

MAY 2016
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Irish american news

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InnerView

by Bob Carney

Columnist J. Michael Finn, "Illuminations"

by Bob Carney

OhIAN: Mike, your history column Illuminations is always interesting, how did you become so passionate about Irish history?

JMF: It all started with the Irish language, my wife Marion saw an ad in our parish bulletin in 1980 that said, "Learn Irish by St. Patrick's Day." As it was just before, she decided to enroll me in the course as a Christmas gift.

OhIAN: Did you learn Irish?

JMF: Well I did learn a little Irish, but I was hardly speaking Irish by St. Patrick's Day. Through that class, however, I became involved in the Irish community; I joined the Ancient Order of Hibernians and eventually made two trips to Ireland. When my wife complains about all my books and history research, I remind her that she was the one who started it all!

It was through the Hibernians that I became really interested in Irish history. I was appointed the historian for the Patrick Pearse Division here in Columbus. I must have been successful at that because in 1996, I was appointed AOH State Historian. Thanks to the support of succeeding AOH State Presidents, I have continued to be reappointed to that position.

OhIAN: You're the longest, continually running columnist for the Ohio Irish American News since its beginning, how did that come about?

JMF: In 2007, some of the Irish history articles I wrote were floating around the internet and Ohio Irish American News Publisher John O'Brien, Jr. asked me if I would write a few articles for an Irish paper he had started. He apparently liked what I wrote, because he soon asked me to write on a regular basis. I think my first monthly article appeared under the column Illuminations in May of 2007. I've been with John and his excellent publication ever since.

I hope my history articles have educated the readers about the variety and complexity of Irish history. Most importantly, I try each month to tell

a story about a person, place or event in Irish history; illuminating them and explaining why it is so important for us to know our history.

OhIAN: Your research and writing isn't limited to Irish history, what else are you doing?

JMF: History, you might say, has taken over my life. In addition to writing for OhIAN, I began contributing articles to the monthly history bulletin of the Catholic Record Society of the Diocese of Columbus. That led to me being elected as Chairman of



the Catholic Record Society. I am on my third two year term as Chairman.

OhIAN: That must require a great deal of your time, is there space for anything else in your life?

JMF: When I'm not working on something historical, I work for the State of Ohio as a Financial Planning Analyst for the Department of Commerce. One of these days I'm going to retire, which will give me more time to pursue some Irish and Catholic history research projects that have been calling to me from my file cabinet. A big part of my retirement plan includes hitting the lottery! I live in Columbus with my wife Marion. We have one daughter, Kathleen, who lives in Cincinnati.



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Editor's Corner



John O'Brien, Jr.

Social Media can no longer be called new. It is vital, but not new. Twitter just celebrated their 10th Anniversary on March 21st. Facebook preceded them, on February 4th, 2004. Small companies like ours have to find other ways to share our stories. There is the financial reason of course, but far deeper, is reach – reach is everything in publishing, and in advertising.

Social Media has been a God-send for us, to meet our mission of seeding and promoting people, events, causes and concerns, all on a shoe-string budget, dedicated to being the



gardner. Preserving, presenting and promoting our rich Irish heritage is our passion and our fulfillment. Through our many platforms of print, webpage, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Snapchat accounts, we reach and share with an additional 20,000 people each and every month. In

What is Social Media, and Why is it so Important to the Ohio Irish American News, and to You?

March and December, it is more than 50,000, above and beyond those who read and share our print edition at home and work.

Too many people listen to reply. Listen to understand. We can spray and pray, that someone will see our posts, react to them, and then heed the call to action by liking, sharing and most importantly, attending. But we'd rather have you as part of our army.

Think of Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Snapchat as ABC, CBS, NBC and Fox – We know each has followers and fans. Who is the audience on each platform? They overlap, but don't they have very distinctive audiences? What is

their need? And how do you fulfill it? It is different for each network; it is different for each platform.

Did you know when you share someone's post, the number of eyes that see it is 10x what it reaches with no shares, and that number increases at even greater propor-

tions, as the number of shares and likes, activates another level in sheer numbers of people who see your post? What does that mean?

The number of people who see your post is determined by rules written by Facebook, often called algorithms. More of your audience sees your post every time a reader shares it to their own followers, so a good post gets a double bonus. Facebook is set up for popular posts to be shown to more people; unpopular ones die a quick death.

Only 13% of your "followers", people who have liked your page, actually see your posts, unless they have clicked a button, called 'subscribe',

which makes sure they see ALL your posts. This is how Facebook convinces you to buy



ads on their site – more people will see your posts when you advertise than when you don't. As people react to your posts or tweets, the percent of your followers who see it rises, dramatically. If you include an im-



age, the eyes on you multiplies by 3-4 times.

Put feet to your faith, whether it be support for your business, your passion, your spiritual beliefs, your charity or your music. Be verbal, but be physical too – Get up; Lift up; and Show up. And then live it all over again, on Facebook. If you want to give a hand to a friend, share.

Go dtí an mhí seo chugainn, slán a fhágáil
(Until next month, goodbye)
John

"Follow me where I go, what I do and who I know; O'Bent Enterprises includes:
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About Our Cover

Pipe Instructor Andrew Fowler of the West Side Irish American Club

Pipe Band;

Photo by John O'Brien, Jr.

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MILESTONES

All our thoughts and prayers are with the family of Jim Brennan, who passed away April 13th, and Helen Luskin, who passed away April 4th. May you watch over us, Guardian Angels; Safe Home dear friends.

Congratulations to Jim and Sue Henderson on their retirement and the sale of Gaelic Imports, and the best of luck to new owners Barbara Kelly Benkowski and Dan Benkowski. They will provide the same great food and service we've



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Congratulations to the Ohio Irish American News' sponsored film, "Mom and Me", which won Best Documentary at the 40th Annual Cleveland International Film Festival!

Congratulations to the 34th Annual Cleveland Irish Cultural Festival, celebrating their 25th year at the Berea Fairgrounds.

On This Day in Irish History

by Terrence J. Kenneally

1 May 1171 - Dermot MacMurrough, king of Leinster, who provoked the Norman invasion, dies in Ferns, Co. Wexford.

3 May 1916 - Patrick Henry Pearse, aged 34, poet, writer, founder of St. Enda's in 1908 and commander-in-chief of the forces of the Irish Republic during the Easter Rising, is executed.

5 May 1981 - Death of Bobby Sands, the first republican prisoner to die of hunger strike.

6 May 1882 - While strolling in Dublin's Phoenix Park, Chief Secretary Lord Frederick Cavendish and his undersecretary, Thomas Burke, were set upon by a six-man gang wielding twelve inch surgical knives - members of the Invincibles - and hacked to death.

12 May 1916 - James Connolly and Sean MacDiarmada are executed for their part in the Easter Rising.

15 May 1847 - Daniel O'Connell, "the Liberator", dies in Genoa.

17 May 1949 - The British Government recognizes the Republic of Ireland.

26 May 1848 - John Mitchell, Young Irishman, was convicted by a packed jury on a charge of treason-felony and sentenced to fourteen years' transportation. He began his 'Jail Journal' the following day.



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Sandy Hain Cleveland's Gem, Part II

By Barry Conway

The Cleveland Kiltie Band was an extension of the Masonic groups in Cleveland. As a result, the band did not permit those of Roman Catholic faith to be members. Sandy was not in favor of this policy and overcame it in a way he describes as "back door". Sandy had a student he brought down to the band and everyone assumed, because Sandy sponsored him, that he was a Mason. Sandy's student became a member of the band and, over a period of time, people discovered he was Catholic. But he was so well liked, no one thought to remove him. The band realized that it was music that brought them together and religion soon became a non-factor as far as band membership.

During this period, Sandy competed at a number of Highland Games including new competitions held in Ligonier and Grandfather Mountain as well as competed at more established competitions in Canada such as the Hamilton Games. Sandy also began teaching, which was his true passion, especially piobaireachd, which is his favorite music to both play and teach. His school was called the Red Hackle School of Piping and was registered with the College of Piping under Seamus MacNeil. Here, Sandy was approved to administer level tests on behalf of the College of Piping.

At the time, it was difficult to get bagpipe supplies, as there were no local bagpipe and pipe band product retailers. Sandy began selling bagpipe products and, later Scottish jewelry, while working with John Kirkwood from St. Catherine's, Ontario.

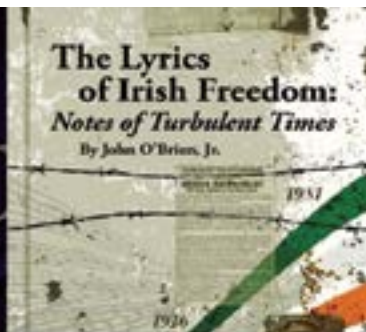
Sandy sold bagpipe products and Scottish jewelry at the various Scottish events, including "White Heather" concerts, who brought in entertainers such as Andy Stewart. At one of these events, Sandy met

George Hudson, who had been a member of the Black Watch and immigrated to Chicago. George set up a Scottish bakery called Gaelic Imports, which sold mostly meat pies and other Scottish baked goods. Sandy and George partnered with a shop in Cleveland and one in Chicago, selling Scottish baked goods through George and bagpipe supplies through Sandy's contacts. In 1965, Sandy opened Gaelic Imports at W. 25th and Denison Avenue in Cleveland.

In addition to bagpipes, Sandy is also an accomplished accordion player. In 1966, he started "Sandy Hain and The Clansmen", a Scottish dance band. This dance group became a staple in the Scottish community of Cleveland and played for 42 years.

During the late 1960s, 1970s and early 1980s, Cleveland had a vibrant Scottish Community, with many first and second generation Scottish and Irish taking up the instrument and many groups holding events with dancing to Sandy Hain and the Clansmen. Sandy always encouraged those wanting to play at higher levels to do so. In 1975, a small group of players from the Cleveland Kiltie Band wanted to compete. Under the direction of Tom Hastings, this group, combined with a few members from the rival Cleveland Caledonian Pipe Band, formed the Western Reserve Pipe Band, which later came under the leadership of Noel Slagle.

Interest in bagpipes increased in this period. To have more time to teach, Sandy sold Gaelic Imports. Sandy suffers from Focal Dystonia, which is a repetitive nerve disorder. In pipers, it effects hand control. Due to this, Sandy stepped down from the Cleveland Kiltie Band after 26 years of service. In 1987, he was asked to help the start the Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial Pipe Band, who had thirty players committed and no one to teach them. This group quickly became the largest pipe band in Ohio, with more than sixty pipers. It was this group who organized the



Cleveland International Tattoo, which saw pipe bands come from across the United States and Canada to participate. The Tattoo continues to this day.

An avid composer, Sandy has had a number of tunes published. A few of his compositions are included in the recently published Black Watch Pipe Manual, which is limited to tunes written by current and former Black Watch members for Black Watch members. The Manual includes seven of

his compositions including: Donald McKillop, a popular jig Sandy wrote in 1951 for a member of the Royal British Legion in Scotland. It is sometimes erroneously referred to as Duncan McKillop.

The Heroes of The Hook, written after a 1952 battle by the 1st Battalion Black Watch in 1952, Korea; Lieutenant Colonel B C Bradford, a famous Colonel in the Black Watch 1st Battalion; Major General A L Watson CB; Lieutenant Colo-

nel Freddie Burnaby-Atkins; Freuchies March to Lords; and Farewell to the Black Watch, a piobaireachd composed following the absorption of the Black Watch into the Royal Regiment of Scotland in 2006.

As with many parts of this country, those in Northeast Ohio owe the generation before us a great debt of gratitude for passing along the passion of the bagpipes to us the effects of which will be felt for many years to come.



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Kilkenny Remains the Team to Topple

I remember a particular train of thought back in 2008. Kilkenny had won their third All-Ireland in a row after destroying Waterford by 23 points in the showpiece hurling final. In an unprecedented move, in possibly the history of sports, the winning manager, Brian Cody, was awarded the man-of-the-match as his side had vanquished that year's pretenders in the most one-sided final of recent times.

The thinking at the time was that when this generation of Kilkenny players, which included Henry Shefflin, Tommy Walsh, JJ Delaney, Noel Hickey and Eddie Brennan, had passed, there would be a more regular changing of the guard on the first Sunday in September when the hurling champions lift the Liam McCarthy Cup in triumph. Despite Tipperary's win in 2010 and Clare's victory in 2013, that logic hasn't come to pass.

With Cody yet at the helm, Kilkenny's dominance of the hurling landscape has continued. That they have done it with a new cast of players has been all the more impressive as only Eoin Larkin and TJ Reid remain constant from both the 2008 and 2015 final victories. Once again the Cats will head into the new championship season as favourites with the added incentive of another three-in-a-row within their sights.

It shouldn't be this way, argues former All-Ireland winning manager, Ger Loughnane, who questioned how a side, without the same number of great players they had in the past, being able once again to dominate the hurling environs. He said it was especially so as this Kilkenny team are overly reliant on the scoring prowess of TJ Reid and Ritchie Hogan, the last two players to be awarded 'Hurler of the Year' respectively.

Though his comments were seen as incendiary in Kilkenny

hurling circles as being disrespectful to the current champions, but they are not without merit. In last year's final, Kilkenny trailed an impressive Galway outfit by three points at half time. The previous year they needed a replay as Tipperary got to within a whisker of victory in the drawn final of 2014. What had been noticeable in both victories has been their ability to hurl at a higher intensity when the game looks like it can fall either side of a knife's edge.

Loughnane's comments were, in my opinion, by and large taken out of context as he just as effectively exposed the limitations of the chasing pack who have failed to wrestle the title from Kilkenny's grasp in recent years. It is true that the full back line seems more exposed when compared to when JJ Delaney manned the edge of the square and it is also true that their scoring has mainly come through Reid in the league this year. Despite this, Cody continues to unearth new players, with James Maher at wing forward and Robert Lennon at centre back likely to be highly involved come the summer.

Contenders - The two sides that look most likely to stop Kilkenny's run are Tipperary and Waterford. Tipperary, despite not making the league semi-finals, had a productive league campaign. Ronan Maher looks to have cemented his place at centre back, while Michael Breen at centre field and John McGrath in the full forward line, both had outstanding spring campaigns for the Blue and Gold. If Tipperary's Seamus Callinan, John 'Bubbles' O'Dwyer and Patrick 'Bonner' Maher can recapture the form they have shown over the last two years, the Premier County look the best equipped to topple the champions.

Waterford have continued to impress after making a break-

through in last year's championship. In 2015, Derek McGrath introduced a hoard of young talent into his side, including All-Star Tadhg de Burca, and they ended up as league champions and were unlucky not to add the Munster title to their credentials. However, in their last campaign, they became over reliant on Maurice Shanahan for

but it remains difficult to see how they could mount a serious All-Ireland challenge.

Cork took on Tipperary on May 22 in Semple Stadium with the winners of that contest facing Limerick who won't fear either side after a good league campaign. The Treaty men introduced a host of the successful side that won the Under-21 All-

help the outstanding Cian Lynch in attack. Another impressive move by manager TJ Ryan has been the deployment of Declan Hannon at full forward, with the Adare man topping the scoring charts for Limerick from the edge of the square.

Once again the big championship conundrum is Galway. Last year they were 30 minutes away from being champions. A player led revolt in the off-season saw last year's management team jettisoned and the players will have added pressure to perform in 2016. Despite some impressive league displays where Joe Canning has been at his imperious best, they managed to get relegated from the top tier of the league after losing the relegation play-off.

This year they look as a likely to exit early as they are to win the competition outright, but Canning will need help once again from Cathal Mannion and Jason Flynn in attack while they will also need to stop conceding goals which became their Achilles heel last year.

For Dublin, the form of Eamon Dillon has been particularly encouraging. While they could spring a surprise in the championship, is difficult to see the Dubs contesting for the ultimate prize such has been their inconsistency throughout the league. A semi-final berth would seem the limit of their ambitions.



Kilkenny hurler Eoin Larkin, who serves in the Irish army, has been ever present on the successful Kilkenny sides of the past decade

their scores, but the return of Pauric Mahony from injury and the maturation of Patrick Curran and the Bennett brothers, Shane and Stephen, should help increase their firepower upfront. Should this come to pass, the Decies will be in All-Ireland contention.

It will be interesting to see if Clare manager Davy Fitzgerald can get his charges back to the form of 2013. After a successful league campaign that saw the Banner win promotion back to the top division despite a lengthy injury list, the litmus test will arrive in their Munster semi-final tie with Waterford. The winner of that fixture will have a Munster Final to play for in addition to having at least an All-Ireland quarter-final place guaranteed.

Cork had an awful league campaign, losing all five matches before surprisingly beating Galway in the relegation playoff. The management cut stalwarts Shane O'Neill and Pa Cronin from the panel in recent weeks,

Ireland last year.

Diarmuid Byrnes and Ronan Lynch have strengthened up the half back line, while Barry Nash and Tom Morrissey will look to

Congratulations to The Harp - who won a variance on having live Irish music, after a 4 year battle with 1 local resident. The Harp is the heart & soul of the Irish community in the historic Old Angle and Irish Town Bend areas. Congrats Karen & Crew!





Cleveland Comra by Bob Carney

Art by John P. O'Brien

A Nation of Immigrants

Some of the earliest known stories and poems in Irish literature speak of "enchanted isles to the west" or a "land of eternal youth" far off the west coast of Ireland. Some say St. Brendan of Kerry sailed to North America in the seventh century. The reality is the Irish have been coming here as far back as any other ethnic group, Columbus had a man from Galway with him in 1492.

The Irish were here in Colonial days, they fought in the Revolution and helped build our nation. During the Great Hunger, hundreds of thousands came seeking a new life. The Irish became the backbone of our early labor force, building canals, roads and railways across our land. Within one or two generations, they contributed to all aspects of American society.

Architect Louis Sullivan, industrialist Henry Ford, novelist Henry James, Civil War hero Thomas Francis Meagher, if you look at the number of presidents, legislators, jurists, politicians, teachers, artists, lawmen and entertainers it's evident the Irish have made great contributions to this country. A list of New York City's Irish and German office holders, (the only two groups mentioned), published in 1869, show the overwhelming dominance of the Irish in the local government.

	Germans	Irish
Mayor's Office	2	11
Aldermen	2	34
Street Department	0	87
Comptroller	2	126
Sheriff	1	23
Police Captains	0	32

One hundred and fifty years later, the names of the firemen and police that perished serving the people of New York in the wake of 9/11 were overwhelmingly Irish. Community service and activism has always been strong among the Irish.

An old Irish proverb says "falling is easier than rising", Henry McCarty, aka Billy the Kid, was the son of an Irish-woman. Cleveland's Danny Greene had his Irish background mentioned in almost every news story about him. Fortunately for all of us, the gangster element pales

compared to the positive contributions of other Irish-Americans.

Mathew Thorton of New Hampshire, George Taylor and James Smith of Pennsylvania were Irish born signers of the Declaration of Independence. Five others were of Irish origin. The Secretary of Congress from 1774 to 1789, Charles Thompson, came to America as an indentured servant. It was his duty to read the Declaration of Independence before the Congress for the first time and later to notify George Washington of his election to the presidency in 1789. Hercules Muligan, an Irish born tailor, became Washington's "confidential agent" or covert operative, providing the American Commander with information on the British troops. Between one-third and one-half of the Revolutionary's forces, including almost 1,500 officers and 26 generals, (15 of whom were born in Ireland) were of Irish descent.

Abraham Lincoln instituted the Congressional Medal of Honor, it was first presented in 1861. Of the 3,469 recipients, two-hundred and two were Irish born, the largest group of immigrants to receive our nation's highest military honor. Eleven U.S. presidents can claim Irish ancestry. Clearly we have been involved in American politics.

As Irish-Americans living in Cleveland, we celebrate our Irish heritage in a variety of ways. We have our annual St. Patrick's Day Parade, two great Irish-American clubs, Cleveland's Irish Cultural Festival, Irish dance schools, Gaelic sports organizations, Irish language, history, music and Irish pubs and restaurants. We are a large, influential community of laborers, professionals, civil servants, clergy, writers and social activists. We have an opportunity to let the nation and the world know Cleveland's Irish-Americans as the positive force we are.

In 1802, Alexander Hamilton wrote, "Men are rather reasoning than reasonable animals, for the most part governed by the impulse of passion". July will bring the Republican National Convention to our city, not since 1968, have we had such turmoil in the American political scene. William Falk – the editor in chief of the Week Magazine, wrote in the March 18, 2016 issue, "Cleveland is shopping for

riot gear. As the host of the Republican National Convention in July, the city has solicited bids for 2,000 sets of "Elite Defender" police riot suits, 26 inch collapsible batons and thousands of interlocking steel barricades." No matter our political ideals, if we come out as a calm, rational, informed community and remember our own history in this great nation, I believe we can influence the atmosphere surrounding the convention, making it a peaceful, successful event that showcases the City of Cleveland and all of its' immigrant sons and daughters.

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Hanna Sheehy Skeffington

Hanna Sheehy Skeffington was born Johanna Mary Sheehy on May 24, 1877 in Kanturk, County Cork, Ireland. She was the daughter of David and Elizabeth (McCoy) Sheehy. Her father was a member of the Irish Republican Brotherhood. He was arrested six times during Hanna's childhood for his part in the Land War. Later he was elected a Member of Parliament after which the family moved to Dublin.

Hanna was exposed to the republican struggle from a young age due to her father's involvement with the Irish Republican Brotherhood and later his career as an MP. Her uncle, Fr. Eugene Sheehy, was famous as the Land League priest whose activities landed him in prison.

She was educated at the Dominican Convent on Eccles Street in Dublin, where she was an excellent pupil. She then enrolled at St Mary's University College, a third level college for women

established by the Dominicans in 1893, to study modern languages (French and German). She sat for examinations at the Royal University of Ireland and received a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1899 and a Master of Arts Degree with first-class honors in 1902. This led to her start her career as a teacher. She might have continued her comfortable career as an educator, but Hanna's passionate concern about social and political issues set her on a different course.

In 1903 Hanna married Francis Skeffington and they both took the surname Sheehy Skeffington (which was not hyphenated). In 1908, they founded the Irish Women's Franchise League, a pioneering group that worked to enact women's voting rights. In 1909 their only child, Owen was born. In 1912 she and her husband founded the influential paper the Irish Citizen, aiming to promote the rights and responsibilities of citizenship for both

sexes. She contributed many articles in support of Irish women's right to vote.

Hanna lost her teaching job in 1913 when she was arrested and imprisoned for three months after throwing stones

at Dublin Castle and assaulting a police officer during a voting rights demonstration. While in jail she went on hunger strike and was released under the Prisoner's Temporary Discharge of Ill Health Act and was soon rearrested. This Act of Parliament was also known as the "Cat and Mouse Act." Suffragettes like Hanna who were undertaking hunger strikes would now be released from prison as soon as they became ill, rather than being force-fed as had been the practice before the act. The Act allowed for the re-imprisonment of the hunger strikers upon their recovery on their original charges.

Being free from her teaching job enabled Hanna to devote more time to the fight for suffrage and other social causes. In 1911 she was a founding member of the International Women Workers Union (IWWU) which participated along with James Connolly's Irish Transport and General Workers Union (ITGWU) in the 1913 Dublin Lockout. During the lockout she worked with other suffragists and women labor activists (Rose Hackett, Countess de Markievicz, and Helena Molony) in Liberty Hall, providing food for the starving families of the strikers and their

children.

Both Hanna and her husband were pacifists. Hanna strongly opposed participation in the First World War which broke out in August 1914. In 1915 she was prevented by the British government from attending the International Congress of Women held in The Hague in April 1915. The following June her husband Francis was imprisoned for anti-



recruiting activities.

Francis, though an Irish nationalist, did not participate in the 1916 Easter Rising, as he was opposed to the use of force. He was arrested during the Rising while trying to prevent looting in Dublin. He was illegally detained and the next morning was taken into the barracks yard and shot without trial. Hanna immediately began to campaign for justice, forcing the Royal Commission to hold an inquiry,

which led to the court-martial of her husband's killer, Captain Bowen-Colthurst of the Royal Irish Rifles.

Hanna refused compensation for her husband's death (it was offered on condition of her ceasing to speak and write about the murder), and she travelled to the United States to publicize the political situation in Ireland. During the next two years she spoke widely in support of Sinn Féin and of Irish independence. She spoke at over 250 meetings and succeeded in raising significant funds for Ireland's independence.

She published British Militarism as I Have Known It, which was banned in Ireland and England until after the First World War. In January 1918, on behalf of Cumann na mBan (pron: coomen nah mawn), she personally presented Ireland's claim for self-determination to President Wilson. Upon her return to Ireland she was arrested and imprisoned in Holway

Jail in England, together with Kathleen Clarke, Countess de Markievicz and Maud Gonne MacBride. They were released after a hunger strike.

Much of Hannah's life was spent working for the right of Irish women to vote. In 1918 her efforts proved successful when women were given the right, but they had to be 30 years of age and own property. In 1922, all Irish women over 21 were given the right to vote.

In 1920 Hanna was an executive member of the White Cross Fund set up to aid needy families of Volunteers involved in the War of Independence. With many other suffragettes Hanna rejected the Anglo-Irish Treaty. She supported the anti-Treaty side in the Civil War as a member of Women's Prisoners' Defense League. Subsequently she became assistant editor of An Phoblacht, the paper of the Irish Republican Army.

Continued on page 15

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The Lyrics of Irish Freedom Notes of Turbulent Times

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A Nation of Immigrants

Less than a month after the outbreak of World War I there were almost 200,000 Irishmen in the British Army. They formed three divisions: the Irish 10th, the Irish 16th, and the Ulster 36th. Irish Politician John Redmond called upon the Irish to volunteer to secure the implementation of the Home Rule Act. As the Irish volunteered, the British Army placed Protestant officers, both English and those from Ulster, in command of the Irish Catholic nationalists who composed the battalions. Over 85% of all the officers were Unionist and Protestant who directed forces that were 98% Irish and Republican.

On Monday April 24th, Easter Monday, 1916, Irish Republicans led an armed uprising that lasted until Patrick Pearse agreed to an unconditional surrender on the 29th of April. The Battle of Hulluch on the Western Front occurred during the Rebellion, from April 27th to the 29th. The Irish 16th Division suffered heavy casualties during the battle as a result of German gas attacks and poorly made British gas masks. More Irish would have died if not for a shift in the wind that blew the gas back at the German lines. The 16th experienced over 4,000 casualties during the war that claimed a total of 35,000 Irish lives. The narrative of the Irish in the British Army is just one of the complexities of the Rebellion and of Irish Nationalism, a nationalism that led to rebellion in Ireland and converged nationalists within the Irish Diaspora.

Redmond and his Irish Parliamentary Party (IPP) were funded by the United Irish League in America. Irish Americans paid for over half the allowances of the IPP in the early 1900s. This type of funding was emblematic of a shift from individual and family remittance to political and nationalistic remittance by Irish Americans. The Irish Nationalists were well aware that their North American cousins were an economic necessity and worked directly with Irish American organizations and the sophisticated funding network created to support an Irish Republic.

In the post-civil war period Fenians in America threatened British officials and attacked Canada in the name of Irish Nationalism. Clan na Gael was founded in 1867 with the demise of the Fenians and hoped to learn from the experiences of its

predecessors. It attracted many prominent Irish Americans including the first Irish Catholic mayor of Chicago, John Hopkins. Clan na Gael donated \$60,000 from 1876-1871 to John Holland's submarine research as they envisioned sinking British ships.

John Devoy became the leader of Clan na Gael in 1871 and a transatlantic partnership amalgamated in 1877 with the Irish Republican Brotherhood. Devoy's goal was to prepare for revolution by expanding their membership and authenticating armed struggle as an ideological possibility. It founded the Irish National Land League of the United States to solicit funds for the nationalist cause and to apply political pressure on both sides of the Atlantic. By 1880, the Land League was comprised of over a half a million members.

Charles Stewart Parnell was elected head of the IPP in 1880 and toured America for almost three months to gain economic and political support. When Parnell was jailed by the British government, his sisters, Fannie and Anna, formed the Ladies Land League and travelled to the United States to form chapters and to obtain monetary donations. While in Cleveland they were opposed by Bishop Gilmour, who was not a friend of Irish freedom nor their efforts. This did not stop the Parnell sisters. Their brother's relationship with a married woman did.

Irish Americans were more than an economic force; they were politically active in the years leading up to the Rebellion. Secretary of State John Hay noted that Clan na Gael assisted in defeating proposed treaties with Britain in 1897 and 1904. Collectively, Irish American political pressure defeated three of the four proposed treaties in the early twentieth century. My grandma Grace McGarry went to Hay High School, by the way. Their colors are green and gold. Just sayin.

Clan na Gael supported a neutral United States during the beginning of World War I. The Ancient Order of Hibernians initially supported Germany and entered into formal agreement with the German-American alliance. Irish Americans were disturbed by the British executions of the Easter Rising leaders. Clan na Gael was the sole Irish American association to have knowledge of the Rebellion beforehand. It gave Roger Casement \$10,000 for arms to be used in the Rebellion. Professor Briona Nic Dhi-

armada notes that two Irish Americans physically participated in the Easter Rising.

In March of 1916, Clan na Gael established The Friends of Irish Freedom (FOIF) and both organizations supported Irish self-determination. In 1917, the United States entered the war and Irish Americans mobilized their support for the war effort. This dispelled British fears that the execution of the leaders of the Rebellion would push the US to the Central Powers. Regiments like the Irish Fighting 69th continued the glorified history of regiments comprised of Irish blood. Like their brethren in the Irish 16th, it was their hope that military sacrifice would lead to a voice in the political process and self-determination.

The Friends of Irish Freedom elected three representatives to the Peace Conference at Versailles. President Woodrow Wilson stated that self-determination only applied to the lands of the former Central Powers. It was also President Wilson who delayed official US support for the lives of the leaders of the Easter Uprising. The Wilson family had its roots in Protestant Ulster. Wilson refused the participation of the FOIF representatives just as the British refused members of the Dail Eireann, including American born Eamon DeValera.

DeValera travelled to the United States instead to garner Irish American patronage. It is estimated that over five million dollars was obtained by the American Commission of Conditions in Ireland and the American Commission for Relief in Ireland. DeValera then launched the American Association for the Recognition of the Irish Republic. Edward Dohey was the leader of this association which had over 700,000 members in the United States. They contributed nearly ten million dollars towards the Irish republican movement.

The Atlantic has never served as an obstacle to Irish Nationalism. Irish blood was shed in transnational spaces with a singular goal: the Irish Republic. Irish Americans consistently funded self-determination and the Irish Republic. Today, organizations like Irish Northern Aid and the Ancient Order of Hibernians work for a free and united 32 county Ireland. It is our time to support the Irish Republic.

For additional reading please see; Ireland's Unknown Soldiers, The 16th (Irish) Division in the Great War by Terence Denman, Irish Terrorism and the Atlantic Community, 1865-1922 by Jonathan Grant, The Spirit of Resistance, a History of Physical Force Republicanism in Ireland and America, by Seamus Metress, The Green Flag, A History of Irish Nationalism, by Robert Kee, and Irish-American Diaspora Nationalism, The Friends of Irish Freedom 1916-1935, by Michael Doorley.

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.



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Living With Lardie

by Richard Lardie



I Want a Refund

These are piercing words when spoken by my daughter-in-law Megan McGinty Lardie. She was referring to the information that my son, Joe Lardie, was not 100% Irish as we all believed. Let me explain.

I got the bug to look into our family tree when I received word that my dad's last living half-sister died. I wish I had gotten the bug earlier, but better late than never. I wrote down all that I knew on my mother's family. That was easy as

both her parents came from county Leitrim, Ireland. My dad's side was going to be more difficult.

My grandmother on his side was Isabelle Brady. She died when my dad was 6 months old and he had no more contact with her family. He knew she was Irish and that was all he knew. When asked about the Lardie name, my dad just said the family was Irish and that was the end of it. My dad was raised in Cleveland. His father, half-sisters and half-brother all lived in Detroit. That is a story for

England. I could only trace our line of Lardie's back to about 1860. I was busy on the internet checking Ancestry.com etc. but mainly searching message boards on genealogy sites. I found a nice man named Ron Lardie up in Michigan and we began messaging each other, finally establishing our grandfathers were brothers.

He told me he had an 89 year old aunt, still living, who was willing to talk to me. I called her and she was telling me about her grandmother and grandfather (My Great grandparents). She told me great Grandpa John died at her house in 1929. She told me how everyone wanted to be near Grandma Mary at a party because she was so sweet.

I jokingly asked if no one wanted to sit next to Grandpa John. She said no and in a whisper said "He was a drinker you know." Who would have guessed? Then she said something that took me aback. She still remembered some of the phrases she had to memorize when visiting them as a small child. "Phrases?" I asked. "Yes, French phrases". She responded.

"Why would you need French phrases to talk to Irish people?" I queried. "Irish? Oh no, they were French Canadians."

To say I was stunned would be a gross understatement. "They spoke very little English." She added. I thanked her and we agreed to talk again. That changed all my searching as I now started including Canada. Searching the internet late one night I ran across a website called "Behind Nellies Clock". The enticement was she, the web host; (Peggy Large nee Lardie) had done some research on the Lardie name.

another time.

My research on the Lardie name found it was most likely Scotch/English. I actually found a Richard Lardie in 17th century

that site now and click on the Hardy/Lardie button you will find all that I discovered. There is a picture on the opening page of the Hardy button of 11 people and a dog. The picture looks to be from about 1880. When I saw that picture I almost fell out of my chair because I have a copy of that picture.

What I found was that a group of brothers by the name of Hardy left Quebec and went to Ontario. They got renamed by the census taker as Lardie around 1861. I have the baptismal certificate of my great, great grandfather as Edouard L'Hardy in Montreal in 1835. His death certificate reads Edward Lardie in Detroit Michigan.

Francois Hardy.

Jean Hardy was indentured to the Sulpiciens for 3 years in Montreal. The Sulpiciens seem to be similar to the Jesuits. He came from Normandy and his service contract was signed on June 13 1661 in France. He will receive 165 pounds for the three years. He then married Marie Poiré, who was a Fille Du Roi.

The King of France arranged for young women to go to New France (Quebec) to become wives of the men who went there. As a King's Daughter, she had a dowry of 950 livres and 50 from the King. The marriage Contract: Signed before M. Duquet, notary, Oct 14, 1669.



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It seems that the French Canadians would have written the Hardy name and pronounced it as if it was The Hardy or L'Hardy. The English speaking census taker wrote it down as on old Scotch/English name of Lardie. The French didn't give much significance to last names. They didn't seem to care so all the brothers changed their names to Lardie. It also may have been more politically advantageous to have an English name in Ontario.

At this point I e-mailed Peggy Large and told her we must be related because I have an 8 X 11 of the photo on her web site. I had no idea where I got it or who it was. We began messaging each other and after a while we determined we were 4th cousins. She helped me document who I descended from and with her help I traced the Lardie/Hardy tree back to the first person in that line to come to North America in 1661. Jean

How did the Joe Lardie descend? Jean Francois Hardy 1641-1715, Pierre Hardy 1672-1728, Francois Hardy 1721-1753, Jean Francois Hardy 1749, Francois Hardy 1777, Jean Baptiste Hardy 1804, Edouard L'Hardy 1835-1917, John Lardie 1864-1929, Joseph W Lardie 1887-1969, Joseph F Lardie 1912-1968, Richard W Lardie 1941-, Joseph T Lardie 1968- (Megan's Potential refund). Near as I have been able to verify, Edouard L'Hardy married an Irish girl in Ontario around 1855 (This is still a work in progress).

This will most likely be continued next month as I have had a great adventure with this search. In regards to the refund requested by my daughter-in-law Megan McGinty Lardie; the math works out to my son being 91.5% Irish and 8.5% French Canadian. No refunds will be forthcoming. I will consider letting Joe sleep at our house 8% of the time but I think he might enjoy the peace and quiet.



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An Unexpected Moment: My Favorite Irish Dance Memory

by Annemarie Cunningham

"In 4th place, from Leneghan Academy, Annemarie Cunningham!" 'Um, did I just hear that correctly?' 'Did that announcer say my name?' 'Is he reading the right results?'

Those three thoughts were the first to enter my mind when I heard my name called as a top placer in my competition at the 2011 Akron Feis (pronounced fesh), a local Irish dancing competition.

championship level after six years of hard work and determination was an incredible accomplishment. It still is, and I think will always be, my favorite dance memory.

I started taking Irish dance lessons shortly after my 6th birthday. I fell in love with the sport about five minutes into my first class. I practiced every day at home and I danced everywhere I went: down the aisle at the grocery store, under the pew at church, and in the hall

By the time I was 13, I was known at my dance school as the "one step wonder": I would dance a beautiful first step, then become tired so quickly in my second step that I couldn't finish it. After extensive testing (and a muscle biopsy), I was diagnosed with lactic acidosis brought on by a mitochondrial disorder. Basically, lactic acid builds up in my legs because my mitochondria do not function properly, and my legs get very tired and heavy.

For people who don't have this problem, imagine putting a 10 pound ankle weight on each leg and trying to run up and down stairs. Then add 10 pounds to each leg after 15 seconds, 20 pounds to each leg after another 15 seconds, 30 pounds after another 15 seconds, etc. My doctor warned me that my body would not be capable of performing as I needed it to for dance, but I decided to keep competing anyway. After all, dance had taught me that good things require hard work and perseverance. Maybe if I worked a little harder, did more cross-training, and paid closer attention to my diet, I could find a way to overcome my disorder.

Unfortunately, nothing worked. There is no cure for lactic acidosis, and it seemed like the harder I tried, the quicker my legs tired. I competed for 2 more years before deciding that I could no longer continue. I had grown

weary of the sympathetic looks and murmured comments at competitions about how great I would be if only I had more stamina. I was frustrated knowing that I had great rhythm and excellent footwork, but would not place because I could not finish my steps. I still attended class, but gave up competing in 2006.

In 2010, I was at a feis with my sister and happened to see the girls in my age group dance. I thought, "I can do that!" The main reason I gave up competing was that I was tired of pitying looks and comments from other people. I hated the thought that they were watching me and judging me for

being lazy when I got tired, even though that was not the case.

But their opinions didn't matter. Dancing was something I was incredibly passionate about. I made the decision to return to competition that day. I immediately stepped up my practices, working longer and harder than I had in several years. My first competition back occurred in August of 2010. I finished my steps and was so proud of myself! When I came off the stage, my mom had tears in her eyes, because it made her so happy to see me doing something

I loved again. However, my pride and joy quickly dissipated when the results were announced and I did not place.

Despite my setback, I was determined to improve and began practicing even more. I was motivated to do well for myself instead of to impress others for once. At my next competition, I started my first dance feeling like I was flying. But I soon tired, and was practically walking by the end of my second step. I came off stage upset with myself, and beginning

Continued on page 13



Even as I made my way toward the stage to receive my award, the reality of achieving a goal I had set for myself six years earlier did not feel real: I placed at the championship level.

For most dancers, placing at the preliminary championship level is exciting, but not a monumental accomplishment. For me, it meant the world. You see, I have a condition called lactic acidosis, brought on by a type of mitochondrial myopathy. When I was diagnosed, my neurologist told me I would probably not be able to compete at a normal level. My body simply would not physically allow it. So, to achieve my goal and place at the

between classes. I was blessed with what my dance teacher called natural talent; I had an innate understanding of the music and rhythm, a graceful style, and excellent footwork skills. I quickly advanced through the competitive levels and competed in my first regional competition at age 9.

Shortly after my first major competition, I began experiencing pain in my legs when I danced. The pain was a dull, achy pain that caused me to tire quickly and left me unable to complete my dances. It felt like my legs turned to lead and became impossible to lift. The longer and harder I practiced, the worse the pain became.



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Dan O'Rourke

Everything Irish is about the Easter Rising these days, as well it should be; it is a monumental thing to gain independence. The men and women who risked life and liberty to achieve that deserve nothing less than to be remembered and celebrated. As so many things are though, it is never that simple. One man's patriot is another's terrorist.

The question, "What did you do in the war?" is one that many of us don't have to answer. However, once you are compelled to answer that question, your answers can never be simple either.

My husband's grandfather was a man named Dan O'Rourke. He fit the prototype of last century's Irish revolutionary; he was an educated man, and a National School teacher. Inspired by the poetry of Thomas Ashe, he became involved in the IRA of the time. After the dust of war settled, he found himself the Roscommon representative in the first Dail (doyle- the Irish House of Representatives). He was the Roscommon TD, (Senator) several times during his lifetime. These facts are broad parochial knowledge, but I was curious about the specifics. Neighbors always tell a few of the same stories from the time of the Rising, most of which involve the Black and Tans. The Black and Tans were a notorious British, Stasi-type force that seemed to operate with their own brutal rule book.

The Black and Tans came looking for Dan one day when he was teaching in the local one-room National School. The other teacher in the school, Mae Ford, stalled the Tans long enough for Dan to bolt out the back door and across the field. Shots were fired at him and luckily missed him.

However, knowing that he was being pursued, he could not go home. He had to go into hiding, "on the run" in the terms of the day, for several weeks and this

pattern repeated in those times. In his absence, the Tans terrorized his wife and family, treating her roughly and threatening to burn the house down.

They made several attempts to get Dan O'Rourke but he always succeeded in getting away from them and his house and the school where he taught were being constantly raided for him. (Witness statement of Matthew Davis, p.4, bureauofmilitaryhistory.ie).

These are stories that friends and family enjoy; the elusive hero, trying to do his job, being harassed by the



terrifying Tans. Another of the local stories was that Dan played a part in blowing up the local landlord's house. The house was across the road from where Dan eventually built his house and that property is still sprinkled with the stone remains of its former glory. But there had to be more to the story, and that led me to the witness account below which is not part of any local lore that was ever shared with me.

Around the month of June 1921 Dan O'Rourke, Gerald O'Connor and I were in a house between Castlereagh and Ballangare. We noticed a strange man passing the house. He was in civilian attire and riding a bicycle.

He seemed to be taking a great interest in the house in which we were. Gerald O'Connor who was my Bn. O/C decided to follow him and find out who he was and so he set out after the man. Some few minutes later I decided I would follow O'Connor in case he got into trouble. About a mile down the road I found O'Connor had this strange man held up. He had got in front of him and then held him up. I stood behind the man and Gerald O'Connor then relieved him of a Webley revolver and some ammunition. Dan O'Rourke now came on the scene. Although this man, whom we now knew to be a Black and Tan, professed no religion he agreed to see a Catholic priest. We got the priest for him and he was baptised. We bound him and drowned him by throwing him into the river Suck at Dunammon. He admitted that he was on intelligence work for the enemy. (Witness statement of T. Crawley, p.12, bureauofmilitaryhistory.ie)

Another statement on the same website recounts the same sad tale, but adds the detail of allowing the prisoner to compose a note to his wife that the men promised to deliver. Certainly these are kindnesses of a sort. In a way, it makes the killing more difficult. Those men acknowledged that their prisoner had both a soul and a partner who would certainly mourn him: he was fully human. That acknowledgement shows the gravity of the situation and how they dealt with it at least in some part. They tried to treat the man as decently as they could but still, they ended his life and participated fully in war. What if they had let him go? Would he have fled or would he have betrayed them or worse yet, friends and neighbors?

I never met Dan O'Rourke, and my husband has only vague memories of him. The remembrances that have been shared with me by family and neighbors are that he was tall and had the long confident stride of a big man. He always had Fox's Glacier Mints in a pocket somewhere. Dan loved cats, to the extent that he allowed a favorite to sit on his shoulder at the dinner table.

He loved everything that was part of the Gaelic Revival at the time, especially the language and football, both of which were the practiced in his home. He coached the Roscommon team the only two times that it won the elusive Sam Maguire Cup. He may not have

Continued on next page

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Terrence J. Kenneally Named President of Holy Name High School

Terrence (Terry) J. Kenneally, who for the past 18 years has been the Owner/President of Terrence J. Kenneally & Associates in Rocky River, OH, has been named as the President of Holy Name High School.

The announcement was

made today by Margaret Lyons, Secretary for Catechetical Formation and Education and Superintendent for the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland. Kenneally will report to Eugene Boyer, Associate

Superintendent for Secondary Schools and Newman Campus Ministry.

"It is a privilege and joy, in the name of Bishop Richard G. Lennon, to welcome Terry to assist in the leadership of one of the Bishop's own schools. Terry joins a long list of those whose love for Holy Name High School led to a key role for its ongoing success," said Margaret Lyons.

Kenneally has been practicing law for 38 years. He is currently teaching a course in Irish studies at Holy Name. He also writes two articles for the Irish American News, and has written articles for various legal publications as well.

He is a 1967 graduate of Holy Name High School. Kenneally



of its Advisory Board. He is Board Certified in Civil Trial Advocacy by the National Board of Trial Advocacy (NBTA) and a Diplomat of the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA). He has also been recognized for six consecutive years as an Ohio Super Lawyer.

"I have been a Holy Name since I attended the school," said Kenneally. My wife and I, my oldest three children, have all graduated from Holy Name and, hopefully, my

two grandsons and granddaughters will have the same experience."

Kenneally has been married to his wife, Susan, for 48 years. They have four children, Terry Jr., Sean, Erin, and Brianne and four grandchildren. He is an active member of St. Martin of Tours Parish in Valley City where he also serves as a Lector

An Unexpected Moment: My Favorite Irish Dance Memory

Continued from page 11

to think I made a mistake returning to competition.

When it came time for results, I was ready to leave. I did not want to put my costume on for awards because I was convinced I was not going to place. There were 22 dancers in the competition, which meant 11 would place. After several dancers were called, I was certain I would not place. I had never placed at all at this level; how on earth could I place in the top 5 dancers?

Then, it happened. My name was announced for fourth place. Time seemed to slow down. All of my friends crowded around me, screaming and hugging me. It felt like I had been crowned World Champion with all the fanfare. My mom managed to break through the crowd around me and whispered into my ear, "I

have never more proud of you!" I started crying and realized that all the extra hours of work I put in finally paid off. It might have taken me six years to do it, but I achieved my goal. I defied the odds to accomplish something that for so long had seemed like it could never happen.

After that day, I went on to win a couple competitions and advance to open championships, the highest level in competitive Irish dancing. I have danced at the Regional, National, and World competitions. But whenever someone asks me what my favorite Irish dance memory is, I always answer "Akron Feis 2011." Even though it was not the highest placement or the biggest award I have ever received, I have never been prouder of myself and what I can accomplish than I was that day.

Dan O'Rourke

Continued from last page

felt that he paid the full price of independence but he had an idea of the cost. It is like many stories from that time.

It sits in stark contrast to a remembrance occasioned by the death of her killer this week; the story of Kitty Genovese, whose horrific murder in New York in the 1960s was made legendary because it was witnessed by many apathetic neighbors. That is almost unimaginable in Ireland, where to take a life, even in a time of war, is significant. Some of these actions were realized in works of fiction like "Guests of the Nation" by Frank O'Connor, where IRA men were

faced with the duty of executing two British soldiers with whom they had become acquainted. One of the IRA men in "Guests of the Nation" says, "And anything that happened to me afterwards, I never felt that same about again."

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



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Hanna Sheehy Skeffington

Continued from page 8

In January 1933 Hanna was
again arrested in Newry for
breaching an exclusion order
banning her from Northern
Ireland. At her trial she said: "I
recognize no partition. I rec-
ognize it as no crime to be in
my own country. I would be
ashamed of my own name and
my murdered husband's name
if I did...Long live the Republic!"
and was sentenced to a month's
imprisonment.

Hanna had continued work-
ing as a part-time teacher and
journalist until, in 1945, she fell
ill and had to stop working. Un-
able to support herself, she never
really recovered and a year later,
Hanna Sheehy Skeffington died
aged 69 on Easter Saturday, April

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20, 1946. She is buried in Glasn-
evin Cemetery. Her obituary in
the Irish Times described her as
"The ablest woman in Ireland."

In Hanna's own words,
"Sometimes it is harder to live
for a cause than to die for it. It
would be a poor tribute to my
husband if grief were to break
my spirit. It shall not do so."

*J. Michael Finn is the Ohio
State Historian for the Ancient
Order of Hibernians and Divi-
sion Historian for the Patrick
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He writes on Irish and Irish-
American history; Ohio history
and Ohio Catholic history. You
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6/18/16			
6/25/16	CINCI REQUESTED OFF	BUFFALO VS COLUMBUS	COLUMBUS AT BUFFALO
7/2/16			
7/9/16	CINCI AT BUFFALO	BUFFALO VS CINCI	
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7/23/16		BUFFALO AT COLUMBUS	COLUMBUS VS BUFFALO
7/30/16	CINCI REQUESTED OFF	BUFFALO REQUESTED OFF	
8/6/16	CINCI AT COLUMBUS		COLUMBUS VS CINCI
8/13/16	MIDWEST SEMI FINAL TEAM 2 VS TEAM 3		
8/14/16	MIDWEST FINALS TEAM 1 VS WINNER OF TEAM 2VS3		

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6/4/16			
6/11/16			
6/18/16	CLEVELAND REQUESTED OFF	PITTSBURGH AT DETROIT	DETROIT VS PITTSBURGH
6/25/16	CLEVELAND VS DETROIT		DETROIT AT CLEVELAND
7/2/16			
7/9/16	CLEVELAND AT PITTSBURGH	PITTSBURGH VS CLEVELAND	
7/16/16	CLEVELAND AT DETROIT		DETROIT VS CLEVELAND
7/23/16	CLEVELAND REQUESTED OFF	PITTSBURGH VS DETROIT	DETROIT AT PITTSBURGH
7/30/16	CLEVELAND VS PITTSBURGH	PITTSBURGH AT CLEVELAND	
8/6/16	MAKE UP DATE IF NEEDED		
8/13/16	MIDWEST SEMI FINAL TEAM 2 VS TEAM 3		
8/14/16	MIDWEST FINALS TEAM 1 VS WINNER OF TEAM 2VS3		



Perfect Haunt for a Mermaid

I have never spent an entire holiday by the sea. Granted, I have waded knee deep in the cold waters of the Pacific in Laguna Beach, California and climbed rocks in Maine's Bar Harbor. I have made unsuccessful attempts to skip rocks amid the tide as it approached the shores of Bognor Regis, England. On one brilliantly blue day, I even lingered be-

neath a jagged canopy of lichen and diminutive mussels, searching for emerald sea glass in the wade pools that dot the outlining shores of Achill's Keem Beach. At the end of each day, I would make my way back to a house in an Irish field or a hotel padded against the feel of the ocean. Never have I awoken to the siren song of sea birds and salt spray for more than a day or two, until our recent family trip.

Admittedly, I was reluctant to spend an entire week with

nothing better to do than sit beneath my all-encompassing floral sun hat slathered in 75+ sunscreen, while chewing on sand with a beach full of spring break revelers. Typically, for me, a successful holiday involves cities with trains and well-worn cobblestone footpaths. I enjoy touring the homes of famous authors and searching out the most intimate of bohemian coffee shops a city has to offer. I relish fine dinners and pastries, not bearing my body in a bathing suit.

I never thought that I would enjoy air humid enough to curl my already curly hair, shellacking it with a fine coating of ubiquitous sand. As a figurehead, my mane could have either launched the virgin voyage of a doomed vessel or tangled up a crew of novice pirates. I never appreciated the untamed quality of my hair, until I sat in the company of the pelicans and sandpipers, seagulls and egrets, along the white-sand strands of Siesta Key, Florida. Indeed, I felt rather mermaid-like.

Mermaids have long captured the imaginations of weary sailors, folklore enthusiasts, and Hollywood directors alike. There is something so provocative about a creature that possesses both human beauty and the mysterious attributes of a fish. Though impossible to prove, mermaids have reportedly been sighted everywhere from Holland to Newfoundland, to Israel and Nantucket. Like the quest for the Loch Ness Monster or Sasquatch, seekers with fantastical theories have devoted their lives to mermaid research.

Throughout history, sailors and fishermen, pirates and pirate queens, dealt with the threat, the isolation, the violence, the calm, and the allure of the sea. Understandably, when darkness shrouds a ship the mind does play tricks on the seafarer, especially during the violet hours before dawn. It is only natural that one might mistake a lithe rope of seaweed for a tangle of otherworldly hair.

The Newfoundland band

Great Big Sea often sings of the plight and romantic wanderings of the sailor:

So over I jumped and she pulled me down, down to her seaweed bed . . .

She fed me shrimp and caviar Upon a silver dish.

From her head to her waist

She was just my taste,

But the rest of her was a fish.

("The Mermaid," by Great Big Sea)

In folklore, the role of the mermaid is one of savior or temptress. Like the mythical Sirens, beautiful half-bird, half-human creatures, known to steer captains off course with their bewitching voices, mermaids smitten with handsome sailors have lead their unrequited lovers to watery graves in ill-fated attempts to win their hearts.

In other instances, mermaids were thought to deliver drowning sailors to the safety of solid shores, forever holding a place in the heart and imaginings of the rescued man.

Shakespeare writes of the loyalty of the sea spirit in "The Tempest." The shipwrecked duke, Prospero, both father and magician, bids his spirit Ariel to "go make thyself like a nymph o' th' sea," and cause a great tempest to upset the ship upon which his rivals sail. Ariel honors her master Prospero saying, "I come to answer thy best pleasure: be't to fly, to swim, to dive into fire."

Is it any wonder that the famed Disney mermaid gifted with long red hair, a devoted if conflicted heart, and a most enchanting voice is named Ariel?

From where I lay on the hot sands of America's number one beach, surrounded by bodies perfect and not, I could conjure neither mermaid nor sea nymph. Still, I went searching for traces of primitive folklore amid the pristine sands of Siesta Key.

I found that I had to look beyond the cabanas bearing families and sand buckets, teenagers and outlandish bikinis. I had to look toward the natural behaviors of the birds.

As the tide rose in the early hours of the evening, the gulls dismissed the bits of popcorn and chips scattered by the sunbathers and sought their meal in the rolling waves of the sea. On shore, I gathered shells, abandoned sarcophagi of scallops and shards of spent sand dollars. To the birds, I was no more a threat to their dining than the uninhabited sandcastles protected by phantom sentries.

The traces of mollusk life that I gathered demonstrated both the artistry and mystery of Mother Nature. How is it that a conch is perfectly coiled and securely striped? Or the ridges of a clam are symmetrical, while others cast a blush of the palest pink? The creative mind can almost imagine the skillful mermaid painting images of the sea on her trove of treasured shells. Aside from my own musings, I still did not bear witness to a mermaid sighting, until I went in search of the perfect Café con Leche at Lelu's Coffee Lounge.

Before the air turned too sultry, I tiptoed out of our condo over the sleeping tumble of teens and beach towels. As I meandered toward Lelu for my daily coffee, I spied a canopied souvenir shack where I witnessed a mass of mermaids! Albeit, they were carved of wood or stone resin, but finally my wish came true. Without hesitation, I traded my coffee money for a mermaid the color of an ivory oyster.

Journeying through a tumultuous twenty-three hour car ride and the snows of early April in Ohio, I brought the mermaid back to my bookshelf. There she lingers, reminding me of the salty rush of the tide and the whisper of siren song beckoning me back to the sea.

*Internet Source Consulted: Radford, Benjamin. Mermaids and Mermen: Facts and Legends. LiveScience, November 14, 2014.

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

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Off the Shelf

by Terry Kenneally

A TOP Shelf Selection



The 1916 Irish Rebellion

By Briona Nic Dhiarmada / University of Notre Dame Press / ISBN 9780268036 2016 205pp.

The 1916 Irish Rebellion is the companion volume to the documentary film of the same name which was shown at the Cleveland Art Museum on April 7, 2016. It is written by Briona Nic Dhiarmada, an Irish studies professor at the University of Notre Dame. 2016 marks the centenary of one of the most iconic events in Irish history. This book and the film version (narrated by Liam Neeson) of it presents a balanced account from all sides, including the Irish rebels, the British army, and the civilians affected by the Rising.

There are several things stand-out, especially the amount of

primary source material contained in it.

As an example, there is the description by the Royal Commission of the Arrest and Treatment of Francis Sheehy Skeffington,



who was a civilian, arrested while making his way home from an unsuccessful attempt to stop the looting which was going on in the aftermath of the British shelling, along with two other civilians. Captain J. C. Bowen-Colthurst ordered them ex-

ecuted for no reason. Fortunately, Bowen-Colthurst's actions were reported by a fellow officer and he was later court martialled and found insane. The book also contains a good mixture of original photographs taken at the time of the Rising, enough historical narrative by the author and numerous quotes from various witnesses to the events surrounding the Irish rebellion.

The movie is scheduled to come out in DVD format in May. I highly recommend getting a copy as well as reading the companion volume. This is a TOP SHELF selection.

**Terrence J. Kenneally is an attorney and owner of the Kenneally Law Firm in Rocky River, Ohio. Mr. Kenneally defends insureds and insurance companies in insurance defense cases throughout the state of Ohio. He received his Master's Degree in Irish Studies from John Carroll University and teaches Irish history and literature at Holy Name High School. Mr. Kenneally has been named President of Holy Name High School for the 2016-17 school year. He may be reached at

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The Battle of Ashbourne 1916

By Terrence J. Kenneally

While most of Ireland, and the world for that matter, are commemorating the centenary of the Easter Rising in Dublin, the fact remains that the rebellion in Dublin was a failure. There is no question that the event had a huge symbolic importance in Irish history, however, if one looks at it from a strictly military standpoint, it was a disaster waiting to happen.

No less a person than Michael Collins felt that it was poorly planned and executed and doomed from the start. The fact that the telephone/telegraph lines between Dublin and the Curragh were not cut, coupled with the rebel's failure

to capture Dublin Castle are just two examples of things which would have at least enhanced the rebel's ability to sustain the rebellion for a longer period of time.

However, while the rebellion in Dublin lasted just six days and ended in unconditional surrender to the British, the successful battle at Ashbourne, in County Meath, was one of the only successful battles to occur during the Easter Rising. Often mentioned only in passing in the history books on the subject of the Rebellion, the action carried out by the fifth battalion of the Dublin Brigade, under the leadership of Thomas Ashe and Richard Mulcahy was the biggest battle

and one of the only successful battles to take place during the Easter Rising.

Ashe and Mulcahy led a group of about fifty men from Baldwinstown to Ashbourne on Thursday, April 26th on a mission to destroy the Midland Great Western Railway line which went through Battersdown. Intelligence suggested British troop reinforcements were being sent from Athlone to Dublin. Ashe's plan was to sabotage the line and thereby disrupt the flow of troops into Dublin city. The route towards Ashbourne led the battalion to Rath Cross where an RIC (Royal Irish Constabulary) barracks were located.

Despite having only fifty men, Ashe divided them into four sections, which acted like flying columns, a term which would become famous during the War of Independence. The men surrounded the barracks; Ashe demanded that the police "surrender in the name of the Irish Republic." The police response was to open fire on Ashe's men. A 5 ½ hour battle ensued, with the RIC men eventually surrendering.

Later, after learning of the order from Patrick Pearse, in which he unconditionally surrendered to the British, Ashe surrendered to the British cavalry. The men were taken to Richmond jail and Ashe was

sentenced to death for his leadership role. His sentence was later commuted to penal servitude for life. Ashe was released in 1917 but later rearrested on charges of sedition and imprisoned in Moutjoy Gaol. He went on a hunger strike and died while being force fed.

The five and one half-hour battle at Ashbourne was different than that of the Rising in Dublin. Whereas in Dublin measures taken were defensive in nature i.e. seizing key locations and waiting to be attacked; Ashe's battalion went on the offensive guerilla style, setting the example of the fighting displayed during the successful War of Independence.



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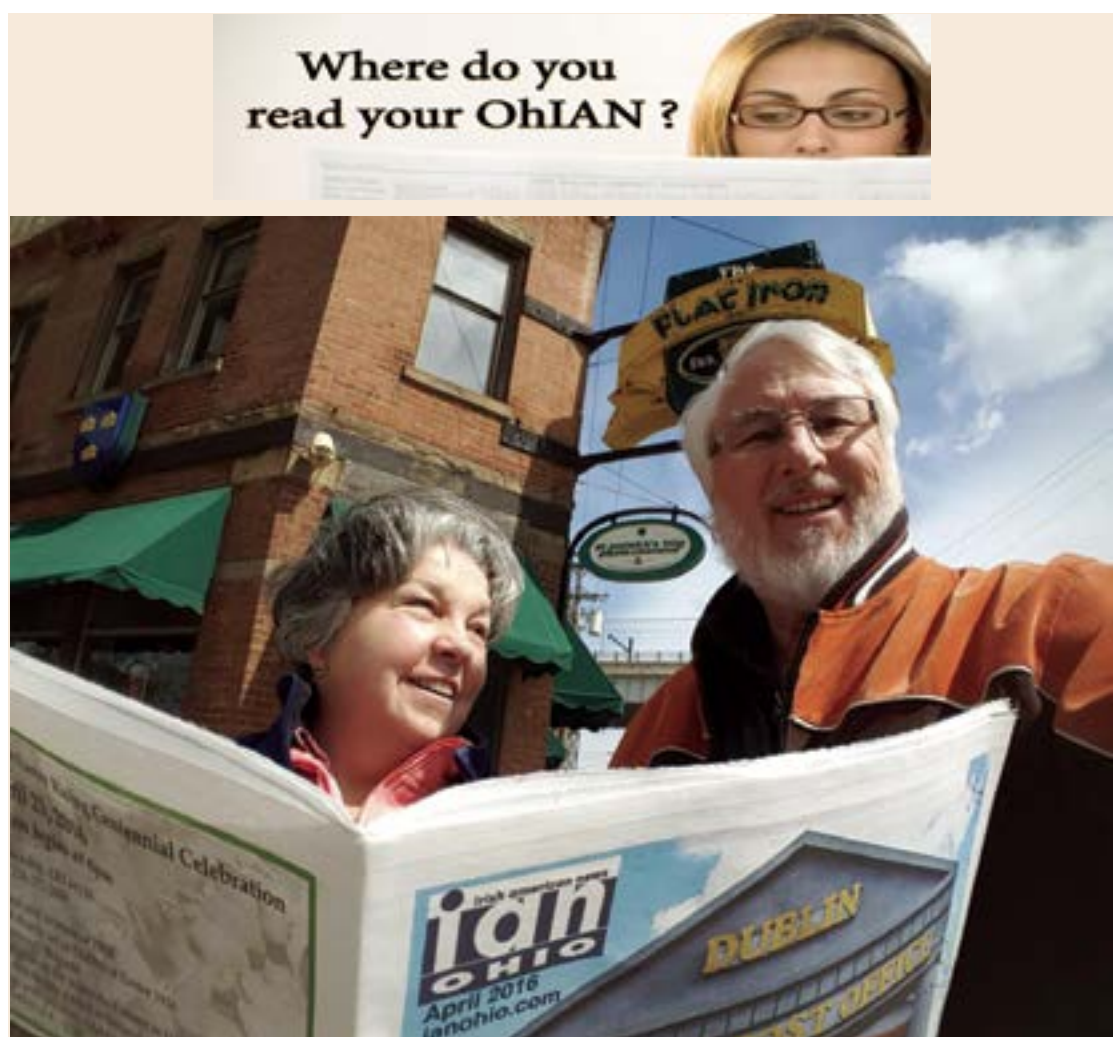


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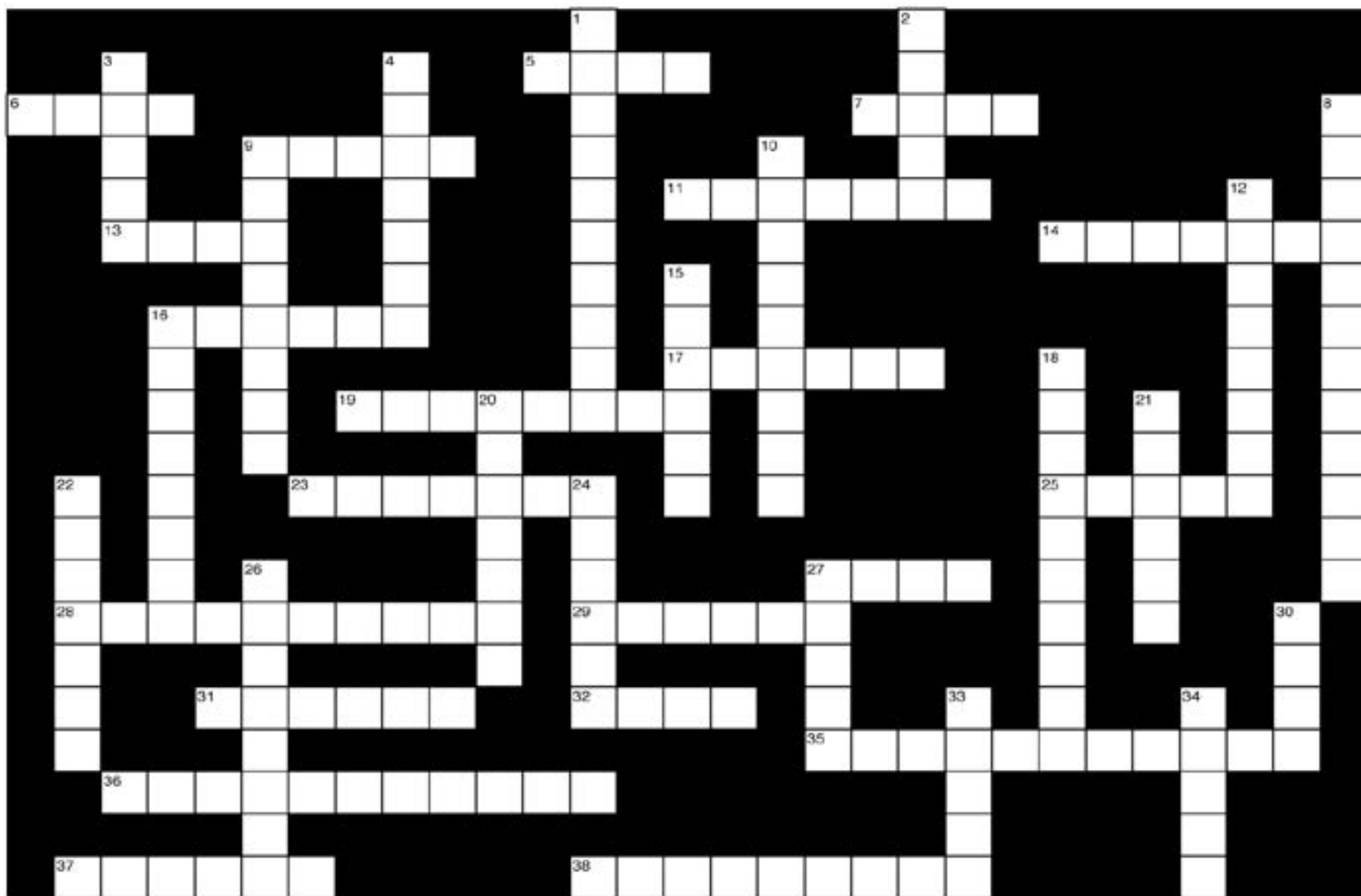
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Road to Rio 2016

by Linda Fulton Burke

Solution on page 23



ACROSS

5 _____ Clohissey Men's Marathon
 6 _____ Hehir Men's Marathon
 7 Alex Wright - 20k _____ 50k _____
 9 _____ Mageen - 1,500m
 11 _____ Boyce - 50k walk
 13 _____ Seaton & Matt McGovern - 49er - Sailing
 14 _____ Sanchez Women's Marathon
 16 _____ Frazier Men's Marathon
 17 Annalise _____ - Laser Radial - Sailing
 19 Judy Reynolds - _____
 23 Track _____ - wom-
 en's Kierin - Shannon
 McCurly
 25 _____ Seaward Men's Marathon
 27 _____ English - 800m

28 Arthur Lannigan-O'Keeffe
 - Modern _____
 29 Lightweight _____ sculls women - Sinead
 Jennings/Claire Lambe
 31 Michael Conlan - _____ Boxing
 32 _____ Treacy - 3,000m steeplechase
 35 Michelle Finn - 3,000m _____
 36 _____ double sculls
 men - Paul & Gary
 O'Donovan
 37 Steven Donnelly - Welter _____
 38 Kerry _____ - 3,000m steeplechase
 DOWN
 1 _____ McCormack - 10,000m
 2 _____ Everard - 800m
 3 James Espey - _____ - Sailing
 4 Thomas Barr - 400m _____
 8 Fiona Doyle - 100m _____

9 Breege _____ Women's Marathon
 10 Rob _____ - 20k walk, 50k walk
 12 Fionnuala McCormack
 Women's _____
 15 Lizzie Lee _____ ' _____ Marathon
 16 Gary _____ Men's Marathon
 18 Shane Ryan - 100m _____
 20 Andrea Brewster & Saskia Tidey - 49er FX

 21 Men's 3m spring-board
 _____ - Oliver Dingley
 22 Bertram Allen - Show _____
 24 _____ Ganiel Women's Marathon
 26 Paul Pollock Men's _____
 27 Segiu Ciobanu _____ ' _____ Marathon
 30 Tori Pena - _____ vault
 33 Joe Ward - Light _____ Boxing
 34 _____ Barnes - Light fly Boxing

OUR IMMIGRANT STORY

BY J.Ā. GALLAGHER



Patrick and Margaret Part II: From Achill to America: Their Not Uncommon Story

My grandmother never spoke of her life in Ireland, even when pressed by the family historian. When questioned, she would look away, ponder, and quickly change the topic of conversation, but the sorrow she did not convey with words was clearly expressed in emotion. In addition to missing her extended family, I suspect her last memories of Ireland were difficult. Achill Island's train station would be a scene of unforgettable sadness for young Margaret and her sister as they watched their mother weep when saying goodbye to her siblings and parents for what they knew would be the last time.

Just days before, Margaret's mother painfully selected only those family possessions that would fit into a single steamer trunk. She had sold the family

cottage, raising just enough funds to pay for passage and a set of fresh clothes for the children, fearing that their father would be ashamed by their appearance when they arrived at Ellis Island. The Healy family's journey and resettlement in America would be part of the third and final wave of significant Achill migration to Cleveland that occurred between 1900 and 1910. By all accounts, one could say that they were "late to the party," but they fared well during their first years in America. With her family whole once again, Margaret enjoyed a childhood full of siblings, cousins, and friends. She spent her teenage years in school and her summers working at Ohio's Cedar Point Amusement Park with her sisters.

While Patrick's and Margaret's childhood homes were in clear sight of each other across Achill Sound, they did not meet until after a few years of living in Cleveland. Margaret Healy, now a Cleveland native, met "fresh-off-the-boat" Patrick Gallagher at one of the many

Achill gatherings in Cleveland. They were married in 1919 at St. Patrick's Church on Cleveland's West Side.

Patrick and Margaret's family started without delay in 1920, with the birth of Patrick Neil Gallagher IV. As a new father, Patrick worked tirelessly as a grocer and eventually opened his own store in

Looking east, Achill's mountaintops (the second highest on Europe's West Coast) overlook a land dotted with mountain lakes and towns with generations of families and family history. While scenic and peaceful, Achill is an arduous environment of demanding land and rough sea that has a history of shaping



*Gallagher Farm, Sraheens, Achill Island, foreground and right, circa 1880.
Courtesy of the Lawrence Col*

Cleveland's West Side. Margaret tended to the raising and education of their children: Patrick, Michael, Harold, Jack, and Margie. She was known to run her household with diligence and assigned chores to each of her children. For nearly seventy-five years, Patrick and Margaret's Cleveland home would serve as the "center of the universe" for their family, relatives, and visitors, until Margaret's death in 1995 at age 103.

When England's Oliver Cromwell conducted his brutal crusades and exiled the Gallaghers from Northern Ireland to west of the Shannon River, he knew Achill Island was a place like no other, and that a difficult life would ensue there. Her barren, rocky land of mountains and steep cliffs provide mesmerizing Atlantic sea views west over the horizon to America.

her inhabitants into individuals of independence and strength—my grandparents were of this cloth—warm, welcoming, and never without a word of kindness, a keen interest, or a story of old.

Patrick and Margaret's forefathers had survived the Great Famines of 1845 and 1874, family tragedy, English landlords, and the migration and permanent separation of their families. Their parents were nearly illiterate, but their children would be the first natural-born American citizens of their clan who would serve as American soldiers, tradesmen, engineers, lawyers, and company presidents, all while raising successful families of their own.

Patrick and Margaret's story is not uncommon. Migration to America from Achill has been occurring for hundreds of years, beginning with the draw of steady work digging the Erie Canal. The migration has been so significant that Cleveland has been named Achill's twin city. The commonalities between Achill and Cleveland are clearly evident in the families and family names. It is said that "every Achill home has family in Cleveland."

Patrick and Margaret are gone now, and their one-way journey to America and life in Cleveland are a distant memory to very few. Today, their descendants live in many locations far from their Achill past, but they are unknowingly connected by a single point in time long ago when Patrick and Margaret began this story.



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Growing UP Irish

by Maureen Ginley



Happy Birthday, Dad!

My Dad's birthday is May 22nd; I like to honor those I care about through my writing. What better way to celebrate the man that gave me an intense love of hummus, hot sauce, and all things JCU-related than to pen an essay dedicated to him?

Besides teaching me what being a Bluestreak was about, my Dad has taught me about the value of family, and caring for those that are close to you. He is not only an incredible father to my four siblings and I, but a dedicated son to his parents and supportive brother to his siblings. He goes to my Grandma's house to mow the lawn/rake leaves, and stays for hours reminiscing on trips to County Mayo and other memories they share.

He helps with family gatherings by making sure everyone gets to where we're sharing a meal for Thanksgiving/Christmas/Easter/etc. And by offering to bring a pint or two! He is always laughing or joking around, sharing photos from holidays of the past, or attempting to keep up with the raucous round of Heads Up! started post-dessert.

I credit my father (along with my mother) with teaching me the value of education, and instilling in me an intense love for the written word and all things related to learning. He attended intense undergraduate and graduate degree programs, followed by a competitive stint at Ohio University's medical school, so since before I could spend time in a classroom of my own, I knew an education was something that was not to be taken for granted.

Growing up, between the afternoons spent hearing about labs and lectures and his residency, my Dad always made sure I was surrounded by books. Babysitter's Club, Harry Potter, you name it. He and I would read each Potter book together, conversing – at great

length – about the characters, potential plot holes, and cliff hangers at the end of each installment.

He encouraged me to take this love of literary debate and transfer it into my academics, hence my Bachelor's in English and soon-to-be MFA in Creative Writing. Without his example of persevering through late-night studying and paper writing, I would have never had the courage to pursue the degrees of my dreams. There are many memories I share with my Dad that I cherish, but none stick out in my mind as much as a warm late April afternoon in 2010.

It may shock some people to know that I was initially not thrilled about going to John Carroll for my undergraduate coursework. I was worried about its proximity to Rocky River, where I had lived and attended school my whole life, and the amount of my Magnificat classmates that would be attending. College was supposed to be a time of new experiences and exploration, so I worried that while being surrounded by the familiar, I'd continue to hang out with the same people doing the same things, not really veering from my high school routine.

One afternoon, on Accepted Students' Day, to be exact, this worry got the best of me and I had an embarrassing meltdown in a back hallway in the Student Center at JCU. "I don't want to go here!" I cried, looked at my parents desperately, silently begged that they'd agree with me.

They exchanged a look and after a few more minutes, my Dad took me outside. We walked towards the Quad, a place that in future years would become one of my favorite places to spend time reading and writing. I told

him about my concerns, and he reacted in the most my Dad-way. He said, "Maureen, the years I spent at John Carroll were the best of my life."

Though it took me some time to realize the impact of these words, I am still floored by them to this day. Concise, but impactful, they embody the bond I share with my father, one that was made even better by the two of us being John Carroll Bluestreaks.




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SPEAK IRISH

Labhair Gaeilge

By Bob Carney



Last month in this column, we discussed a brief history of the Irish language. In Cleveland Comhrá we had a conversation with John Handy of Irish Language Learners. Hopefully, he inspired others, as well as myself to continue or begin our study of Gaeilge (Connemara) or Gaelainn (Munster).

Gaeilge or Gaelainn, depending on the regional dialect, are the words for the Irish language. With that in mind, I thought a return to the basics of everyday conversation would be in order. In the first class of each Speak Irish Cleveland session we ask participants to greet family, friends and co-workers in Irish. This helps us to speak right away and allows us to put into practice our newly found link to our past.

The formal greeting for hello, Dia duit (dee-uh gwitch) to one person, or, Dia daoibh (dee-uh yeev) to more than one person is just that, a formal greeting. This is the greeting taught in most Irish classes and in most self-learning materials. Loosely it translates to God to you, the correct response is God and Mary to you, Dia's Muire duit (dee-uh smwir a gwitch) or Dia's Muire daoibh (dee-uh

Dia duit ar maidin (dee-uh gwitch er modjin) good morning
Dia duit san iarnóin (dee-uh gwitch sa nair nown) good afternoon
Dia duit ar tráthnóna (dee-uh gwitch ar tran-no na) good evening
Cén scéal agat? (cayn schale agut) what's up?
Cén t-ainm atá ort? (kayn tn-im atay ort) what's your name?
Cád as duit? (kad as gwitch) where are you from?
An bhfuil Gaelainn agat? (ahn will gawlinn agut) do you speak Irish?
Tá sé deas bualadh leat (taw shay jess boola laht) it's nice to meet you
Agus ormsa freisin (ah-gus or-um fresh-in) and it's nice to meet you

RESPONSES

Tá mé go hiontach (taw may guh hee un tahkh) I'm wonderful
Tá mé go breá (taw may guh brow) I'm fine

smwir a yeev). Most of the time we are less formal greeting one another, even in English, so let's try some of these phrases instead.

GREETINGS
Conas atá tú? (ko-nass ah-taw too) How are you?

Tá lá breá ann (taw law bray ahn) it's a fine day

Ní mórán (nee more onn) not much
Is mise... (iss meesha) I am...
Ana-mhaith (annah mah) very good
Go raibh maith agat (gorra mah agut) Thank you
Tá beagán agam (taw bee a gone ah-gum) I speak a little
Tá tú ag féachaint go hiontach (taw too fay-caynt guh hee un tahkh) You look great

FAREWELLS

Slán (slawn) Goodbye
Níos déanaí (neese dee uh nee) Later
Caithfidh mé imeacht (ca-hid may ah macht) I have to go
Feicfidh mé thú (feck-ee may who) see you later
Feicfidh mé sar i bhfad thú (fek-ee may sar ih fahd who) see you soon
Go n-éirí leat (guh nye ree laht) Good luck
Oíche mhaith (ee-hah wah) Good night

The next few months will give us ample opportunities to use our cúpla focal (coo-pla foe cull) couple of words at Irish festivals throughout the area. Look for us, the members of Speak Irish Cleveland, at the Hooley at Kamm's Corners on May 14 and at Cleveland Irish Cultural Festival at the Cuyahoga Fairgrounds July 22-24. We would love to tell you about our group and the study of Gaeilge in Cleveland. In the meantime, use your Irish you just might impress your friends and family, but most of all, I know you'll impress yourself!

Slán go Foill!

Bob Carney Carneyspeakirish@gmail.com

Road to Rio 2016

by Linda Fulton Burke

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