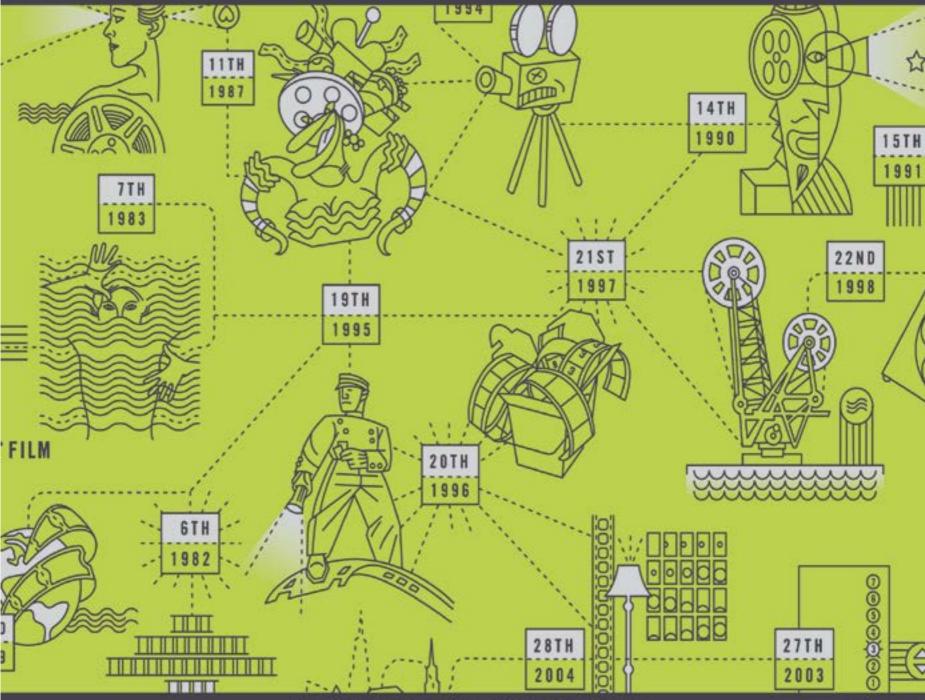




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View From Ireland

By Maurice Fitzpatrick



St. Patrick's Day Dáil

The convocation on March 10th at Government Buildings in Dublin has erroneously been designated the first meeting of the 32nd Dáil Éireann. It was nothing of the sort. It was a fiasco that concluded nothing and procrastinated the necessity of a coalition (or an alliance of one of the major parties with Independents) to form the next government of Ireland. Expect more such procrastination for

plenty long. After the inconclusive assembly, Enda Kenny had just a few days before jetting off to Washington DC on March 14th. The following day, the caretaker Taoiseach had breakfast with Vice-President Joe Biden, lunch with key members of US Congress at Capitol Hill (in the presence of President Obama) before attending a reception at the White House where the Taoiseach presented the customary bowl of shamrocks to President Obama. With that done, Enda Kenny made ready to return immediately to Dublin, rather than follow through with other planned events in DC. Ministers from his former cabinet have also had their St. Patrick's Day itineraries either greatly curtailed or entirely scrapped. Business at home is pressing given that all we have for now is a St. Patrick's Day Dáil.

What happened when Ireland went to the polls on February 26th was an overthrow of the political domination of the Old Guard: neither of the two parties, Fine Gael and Fianna Fail, which managed, with Labour propping them up, to hold power in Ireland since the country was founded have got a mandate for full government. Now they need each other to form a government, while Labour was so thoroughly deserted that it just about managed to gain "speaking rights" in whatever government will be formed.

Ireland is far from alone in facing such an upheaval. Consider that during the 2007-11 period Bel- democratic revolution. But is it re- attempted to transcend the old

gium had dozens of governmental changes and more a year stretch in which a caretaker government took charge. But, given the radical nonidentification of the two dominant groups in Belgium's body politic, it is unsurprising that their quarrel culminated in a breakdown of government.

The case of Spain today is closer to what is happening in Ireland. For Spain's electorate, after enduring eight years of economic agony, the pain is now easing off and yet it decided to jettison its traditional political power base. The credibility of the main Spanish parties, which governed in is in tatters. As a representative Spanish citizen "Maria" said in the London Independent earlier this month: "Traditional politics [in Spain] is in a real mess, but I can't see that a new election will really help". Traditional parties no longer inspire their stalwart voters with enough faith to be returned at election time; as with Spain, so too with Ireland.

A clue about the nature of the change in the Irish political landscape was offered by journalist Gene Kerrigan the Sunday after polling: "The collective vote of the right wing parties is shrinking. Thirty years ago, in 1987, they - Fianna Fail, Fine Gael, Labour, the PDs - got 89pc of the vote. Twenty years ago, in 1997, they got 82pc. At the last election it was 72pc. Now, it's about 57pc."

Whether their share of the vote is shrinking because they are right wing parties or not is debatable, but the diminishing support is indubitable and the trend will be very difficult to reverse. For nearly a century, the parties held sway and now the Irish are truly disaffected with them.

Fintan O'Toole, a journalist who nearly turned politician in 2011 (but recoiled shortly after he became enmeshed in an election campaign), has proclaimed this to be something close to a social

ally? It looks a great deal more like boundaries and parties—that which was a dominant force in a flailing attempt for a ramshackle election in the North gave birth, vehicle to splutter on, and it prob- the following year, to the Social three decades. Could such a shift ably will for a while given the lack Democratic and Labour Party be happening in the South now? of a real alternative.

So what next? There is no appetite in the electorate for another general election and many of the politicians are scarcely solvent enough to contest it anyhow. Besides, who truly believes that if the Irish electorate were asked to vote again it would suddenly revert to historical type and bolster the support of either Fine Gael or Fianna Fail?

It seems likely that Fine Gael will receive a negotiated level of support from Fianna Fail to be a minority government. Such a lame duck cabinet will struggle to survive much longer than a year. Meanwhile, there may well be several changes of leadership of the big political parties: Leo Varadkar of Fine Gael and Mary rotation since the fall of Franco, Lou McDonald of Sinn Fein may seize their chance to lead.

Yet the same old policies will continue. It says a great deal about the February election campaign that no mainstream party (Sinn Fein certainly falls into the category of mainstream in respect of its policies, if not its history) undertook to overhaul any strand of the economic or political reality in Ireland now: their obsession to slightly modify or rearrange the existing system is too deep-seated.

So the tedious orthodoxy will continue to be re-branded and faux radical stances will furnish the daily headlines. Newspapers have already been saturated with commentary and leaks of talks between Independent elected representatives who may consider doing deals with either Fine Gael or Fianna Fail. Occasionally, some Independents have been bare-faced enough to boast about being lured by one of the parties—Shane Ross, in an attempt to make a spectacle of the Taoiseach, made at least as much a spectacle of himself in his boasting about Fine Gael's holding out the olive branch.

The people have rejected the old politics and there is a definite opening for a new departure in Irish politics now. Not since the Northern Irish election of February 1969 has political opinion on this island so comprehensively

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How to Avoid Employee Discrimination Claims

By Rick Selby

From a legal perspective, one of the most important things for a business to avoid are claims brought by its employees. Both federal and state law contain a myriad of laws that address the employer/employee relationship as it relates to hours worked, employee safety and discrimination. Understanding common ways that employers violate these laws can go a long way in helping a company avoid expensive and unnecessary claims from its employees.

Hopefully, all businesses in Ohio know that it is unlawful to discriminate against employees because of their race, age, gender, religion, national origin and other protected characteristics. Policy and practices that expressly treat individuals in a protected class less favorably than other employees are going to be a clear violation of the law. Many employment claims, however, do not arise from these types of express policies or practices, but, rather, from more subtle actions that flow from certain preconceived bias's that an employer may not even be aware of.

A prime example of this can be found in a typical age discrimination claim. Let's say for example, a company employs two individuals, Thomas who is 70, and Bobby who is 25. Thomas has been a successful salesperson for the company for 30 years. He has been a fine performer and hopes to work until age 75. Bobby is relatively new to the industry, but has seen some success in his few years with the company since getting out of college. The company decides it is going to implement a new computer based sales protocol. Thomas' supervisor is concerned that at 70 years old, Thomas is going to have trouble adjusting to the new computer system. He has no such concerns regarding Bobby, however, who has grown up using computers his entire life.

Several months into the implementation of the new computer sales program, the supervisor notices that during that three month period, Thomas has made three errors. His worse fears confirmed, the supervisor decides he has no choice but to terminate Thomas because of these

repeated errors caused by the new computer system.

Thomas brings an age discrimination lawsuit, which the company defends by pointing to the errors he made using the new system. They argued that the errors were unjustified and were grounds for termination. During discovery, however, Thomas' lawyer discovers that Bobby, during the same period of time, had six errors. Indeed, when compared to all of the salespeople, Thomas had the second fewest errors. The company ended up settling with Thomas, costing them a significant amount of money as well as attorneys' fees.

This company fell into a common problem of confirmation bias. Thomas' supervisor had a not uncommon fear that an older employee was going to have more difficulty adjusting to technological changes than younger co-workers. As a result of this concern, the supervisor was specifically looking for those problems to occur with respect to Thomas, while he wasn't necessarily looking for those problems with the other employees. Every time one of those problems popped up with Thomas, it just confirmed the fear that he already had regarding Thomas because of his unconscious bias.

When disciplining an employee, it is important to look not just at whether the conduct itself would, in a vacuum, justify discipline, but also whether the same standards are being uniformly applied throughout the company for all similarly situated employees. While, in a vacuum, disciplining Thomas because of his three errors may not seem unreasonable, once you realize that no other employees were disciplined for similar or worse conduct, it does not look nearly as reasonable. Moreover, if that differing treatment unconsciously arose out of bias surrounding concerns over an older employees' ability to understand new technology, it is easy for a plaintiff's attorney to connect the dots between an employee's age and their disparate treatment by the company.

Another common mistake arises out of many supervisors' unfortunate fear of conflict. A supervisor may be extremely unhappy with an employee's legitimately declining performance. That supervisor, however, doesn't confront the employee about it, doesn't write the employee up

and simply complains about the employee to the other management level employees. Eventually, the supervisor reaches his last straw and terminates the employee because of poor performance.

When the discrimination lawsuit is brought, the supervisor testifies that the employee's performance had been declining for years. The supervisor, however, has to admit this was never communicated to the employee, and that the employee was never written up. Even worse, when the plaintiff's attorney pulls out the performance reviews, the last four years reviews all show the employee met expectations, because it was far easier to write up the performance reviews giving everybody meets expectations than it was to honestly assess each employee's pros and cons.

Performance reviews can be a mixed blessing. If used properly, they can both be a tool to help employees improve, and a method of documenting poor performance that can ultimately be used to support disciplinary action. If the supervisors are not going to take the reviews seriously, or put in the time to do the detailed, honest analysis that performance reviews require, they can actually be more of a hindrance to a company than a benefit. From a litigation perspective, no written performance reviews are better than performance reviews that are put together in 15 minutes each year and which result in every employee in the company meeting expectations. If you are not going to take the reviews seriously, you should not do them at all.

Discharging an employee is absolutely an area where an ounce of prevention can be worth a pound of cure. Spending a few hours with your company's attorney or human resource professional to walk through the grounds for terminating an employee can help avoid the pitfalls I have described above, can save a company a tremendous amount of money in litigation costs and settlements or verdicts.

You will want to discover any holes in your rationale for firing an employee from your own legal counsel before you undertake the termination, rather than from the employee's lawyer while being deposed. Having a disinterested person with knowledge of how these claims play out in litigation, review everything before you take any action can be extremely beneficial. This is particularly true in circumstances where the employee can pursue potential retaliation claims, such as in situations where they recently have taken FMLA leave, filed a workers compensation claim or filed some type of discrimination claim with the EEOC or OCRC.

Sean & Connie McConnell, Proprietors

from a bigoted animus towards some pro tected group. Recognizing the types of un conscious biases or common practices that give rise to employment related claims is very important in helping employers avoid these type of problems.







Not every discrimination claim results



Will You Go to the West Side Market for a Nice Cuppa?

standing Saturday date at Cleve- crust pizza sparingly dressed in land's historic West-Side Market. olive oil, field mushrooms, and We enjoy planning meals based upon the ever-changing offerings that the market has on display. On a blustery winter's day, sausage roll, or currant bun can braised lamb shanks with garlicmashed potatoes comforts the soul. Perhaps the day is spring warm and all of Cleveland is parading through the streets

My husband and I have a long- in flip-flops, a wood-fired thin fragrant basil would add to the revelry of winter's end.

> Lovers of a hearty meat pasty, sidle up to Reilly's for authentic Irish fare. Francophiles can enjoy a lively selection of macarons in every flavor from Crème Brulee to pistachio at Cake Royale. Ur-



ban Herbs features piles of dried beans with exotic names like Red Trout and Adzuki that muscle up to jars filled with delicate sea salts harvested in France and Hawaii.

Great containers filled with nutmeg, cloves, and fat vanilla beans bring out the inner baker in us all. Whether the answer to your ultimate gastronomic fetish awaits at Orale for corn husk wrapped tamales or among the many varieties of cheese, olives, and imported sweeties at Mediterranean Imported Foods, the West-Side Market will not disappoint.

Food may draw us to the Market weekly, but the people are the reason we keep coming back. Over the years, my husband has talked apples with a hipster farmer and bantered about high school basketball with a young produce vendor from Cleveland Central Catholic. He has come to know the origins of our grass-fed lamb chops, and that the guru of all things bovine takes a jar at our favorite local watering hole. At all our familiar stands, those proffering everything from fish to candied green onions, we are always greeted with a smile and a wave.

The West-Side Market eases a bit of my homesickness for the bustling crowds of Chicago and the briny fragrance of ethnic food that envelops family-owned grocery stores. Moreover, I can indulge my craving for interesting people watching and friendly conversation with complete strangers.

www.ianohio.com

The one aspect of the Market that my husband and I do not share is my serious involvement with the cult of coffee drinkers at City Roast Coffee & Tea, conveniently located next to Crepes de Luxe. While the crepe stand is always packed with swarms of people longing for a taste of Paris and Nutella, I need nothing more than a warm beverage from City Roast to lighten my mood. Some days are triple latte days with an extra shot of espresso, while others may be a small latte day with the slightest bit of vanilla, just because.

I confess, when I visit my haunt for coffee at the Market, I feel a bit like an adulteress. Admittedly, my favorite regular coffee spot in Cleveland is Blackbird Baking Company in Lakewood. Their house made vanilla syrup is delicious, and the bakery case is loaded up with authentic flaky croissants, buttery rich galettes, and the most delightfully crunchy peasant-style French breads in town. Like the vendors at the Market, the baristas can sense your mood and know just when to put the image of a heart in the foam of your latte. What else can you possibly ask for in a warm beverage? But, I digress.

On one particularly snowy Saturday morning on the wake of the Christmas season, I stood behind a lovely family at City Roast. The father was short, but impeccably groomed, entertaining his toddler with the buttons on his Rolex watch. The mother was in line ordering coffees. She was tall and dressed with the easy country-style of say, Kate Middleton.

She had carefree good looks and when she spoke, her words were touched with a Quebecoise accent. This could explain why the husband did not smile knowingly when I asked him if he were in line for crepes or coffee. University. She may be contacted Clearly, they were not Saturday

regulars at the Market. Regard less, in a cloud of expensive fragrance, the family went saun tering away with their Mercedes Benz of strollers, children in tow and cappuccinos in hand.

Having finished up the busi ness of discussing the difference between a wedge of Welsh ched dar and a good old block of Ker rygold at the cheese monger's my husband attempted to find me amid the swarm of sugar and caffeine charged patrons at the crepe and coffee stands. Rather than greet me with the winning smile and charm of my favorite baristas, he asked, "How long was the God forsaken line at the coffee shop this time?" I smiled and told him about my encoun ter with the French-Canadians.

Annoyed, but vaguely amused he forgave my tardiness. My husband knows that my heart lies in a little, tinned-ceiling café in Montreal, that I am smitten with anyone bearing a crusty baguette and a French accent and, that I am as distractible as our 6-month-old Springer Spaniel pup.

On yet another Saturday visit to the Market in early March, I predictably paid a visit to City Roast. As I stood in line waiting to order my coffee, a tidy little woman bested me by sneaking over from the crepe line at last minute, ordering a small cup of Earl Grey tea. My first thought was not rage, but rather, "How perfectly civilized!"

While I looked shamelessly forward to guzzling copious amounts of caffeine-charged espresso, this petite woman was sated with a cup of bergamot rich black tea. Perhaps this time I will try a small cup of green tea with jasmine. At that moment an exuberant toddler bearing a jam-filled donut from Vera's rammed into my winter white brocade jacket, disturbing my peaceful, tea-time musings. On second thought, I decided to stick with my usual latte, and please dear barista, this time make it a double.

*Susan holds a Master's Degree in English from John Carroll Uni versity and a Master's Degree in Education from Baldwin-Wallace at suemangan@yahoo.com.

Coming Next Month: MAY

Every Sunday: Irish Music Sundays @ Music Box Cleveland

5th & 12th - Ceili Dancing @ WSIA (7-9)

7th - Columbus Pub League Gaelic Football Kickoff, followed by a kickoff party @Blarney Stone Tavern, Worthington

8th - Mother's Day Brunch w The Kilroys @Music Box Cleveland

27th - Steve Malloy 8th Annual Reverse Raffle. \$2,000 Grand Prize. Tim Sheehan 216.970.8296.



An Irishman to Watch in 2016

In early April, the US Masters will herald the start of what thralling year for big time golf. the golfing chips may fall. For those that follow the sporting exploits from tee to green, along

appearance of golf at the summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, in addition to the latest instalment of the Ryder Cup at Hazeltine in Chaska, Minnesota in autumn.

With this in mind, it must be noted that the game of golf has never been in a healthier position, either commercially or competitively.

ed era, the young generation has come in and taken over and this season will see the continuation of last year's narrative which saw the three top players in the world; the young Texan Jordan Spieth, Northern Irishman Rory McElroy and Australia's Jason Day, partake in what has become an absorbing battle for supremacy.

This entertaining tussle is set to take centre stage at Augusta National Golf Club where all three have form in this tournament. Spieth returns to the venue as reigning champion, while Jason Day has twice finished runner up. McIlroy will still feel deep down that he has a few ghosts to exorcise on this course after the onset of some curious final day turmoil saw him lose a four-shot lead in 2011.

Throw in that the fourth highest ranked player in the world, Bubba Watson, has won two of the last four Masters and that the fifth highest ranked player, Rickie Fowler, must be feeling somewhat aggrieved that he hasn't any majors to his name despite a host of generous showings at golf's blue ribbon events.This year's

highlight from what promises to be an epic year that will live long should be a significant and en- in the memory, whichever way

Another to watch

Along with McIlroy and the with the four majors to look for- 2009 US Open winner, Graham ward to, this year will see the first McDowell, there will be another



In the post Tiger Woods dominat- Irishman at Augusta, Shane Lowry, competing for only his second time at the Masters, having readily climbed inside the top 25 players in the world. Lowry has become a huge golfing entity in Ireland since he won the Irish Open in dramatic fashion as an amateur in 2009. The victory arrived after a third playoff hole against Englishman Robert Rock and when the Offaly man sank the winning putt, the unexpected joy and unbridled merriment that took place on that final green was an atypical delight to behold.

Before that tournament, Lowry was known only in golfing circles and he didn't wait around for the Walker Cup before taking the plunge into the paid ranks. The Offaly man missed the cut in his first three tournaments but over the next two years began to get traction with a number of high finishes on the European Tour. His first win as a professional came in 2012 when he won the Portugal Masters and he went to finish an impressive second at the BMW PGA Championships in 2014. From there to here, his star has risen steadily.

In 2014, Shane earned his first Masters is set up to be a golfing top 10 finish at a major when he

finished in a tie for ninth at The heart on his sleeve and would Open held at Royal Liverpool in 2014 and last year, he followed up with a top 10 finish at the US Open held at the now notorious Cħamber's Bay.

During this event, Lowry dressed all in black during the four days of competition in tribute to the six Irish students that lost their lives in the Berkeley balcony collapse that occurred in the weeks preceding the tournament. Then late last year came the biggest win of Lowry's career when he overcame Bubba Watson by two shots to win the players

> championship at the WGC-Bridgestone Invitational. It was the triumph that rocketed the Irishman to 17th in the world.

> That position puts him in line to represent Ireland alongside Rory McIlroy at the forthcoming Olympics. Lowry is set to become a more familiar presence in the

sporting environs as the year progresses, as he is currently in position to be among Darren Clarke's Ryder Cup side later in the year. What makes Shane Lowry so easy to root for is his everyman personality.

Off the course he comes across as both easygoing and jovial, a man who takes life in his stride. But on the course, he wears his readily admit that sometimes his emotions get the better of him. During his second round at last year's Irish Open, the Offaly man famously broke his putter after getting frustrated with a poor shot, but he still made the cut in trying links conditions by continuing his round by putting with a wedge.

More recently in 2016, he was fined after television mikes picked up some coarse language from Lowry after he sent a seveniron shot into the lake on the par-three fifteenth in the Cadillac

Championship. After being pe nalized, he was quoted as saying; "I said to the guys on the PGA Tour that I will do my best but I definitely won't be changing. So I said a bad word, shoot me.'

At a time when top sports play ers speak as eloquent robots who follow the well-worn pattern of exchanges, it is refreshing when one comes along who is comfort able to be himself in front of the camera as he would be behind it Don't be surprised if he gets in contention for the big prizes on offer in 2016, starting with the Masters this month.





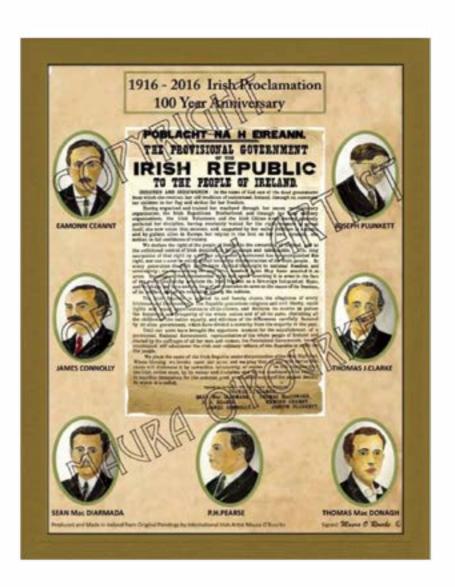
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16 Lives

By Ruan O'Donnell The O'Brien Press ISBN: 978-1-84717-262-4 2016 335 pp.

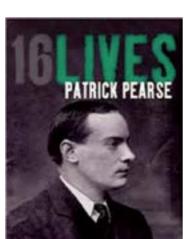
It seems only fitting to review a new book about Patrick Pearse in April 2016, the centenary of the Easter Rising, in which Pearse played such a significant role. The Pearse biography by Ruan O'Donnell is the final volume in a series of books about the sixteen men who played an integral part in the Easter rebellion.

Pearse was born on 11 November 1879 in Dublin. In his younger days he became a teacher, founder of St. Edna's school in Dublin, a writer/ poet, and barrister. Pearse's life epitomizes his love of Ireland and zeal to help Ireland achieve independence from England.

"At all times, Pearse stressed the socio-political mission of St. Edna's: 'our work is radical; it strikes at the root of Anglicization. Infinitely the most vital duty of the hour here is to train the young in an Irish way for the service of Ireland."

It was in Republican politics, however, that Pearse became well known. He became a member of the Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB) in 1915, when the Military Council of the IRB was formed. Later that year in August, Pearse's panegyric at the funeral of Fenian O'Donovan Rossa became one of the most famous quotes in Irish history. Closing a rousing, measured speech, he stated: '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."

Known for his fiery idealism and enthusiasm, he later read the Proclamation on 24 April 1916, declaring Ireland free of English domination in front of the General Post Office, which officially began the Rising. On May 3, 1916, following surrender, Pearse was



Ruan O'Donnell

executed in the Stonbreaker Yard at Kilmainham Gaol, at the age of thirty-six. Ruan O'Donnell has written a brilliant new biography of Pearse which is a TOP SHELF

*Terrence J Kenneally is an attorney and owner of Terrence J. Kenneally & Associates Co. in Rocky River, Ohio. He defends insureds and insurance companies throughout the state of Ohio. Mr. Kenneally received his Master's Degree from John Carroll University in Irish Studies and teaches at Holy Name High School. He may be reached at terry@tjkenneally.com.







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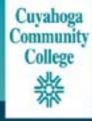


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Sandy Hain

Cleveland's Gem, Part I

By Barry Conway

Cleveland's bagpipe community was influenced by Scottish immigrants who came here to start a new life. They also worked to keep alive the traditions of Scotland. One of the most influential was Sandy Hain. Sandy is very well known in this region but less known in the greater areas of the Eastern United States Pipe Band Association and the United States in general. This is due, in part, to him never having a particular interest in judging or becoming involved with pipe band associations. His passion is teaching

tells it, "All villages had Cadet Groups. It was the best way to get a good set of clothes!"

in 1946, at the age of seventeen, Sandy enlisted in the British Army as a "five and seven", which meant he would be enlisted as regular army for five years with an additional seven in reserves. His first assignment was with the 1st Battalion Black watch under Pipe Major James Jenkinson. During this period, the band was stationed in Germany. This included a rotation at Spandau Prison, named after the borough where it was situated, guarding Rudolph Hess, considered the number three man in Hitler's Third Reich.

The band performed at numerous folk festivals in France and Switzerland. Among the notable members



and the preservation of Scottish culture. He has had a significant influence on piping in the Ohio Valley region and beyond for over fifty years; the effects of which will be felt for many years to come.

Born September 27, 1928 in Leslie, Fife, Scotland, Sandy is the eldest of nine children. His interest in bagpipes started at the age of four after seeing a picture of his father in the paper playing the bagpipes. Sandy's father was a piper in the Black Watch during WWI. Sandy's grandfather was also a piper

Sandy's father also founded the Cupar and District Pipe Band. His Brother, Robert, was a piper in the 1st Battalion Black Watch and his sister Jean was Pipe Major of the World Champion Lochgelly Ladies Pipe Band.

Band.
Sandy's serious tuition began at the age of eight, with the Thornton Pipe Band. At the age of fourteen he enlisted in the Black Watch Cadet Force. As Sandy

of the band at this time was George Lumsden who later became Pipe Major of the Edinburgh City Police Pipe Band and Jim Greig, who went on to play with the Edinburgh City Police Pipe Band then later immigrate to Canada and became Pipe Major of the famed Clan MacFarlane Pipe Band from St Catherine's, Ontario. In addition to being a piper, Sandy was also in charge of the dancing team. Sandy tells a great story where Jim Greig was dancing on a raised stage where the people in the rows next to the stage would soon realize that Scots don't wear anything under their kilt or, as Sandy tells it, "He gave the lassies a thrill!"

In 1950, Sandy was selected for the Pipe Majors Course at Edinburgh Castle, where his instructor was Pipe Major Willie Ross. "It was the proudest day of my father's life" when he was accepted to take "The Course". In 1952 he was appointed Pipe Major of the

Continued on next page

Sandy Hain continued

Depot Black Watch and later the 2nd Battalion Black Watch. Much of this time, the band was stationed in Georgetown,

the significance of the merge,r but it was, as Sandy said, the first of many downsizing moves of highland regiments. Because of longer service time, John MacNichol became Pipe Major of the merged unit and



British Guvana.

Watch Battalions were merged ford Barracks, Edinburgh. At the time, most did not realize

Sandy became its Pipe Sergeant. In 1957, the 1st and 2nd Black The band combined band per- The two Cleveland Kiltie Band formed at Edinburgh Castle for and were stationed at the Red- the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, the Royal Tournament in London and the United States

and Canada.

In 1958, Sandy decided it was time to move back to civilian life. He did have opportunities to stay in the British Army as there were Pipe Major openings with the Royal Scots and Dragoon Guards but, that would require him to reenlist for another ten years. So, in April 1958, Sandy was given the UK version of an Honorable Discharge, called being "Demobbed", and sailed from Liverpool to New York

While touring with the Black Watch in the United States, the Black Watch performed in Cleveland where Sandy met Bob Donaldson, who was a good friend of Canadian piper John Wilson, and Bob Callander. The two Bob's sponsored Sandy so that he would take over the Cleveland Kiltie Band, the oldest pipe band in Cleveland. members wanted to upgrade the band as, in 1948, most of the top players, most of them ex-military, had left the band to



start the Cleveland Caledonian Pipe Band. The Cleveland Caledonian Pipe Band would later become the North Coast Caledonian Pipe Band in the 1980s.

Upon arrival, Bob Callander stepped down as Pipe Major of the Cleveland Kiltie Band and Sandy was appointed to that position. At first, the adjustment to running a civilian band with no

ex-military in the ranks didn't go as smoothly as planned as, in only a few months, Sandy lost the vote to retain his leadership role. In fact, Sandy explains he only received two votes with one of them being his own! However, only a few months later, he was again appointed Pipe Major which was a position he held for 26 years.

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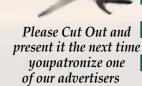


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Cleveland

The Harp

2nd - The Porter Sharks, 6th - Pony, 22nd - Big Ship, 23rd -Lonesome Stars, 8th - Crawley, Bluestone Union, 29th - Michael Custy & Taylor, 9th - Webster, Crawley & Brent Hopper Happy Carr & Custy, 13th - Chris & Tom, 15th - Fior Gael, 16th -Chris Allen, 18th - Support T-Shirt Tues: wear any PJs Tour music variance @ Board of Zoning 9:30am Cleveland City Hall Room 514. 20th - Lonesome Stars, 22nd - Bill Fox, 23rd - Brent Kirby, 27th -Chris & Tom, 29th -The Kilroy's. 4408 Detroit Road, the Celtic Supporter's Club and 44113 www.the-harp.com

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Cincinnati

Irish Heritage Center

4th - Reds Parade Day w Ohio Rose of Tralee Kathleen Rose O'Donnell, 7th - Irish Pub Night 7:00, 9th - The John Byrne Band Concert, 21st - Irish Pub Night w Mick & Friends, 24th - 100th Anniversary Easter Rising 1:00 Laying Memorial wreath @"An Gorta Mor" at Sawyer Point, 1:15 Soup & Soda Bread @ Irish Heritage Center, 2:30 Easter Rising 1916. Irish Teas/Library /Genealogy Detective/ all three by appointment. Heritage Center 3905 Eastern Avenue 513.533.0100. www. irishcenterofcincinnati.com..

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Saturday, April 23, 2016

at St. Patrick's Church

280 North Grunt Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43215

12:30pm

Mass at St. Patrick's Church

1:30pm to 4:30pm Historical program in St. Patrick's Church

Including poetry, readings and music
Prepared by State and Division historians of AOH and LAOH

Events continue at Tara Hall

Join fellow Hibernians, Clergy and extended Irish family 274 East Innis Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43207

More details to come, remember to put April 23, 2016 on your calendar.

For more information contact:

AOH President Ed Norris LAOH President Megan Kelly Centenary Chair Chris Konik

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www.columbuslaoh.com

www.patrickpearse.com

Columbus

Shamrock Club Events

2nd - Central Ohio Folk Festival, 3rd – General Meeting, 9th - Singer/Songwriters Showcase, 16th - Easter Rising Concert, 17th Athletic Awards Presentation, 17th General Meeting and Officer Elections, 23rd – Ladies of Longford, 30th - New Officer's Installation Banquet, 30th - Homeland. Happy Hour every Friday from 5-7pm! 60 W. Castle Rd. Columbus 43207 614-491-4449 www. shamrockclubofcolumbus.com

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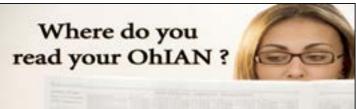
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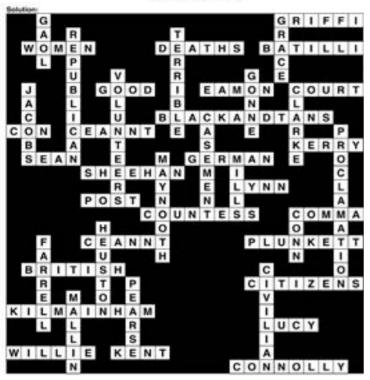


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The 1916 Easter Rising

Linda Fulton Burke



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Mentor

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- •The Harp 1st Friday of every month, 9pm. 4408 Detroit, Cleveland
- •Logan's Irish Pub 3rd Wednesday of the month, 414 S. Main St., Findlay, 7:30 pm
- Oberlin's Traditional Irish Session – 2nd Monday of the month 7 - 9 Slow Train Café, 55 East College St., Oberlin. Informal all experience welcome: www. oberlin.net/~irishsession
- Plank Road Every Thursday 7 – 10. All ages and experience welcome. 16719 Detroit Road, Lakewood, 44107
- Tara Hall -Traditional Irish music w General Guinness Band & Friends 2nd Friday 8:00 - 11:00pm. 274 E. Innis Ave. Columbus, 43207 614.444.5949.

Valley City

Gandalf's

9th - Sarena Tamboritza Or chestra, 16th - Marty Scionka Join us for Brunch EVERY SUN DAY. Great food, atmosphere staff and fun. 6757 Center Road Valley City, 44280

www.gandalfspub.com.

Westlake

Hooley House.

1 - Michelle Romary Band, 8 - New Barleycorn, 9 - Post Road, 15 - London Flatts, 22 - School Girl crush, 29 - Faction. Wed: Pub Trivia. 24940 Sperry Dr Westlake 44145. www.1FunPub.com (440) 835-2890

Traditional Irish Social Dance

Sunday Ceili's at the Music Box, April 17, May 8, 15, 4-7 pm

Set dancing lessons, Tuesdays 8-10 pm, St. Clarence Church North Olmsted

Wednesdays 7-9 pm, Irish American Club - East Side

Ceili dancing lessons, Thurs days, April 7, 14, 28, 7-9 pm, West Side Irish American Club

Coming on May 22--1916 Commemorative Ceili, West Side Irish American Club, 4-8 pm

For more information, contact CeiliClubCleveland@gmail.com or find us on Facebook





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Cleveland by Bob Carney

Conversation with Irish Language Learners Séan Lenaghan (John Handy)

I love the Irish language! It has become an important aspect of my life, my involvement with Speak Irish Cleveland has opened many doors, including being able to write for the Ohio Irish American News.

I am always looking for ways to increase my language abilities, and came into contact with a Facebook page John Handy created, called Irish Language Learners, a great resource for anyone wishing to acquire knowledge of Irish. John posts words and phrases that are accessible to anyone, from a fluent speaker to someone who has never spoken a word of Irish before. John is an inspiration to me and his commitment to Irish in Philadelphia is something I would like to see happen here in Cleveland. I was able to get him to share his story and his thoughts about how we might make that happen.

OhIAN: Dia Duit a Seán, I have much to ask you; I'm not sure where to start. Can you tell us a little about yourself and how you became interested in the Irish language?

JH: I was born and raised in Bucks County Pa. just outside of Philadelphia. My mother's parents came from Ireland, grandfather from Belfast and grandmother from Dublin. My father's side of the family is mostly of English descent and has been in America since before the American Revolution. I'm a graduate of the University of Arizona and I work in the Philadelphia area.

My interest in language probably began in high school, when I took four years of French. However I had very limited ability to use it. I

met my wife in college and she spoke fluent Greek, so from there I began to learn Greek over the next twenty years. During those years my daughters did Irish dancing in the Philadelphia area, and that was really my first connection to Irish American culture.

About six years ago, I decided to get my Irish citizenship through my grandmother. When I received my Irish passport, I decided on that day I would learn Irish! I went on Google and I searched the Philadelphia area for Irish language classes. Immediately I went to the library to see if they had any Irish audio tapes that I could listen to prior to attending class.

During that first ten weeks of classes, I learned about Daltaí na Gaeilge, which hosts Irish immersion weekends and an Irish immersion week in New York State. I attended my first immersion week with very little Irish, but I was greatly encouraged by meeting people from all over the country and Canada as well as Ireland. After about three years I decided to start a Facebook page called Irish Language Learners. Six years ago I didn't know one word of Irish, and now I

have over 26,000 followers! When I started learning Irish, I enjoyed it right from the start, but in those first ten weeks I was already thinking that if I became good at speaking Irish, how would I know who I could talk to? It planted a seed in my mind and then while attending a 'Bricfeasta as Gaelige' at my teacher's house in that first summer, I was told of the importance of immersion in learning the language. That first immersion event helped to begin develop-

ing the seed that was planted

in my mind that a lot more needed to be done to promote the Irish language. After two years of learning I finally felt I had enough Irish to start my Facebook page, Irish Language Learners, even though I knew I was only an advanced

beginner. I knew that posting as I was learning would be encouraging to others learning the language and if I was good enough with my content, I would begin to build a much larger following, so that people would be encouraged to learn, use and speak Irish.

OhIAN: Those of us involved in Speak Irish Cleveland are trying to promote the Irish language here in Cleveland, what is being done in Philadelphia; do you have any suggestions for us?

JH: I think what needs to be done to promote the language is to plan and encourage attendance at immersion weekends, which include classes, comhrá, dance, music and possibly a Fulbright lecture, with activities for all abilities. Additionally, it is important to create a social media site where content and events can be shared locally in addition to the regular e-mail chains. I am constantly looking for Irish learning centers to follow my site, recommend it to their Irish community and contribute some content from time to time.

The connections between learners in all parts of the world has been steadily growing. Another important element is to consider organizing a trip to a Gaeltacht area. We are having our second annual immersion in the Waterford Gaeltacht this August 2016 for two weeks and Cleveland is invited (https://www. anrinn.com/adult-courses/ immersion-course/)

OhIAN: What can people do to overcome the problem of not being able to speak Irish daily?

JH:There is a huge amount of Irish resources on the inter-

net, Youtube videos, social me-

dia sites, etc. I suggest people

start by following my site because I put stuff out every day mostly at a beginner level. Learning songs via (songsinirish.com) is highly recommended because once you learn them you don't forget them. You can even just learn the choruses because when you are around Irish speakers at immersion events or in Ireland songs are bound to crop up and it is quite common for people to join in on the chorus.

OhIAN: Why is Irish so important to you?

JH: I believe strongly that the persecution of the poetic and beautiful Irish language needs to be reversed, immediately. I think because I have lived in a bilingual household with my wife and her mother speaking Greek, I can see that it can come naturally and therefore I can envision Irish Americans and Irish men and women in Ireland regaining their language in the home if they choose.

OhIAN: How about the future of Irish Language Learners?

JH: We hope to release our website in the next few months where more complete lessons can be provided than can currently be done on social media. We hope to connect learners with teachers in all parts of

the world. It is my intention to continue learning and promoting Irish for at least 25 years but on the journey it is time to start getting help for content from teachers, learners, and Irish organizations. Our intention is to get business sponsorship behind the Irish language. We have the ability to offer both Irish businesses and organizations and non-Irish businesses a way to support the Irish language and advertise at the same time. We have social media marketing plans that show which businesses are open to Irish language learners. We hope to be able to do at least 3 tours a year to different Gaeltacht areas for Irish language immersion.

OhIAN: John thank you very much. I would also like to thank The Ohio Irish American News and PJ McIntyre's Irish Pub for their continued support of Speak Irish Cleveland. Anyone interested in learning Irish or helping to promote the Irish language here in Cleveland contact me or John O'Brien Jr. at The Ohio Irish American News.

altaí na Gaelige Irish Language Learn-

ers on Facebook Cleveland Speak Irish on Facebook

Carneyspeakirish@gmail.com



The West Side Irish American Club Presents: 1916 Easter Rising Centennial Celebration

Saturday, April 23, 2016

Doors open at 5:30, program begins at 6pm

8559 Jennings Rd, Olmsted Township, OH 44138 Contact: John O'Brien at 216-375-2890

Historical visual displays on the men and women of 1916
"Easter 1916 through Song and Story," a musical drama set in Dublin at Easter 1916
Dinner catered by the McDonough Brigade

Guest Speaker – (to be announced) thought provoking insights on the watershed event in Irish history. Music by the New Barleycorn – the popular local duo deeply rooted in Ireland performing songs of Irish freedom and popular Irish songs with passion, vitality and humor Tickets \$25 each - Reserved Tables of 8 - \$200



Memorial Society Announces Expansion of Memorial

The Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial Society announced its plan for an expansion of their Memorial. "It has come to our attention that there were as many as nine officers who made the supreme sacrifice, but whose names are not on the wall for various reasons. Their time to be honored is overdue, and we are taking steps to remember their sacrifice," said Chas Lane, President of the GCPOMS.

Two additional pillars will be added to the current memorial, ensuring space for the nine officers as well as names to be added for years to come. The work will be completed for the 31st Annual Police Memorial Commemoration Anniversary with the unveiling on Friday, May 20, 2016.

Anyone wishing to become a sponsor or donate to this project at any level, including in-kind services, please contact Executive Director Kathy Delancy at 216.538.6798, or go to www.policememorialsociety.com and click the Donate Now button.

