



August 2014
ianohio.com



irish american news

Editors Corner



John O'Brien, Jr.

August is filled with great work, and great relaxation. We compile and edit, sell and celebrate the Ohio Irish American News, amidst organizing Cleveland Irish Cultural Festival. We pull and prod, push and proclaim, Blessed Are We, to have such a rich heritage in our midst. Cleveland Irish Cultural Festival, Dayton Celtic Festival and Dublin Irish Fest go back to back to back – Homeruns all.

Once Cleveland's is put to bed, we usually head for the hills, but this year, we headed for Chicago. Co Publisher Cliff Carlson went and got married July 26th! His heart & soul belongs to Cathy Curry, our new, and fabulous layout artist. Dunno which happened first, but we both made out!

How's your summer been? So much music, dance, pipes, readings and presentations, the summer is

halfway thru, or even 2/3, by the time August has hit the news stands. Though our Irish tans (burns) wilt, I do truly believe we appreciate it more, because it is so short. Tribulations foster appreciation in Eire or on Erie.

Then, we're all off to Dublin, in the green ... Can't wait to see everyone there, and my first chance to sit and hear the bands after Cleveland. I'll be performing At Each End of the Rifle at 1:30 on Saturday at Dublin Irish Fest, then again at Michigan Irish Music Fest in Muskegon September 12-14th.

The International Mayo Convention is coming to Cleveland two weeks later, September 26-28. Mayo men and women from across the globe will gather here to teach, to learn and to celebrate. For details, and to join us, see our back cover!

More festivals, meetings, music and much more; Much to see and do, featured in this issue, as you squeeze the last rose of summer. Have a look about, plan out, and GO! Don't wait. We've been to too many funerals to not dance at the weddings.

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MILESTONES

Congratulations to...

* Carol Kovach, starting her new position as editor of The Universe Bulletin!

* Sean Lackey and The Yank, Winner Best Comedic Feature Films at the Manhattan Film Festival!

* OhIAN Co Publisher Cliff Carlson and new bride Cathy Curry, married July 26th! We wish them great love, great health and great happiness.



OhIAN co-publisher and editor John O'Brien with Sean Lackey



Brady Campbell U9 Mixed Ceili National Champ by Noreen McCafferty Stanton

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: akarpus@ianohio.com to reach the Irish community Cleveland; jobrien@ianohio.com to reach the Irish



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AOH Cincinnati Poster for Sale to Help Project St. Patrick Fundraiser

In a world that is becoming more secular and overtly Anti-Christian, it is critically important to educate the public and remind AOH membership of their Fraternal origins and the Order's heroic defense of Religious Freedom dating back to Ireland c. 1565. In an effort to accomplish

St. Patrick's Day Parade float.

This project grew out of a discussion between Mike and Linda about where the Hibernians originated. Mike suggested researching mass rocks in Ireland as a place to start, which lead Linda to discoveries of the murals in Belfast, photos of still standing mass

AOH National's Charity Project St. Patrick Program for new seminarian's financial aid, they have printed 24"x 36" posters including both murals, with a concise description of the AOH historical scenes depicted in the murals. The price of the poster is \$50 for an AOH Division; half of the sale price goes to AOH Project St. Patrick, half to the Division charities, purchased with a Division check

Two historic scenes from the Penal Era dominate the sides of the AOH float and now hang safely in the AOH Hall, a reminder of why the AOH exists today. St Patrick's Division wishes to share their much beloved art with anyone interested and decided to make it a fundraiser for both their division and

AOH National's Charity Project St Patrick. Available in poster form and as full size or reduced sized weatherproof banners, they hope that this "retelling" of our history will be seen in St Patrick's Parades and hanging in AOH Halls across the nation.

For more information contact AOH Division President Michael T. Hendley: ohainle55@gmail.com

rocks and numerous articles about the history of the Irish as defenders of the Catholic faith. AOH Division historian Patrick Mallory verified that, yes, these violent events did take place, as the English attempted to suppress & destroy the Catholic faith in Ireland.

As a fundraising effort for their Division's Charitable programs and in support of the

this, Mike Hendley, President St. Patrick Division #1, Cincinnati OH, and his wife Linda painted (2) 3'-8" x 14'-0" Parade Murals depicting AOH brothers defending the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass being offered at Mass Rocks in Ireland during the enforcement of the English Penal Laws. The mural was painted to be displayed publicly on each side of their



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Solus Lighting Nominated for International Spirit of Excellence Award



The esteemed ISES Esprit Award is presented by the International Special Events Society in the category of Best Event for a Non-Profit Organization. The awards ceremony will be held on Wednesday, August 20 at the Westin Hotel in Seattle, Washington.

ISES honors industry excellence through its prestigious awards program, the ISES Esprit Awards, which fuel a spirit of competition within designated categories. ISES Esprit Awards gain world wide visibility and recognition for ISES members. It honors special event professionals who exhibit a "spirit of excellence" in their work. The importance of global industry recognition helps improve industry standards internationally and further promote our professionalism. ISES is dedicated to recognizing excellence in events and rewarding those individuals whose vision and creativity make their events exceptional.

"We are delighted to be nominated for an international award by our fellow event professionals for the second year in a row," stated Maureen E. Patterson (Lead Designer at Solus Lighting LTD). Last year, Solus Lighting was nominated for an ESPRIT Award in the category of Best Wedding.

So far in 2014, the company has been recognized with three state-wide awards for innovative event lighting. In April, Solus Lighting was decorated with awards in the categories of Best Wedding (for Ashlee & Ben's Vintage Romance), Best Team Effort (for the Cleveland Museum of Natural History's Bi-Annual Woman's Committee Gala), and Best Public Event (for Ice Age at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History).

The current ESPRIT nomination is for the Building Dedication on World AIDS Day. This event celebrated and commemorated the partnership between the AIDS Healthcare Foundation and the AIDS Taskforce of Greater Cleveland. Patterson added, "We are fortunate to have diverse clients that are doing great things. They trust our expertise and let us push the envelope to make their events truly spectacular."

To learn more about Solus Lighting LTD, please visit www.SolusLightingLTD.com



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Ward Irish Music Archives Wins 2014 AASLH Award of Merit

The American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) proudly announces that the Ward Irish Music Archives, housed at the Irish Fest Center in Wauwatosa, Wis., is the recipient of an Award of Merit from the AASLH Leadership in History Awards for the Irish Sheet Music Archives website (<http://irishsheetmusicarchives.com>). The AASLH Leadership in History Awards, now in its 69th year, is the most prestigious recognition for achievement in the preservation and interpretation of state and local history.

The Irish Sheet Music Archives website is the online home of the sheet music collections found in the Ward Irish Music Archives of Milwaukee Irish Fest. Users can browse and search over 5,000 pieces of Irish and Irish American themed sheet music, and they can view full scans of sheet music in the public domain. More in-depth historical information is explored in the site's Galleries section, featuring sheet music from various historical events, performers, and composers.

2014 Mayo Societies World Convention Comes to Cleveland

The 2014 World Convention of Mayo Societies will be held in Cleveland, OH USA this fall. Mayo-the global family in action provides a unique, affordable, and intimate conference experience with interna-

(above) Congratulations to Pat Campbell, Owen Donelon, Kevin O'Malley, Rory McNamara, Joe Bochin, Gabe Gibbons, Mike Hageman, Owen McGuirk and the rest of the Cleveland Fire Fighters Class of 2014!

consists of Eddie Crawford, representing publicly held business; John McCann representing Local Manufacturing business; and Ed McNamara of Aon Risk Solutions to name a few.


National Geographic will be



tional speakers offering high-quality panel sessions as well as networking opportunities. Distinguished experts from Ireland and the United States will lead discussion on the newest areas of collaboration and innovation in business, health, and education.

For example: Our business panel is being moderated by Jim Boland and

involved as well, presenting on the findings of the Genographic study carried out in Mayo in 2013. Representatives from each of the Mayo Associations attending will have an opportunity to have the test administered (a cheek swab.) The results will be added to the overall findings of the 'Gathering the Mayo Genes' project.

The Old Angle Honors

Johnny Kilbane

Featherweight Champion of the World 1912 - 1923

99 years ago, on February 22, 1912, Johnny Kilbane, a son of Cleveland's "Angle" neighborhood, in a 20 round bout, became The Featherweight Champion of the World. A title held longer than any other featherweight in the history of boxing.

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By Susan Mangan



A Timeless Confection

One day in early summer, I sat enjoying the soft wind as it blew beneath the eaves of my front porch. As carefree as a child, I savored an ice cream pop the color of pale lavender. For a moment, the breeze paused in her course and a ruby-throated hummingbird hovered over an unruly mass of catmint bordering my footpath. I sat statue-like while a still-life unfolded before my eyes. Cloaked in emerald silk, the hummingbird drank deeply of the lilac nectar. The flower was the exact hue of my then melting ice cream confection. The breeze resumed, as did my breath. Hummingbird and human, we were both satisfied with the simple delights of summer.

Summer affords each of us with some opportunity, no matter how brief or extended, for relaxation. I am compelled to savor the joys I have cherished since childhood, like the milky richness of an ice cream cone.

As children, my neighbor-

hood cronies and I would shout, "You scream, I scream, we all scream for ice cream!" Inevitably, the Good Humor van would travel down the street, or a kind mother would come swinging out with the bang of a screen door bearing bouquets of twin popsicles. We would always vie for the best flavors, grape or cherry, and leave the orange ices for later. Children are as greedy as the drunken hummingbird in midsummer.

As a girl, I spent many idyllic summers in the blistering heat of southern Missouri. My grandmother did not have air conditioning in her antique home. Fans and tall glasses of iced sweet tea provided welcome relief from any discomforts. The heat didn't prevent my cousin and me from running through the open fields like brown bear cubs at play. If we were good and didn't set the water troughs overflowing or leave any gates open, our parents and older siblings treated us to Dairy Queen. To this day, the smell of a DQ Brazier shop reminds

me of my childhood. My grandmother Mim, however, made us the best treat of all – homemade peach ice cream.

Before the sun reached its sultry summit of heat, the mothers and children would travel to local orchards, blueberry and peach, to pick fresh fruit. Ripe and blushing, plump peaches weighed down the trees' agile branches. The air smelled of nectar and



hummed with fat bumblebees. Our quest was the same: a perfectly golden peach bursting with sweet juice.

Once home, my grandmother Mim would bring the old-fashioned ice cream churn up from the cellar. My mother and aunt would load the wooden barrel with coarse cut salt and ice. Dairy fresh cream and soft peaches slick with caramelized sugar would follow into the stainless vat.

In the shade of towering elm trees, Mim and her daughters would take turns cranking the ice cream maker until the luscious concoction turned to smooth custard. After an early dinner of fried chicken and warm garden tomatoes, we would all feast on homemade peach cobbler and peach ice cream. Such is the stuff of dreams.

Ice cream is not just a fond treat reminiscent of American childhood summers. My Irish mother-in-law loves to recall the vanilla cones she would receive as a treat after mass in town at Chamber's

shop. To this day, you can request a vanilla cone "with or without" a chocolate Cadbury Flake. The ice cream is quite soft and not as cold or sweet as American ice cream, but is even richer to taste. Only happy cows fortunate enough to graze in meadows of clover and wildflowers could produce cream as pure as Irish cream.

It has become a tradition in our family to stop at Cham-

ber's in Newport when we are on holiday. A day spent visiting, at the beach, or sightseeing is all the better when punctuated with a delectable vanilla cone. Funny enough, my daughter, who is on a month long vacation in Ireland with her grandma, takes the time to tell me when she phones about her excursions for ice cream. I must ask her if she prefers the Flake or not.

Laura Calder, a Canadian cookbook author and cooking show personality, shares a delightful ice cream memory from her childhood. In the summer, led by her father, Laura and her family would pick wild strawberries in the woods surrounding her home. When the baskets began to brim with tiny, crimson gems, her father would freeze the choicest fruits. On Christmas Eve, her father would churn wild strawberry ice cream for their dessert. Personally, I could not imagine a more perfect confection to celebrate the simple joys of comfort and home during the holidays.

This past spring, my young-

est son and I were in London. As an English major and devotee of all things historical and literary, I brought my son on quite a few excursions. The juxtaposition of the ancient and the modern throughout the city never ceased to amaze me.

I captured an image of an ultra-modern glass building, the Shard, as it rose over the lumbering silhouette of the Tower of London. Construction of the Tower first began in 1070. As my son and I carefully climbed narrow stone passageways, it was easy to forget that we were surrounded by thousands of tourists on a brilliant spring day. The ghosts of the Tower and its bloody history ensnare your thoughts.

Near Tower Green, the site where numerous prisoners were put to death at the scaffold, a memorial was erected urging the "Gentle visitor, pause awhile, where you stand death cut away the light of many days..." Fortunately for us, my son and I could leave the tragedy of history behind when we exited the Tower.

Outside the gates, we were able to satiate our hunger and ease our imaginings with nothing other than a refreshing ice cream cone. Ironically, there stood a Mr. Whippy ice cream truck proffering treats to 21st century tourists. Gladly, I handed over five pounds for two cones, quite thankful that it was not to be my last meal.

In the spirit of the great bards of England, if I could compose an ode or sonnet evoking my appreciation for a time-worn treat, it would most certainly be dedicated to the most inspiring of all confections, the ice cream cone.

*Sources Consulted: Calder, Laura. *Dinner Chez Moi: The Fine Art of Feeding Friends*. Toronto, Ontario, Canada: HarperCollins Publishers, 2011.

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*Susan holds an MA in English from John Carroll University and an MAED from Baldwin-Wallace University. She may be contacted at suemangan@yahoo.com.

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Owens Sports
By Mark Owens



Irish National Soccer Team

The 2014 FIFA World Cup has come and gone, and once again Irish fans were left looking on as fans of the game rather fans of their own team. We all think back to the days of Italia '90 and USA '94 when the lads of Houghton, Whelan and Aldridge were all doing the business and shocking the world's greatest teams. There was a swagger with those Irish teams. But there was something else that often went unnoticed: many of these players were not even Irish born, and no one cared.

The 'Granny Rule' was in use by Jack Charlton and his crew, and they used it to its full potential. We saw similar stories this summer during the World Cup – the U.S. National team had Jermaine Jones and John Brooks, who were both born in Germany.

The mighty German's had

players similar: Lucas Podolski was actually born in Poland, as was Miroslav Klose. Defender Jerome Boateng was actually born in Ghana, and faced his half-brother, Prince Boateng, in the group stages when Prince lined up for Ghana. There are similar stories with other teams, but my point is there is a rule in place to allow this to happen and it's about time Ireland started to look at it again – the home grown talent is just not there if we are to compete again at the highest levels.

The Irish Team and Successful Granny Players: This rule has been particularly beneficial for the Republic of Ireland national team. Irish citizenship laws state that no matter where a person is born, anyone whose parent or grandparent is an Irish citizen is entitled to Irish citizenship. The first player to have taken advantage of this 'back door' passage to play for the 'Boys in Green' was Manchester born Shay Brennan, who in 1965 lined up for Ireland in a World Cup qualifying match

against Spain; Ireland won 1-0.

Jacko's Army: Former England international Jack Charlton was appointed manager of the Irish national team in 1986. He set for himself the immediate yet dubious task of qualifying the team for their first-ever international tournament – the 1988 European Championships. From the outset Charlton famously placed notices on all the notice boards at most English clubs asking for those with any Irish ancestry to declare their interest in playing for the Irish and he'd take care of the rest.

This did not go down well with a lot of the Irish fans at first, and he immediately made himself an easy target for the Irish media by famously responding in his typical honest and upfront way: "You want me to compete with the best in the World, I've got to have the f*****g best in the world. And it's not here in Ireland that I can find it, I've got to go to England to find it, or Scotland to find the quality that will make you a team that will compete with the best in the world. Now, if you don't want to do that, tell me, and I'll f*****g concentrate on the League of Ireland and we'll win nothing. But give me the freedom to produce results and I'll produce results."

Jackie's Army made it to the 1988 Euro Championships, where Ray Houghton famously got the ball and stuck it in the English net. To do the actual goal more justice I'd recommend a Google search for Christy Moore's famous song 'The Joxer Goes to Stuttgart' – it will send chills down your spine.

Those of you that were here in the States twenty years ago for the World Cup will have experienced first-hand the Irish team that really wasn't Irish. For heaven's sake, Tony Cascarino was in the squad because his grandmother was Irish, although he later revealed that he was actually adopted at birth and probably could

just have as easy not qualified for the granny rule had someone done more digging. In fact, the Irish team that played in the '94 World Cup when they brilliantly beat the Italians at the Giants Stadium only contained four Irish born players. Who were they? Well that would be giving away this month's trivia question!

Since the 1994 World Cup, the Irish team's accomplish-



ments have been few and far between, although the one constant has remained – the influx of non-Irish born players. Many fans argue that the Football Association of Ireland (FAI) has taken too much advantage of the rule and that this has had a negative effect on the local game. It has not become uncommon for the most talented players picking up and moving across the water to ply their trade in the lower leagues of England. More often, tho, these players get lost through the ranks in England and are eventually lost totally to the game.

A more concerted effort by both the FAI and the Irish Government to prevent this is essential to the sustainability of the local game. These last few years has seen steady decreases in attendances at League of Ireland games and with that has come the inevitable bankruptcy of the several Irish clubs.

It has become a battle of the little Irish club versus the English clubs being shown live on the Irish networks every week. Little kids are running around the street of Derry, Dublin and

Cork with the names Keane, McClean and O'Shea on their English Premier League jersey's as opposed to wearing the Can-dystripes of Derry, the Red and White of Shelbourne (Dublin) or the Green and White of Cork.

I have no problem with the majority of these non-Irish born players lining up in the Green shirt. For the most part they genuinely are playing because their immediate

family is Irish and they have close ties to the country. There are some cases though were you need to sit back and think why on earth would we want him playing for Ireland?

Trivia: First last month's question: When the Republic of Ireland played in the competition in the USA twenty years ago, who was their captain and what English club team did he play for at that time? Andy Townsend was playing for Aston Villa and made his debut for the Irish against France in 1989. He went on to play seventy times for them, scoring on seven occasions.

This month's question: When Ireland played in the 1994 World Cup in the US, only four players were Irish born – who were they?

*Mark Owens is originally from Derry City, Ireland and has resided in the Cleveland area since 2001. Mark is the Director of Marketing for Skylight Financial Group in Cleveland. Send questions, comments or suggestions for future articles to Mark at: markfromderry@gmail.com

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Ireland Past and Present

By Niamh O'Sullivan



Centenaries in 2014

I've enjoyed this summer of 2014 working on projects relating to two separate centenaries. The first belongs to the women of Cumann na mBan, or the Women's Council, who were founded one hundred years ago in Wynn's Hotel, Dublin. The Irish Volunteers had been founded the previous November, in the Rotunda, Dublin. Women were permitted to attend this huge inaugural meeting, in an area set aside for them, and during speeches on the night it was conceded that there would be "work" for them to do. So, weary of most nationalist organisations being reserved for men only, a number of women, among them Countess Markievicz, met in Wynn's on 2 April 1914, and established Cumann na mBan (Women's Association).

I have written before about the 1916 women who carried despatches around the burning city, and further afield. Women who practised first aid and nursing during Easter Week, and women who spent a short time in Kilmainham Prison after the Rising - all of them at some point describing the loud shots in the early mornings that took the lives of their leaders. All these women fought on after 1916.

An elderly man visited me in the Kilmainham Archives long ago to tell me about his mother. She had named him Patrick Pearse, and would sometimes remind him of an occasion during the War of Independence (1919-1921) when she was approaching a barrier set up by the British in Dublin city, wheeling him in his pram. She would mention her attack of nerves from having hidden twenty rounds of ammunition in his baby clothes, and weapons in the pram itself. Another woman, Linda Kearns from County Sligo, was arrested whilst driving with three IRA passengers, their rifles and ammunition. She was sentenced to ten years penal servitude, to be served in Walton Prison in Liverpool.

Linda embarked on a hunger strike to be repatriated to an Irish prison. She was successful - doubly so. On 31 October 1921 she escaped from Mountjoy Prison, Dublin, and went on to participate in the Civil War (1922-1923). In early July 1922, in the fierce fighting between pro and anti-

Treaty forces in O'Connell Street, Linda was present when Cathal Brugha, veteran of 1916, was fatally shot outside the Hammam Hotel by erstwhile comrades. Linda tried to stem the blood from his severed artery, but her attempts to save his life did not succeed.

The women were back in Kilmainham during the Civil War. They took Irish, French and history classes, put on plays, and endured hunger strikes for the restoration of parcels, among other things. One woman, Hannah Moynihan, from Kerry, left an intriguing diary in which she thoughtfully questioned: "is one justified in dying for letters and parcels?"

In the Jackie Clarke Collection in Ballina, County Mayo, we are currently working on an exhibition exploring the women of Cumann na mBan, those who joined the Irish Citizen Army and those who worked closely together whilst remaining independent. Scheduled to open in August, I have greatly appreciated getting to know these valiant women all over again.

Another important centenary in 2014 is that of the arrival in Howth, 26 July 1914, of the yacht Asgard, owned and sailed by Erskine Childers and his Boston wife, Molly Osgood. The yacht entered Howth harbour carrying a cargo of 900 rifles together with many thousand rounds of ammunition, and was met there by boys from the Fianna Éireann. The Fianna were founded by Countess Markievicz and Bulmer Hobson as a Republican youth movement in 1909. Guns and ammunition landed by the Asgard were used in the 1916 Rising.

The Asgard sailed on for a further sixty years, when thoughts turned to having the old sailing vessel scrapped because she was no longer seaworthy. The Kilmainham Jail Restoration Society, comprised of dedicated volunteers reclaiming the ruins of the old prison with the intention of turning it into a historical museum, reached out and also saved the Asgard.

In 1979 they hoisted her over a high grey prison wall into one of the exercise yards, thus rescuing her from an ignominious ending. One of the volunteers who worked tirelessly on building a lean-to with a galvanized roof to shelter the famous yacht in her retirement was Paddy Galvin, then aged 80. Paddy had been on that pier in Howth, on that distant July day in 1914, watching the guns being

landed. Now he was doing everything in his power to welcome his old friend to her new residence.

I started in Kilmainham three years later, where I got to know Paddy, who worked in the old prison every single Sunday (in those early days it was only Sunday opening). A native Dubliner, he was ever old-world courteous and unassuming, always welcoming and friendly to every visitor. I only learned after Paddy had died how the other Restoration Society volunteers used to worry about him working up so high on that roof in order to provide a safe haven for the old yacht.

Years passed and people started to grumble about how the Asgard was lying "rotting and neglected" in a Kilmainham exercise yard. I was never impressed with this tired argument as, had it not been for the Kilmainham Jail Restoration Society, the boat would long since have become firewood. She was finally removed from the jail in 2001 - lifted by crane back over that high grey wall. I took the day off, not willing to witness her departure. Even now, when I think



of that particular prison yard, I can only remember it with the Asgard silently present, blending in.

Today her final home is located in the National Museum, Collins Barracks, Dublin. Even I must admit to how beautifully they have had the yacht restored, and how imaginatively they present her to the public. She is still not seaworthy, to accomplish that would have meant removing too much of the boat's original material. But she appears positively gleaming, as if impatiently waiting to be launched

back into the sea. The National Museum have planned an Asgard Day this summer to remember her momentous journey and her place in Irish history.

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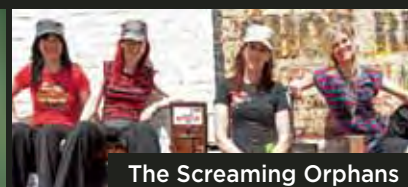
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Terry From Derry

by Terry Boyle



You Have to Go Out, But You Don't Have to Come Back

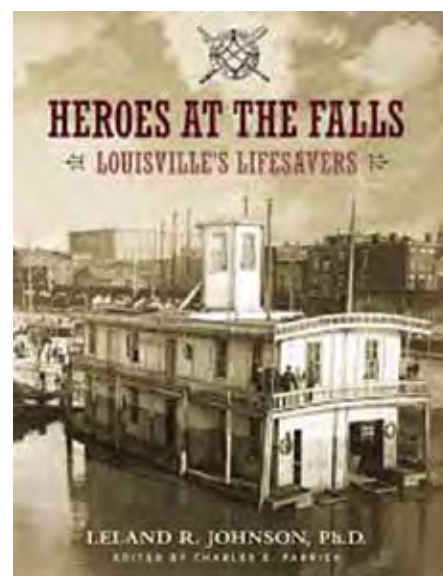
Imagine yourself in a small boat (skiff), plunged headlong into foaming, unforgiving waters. The year is 1876, and you're at the mercy of the turbulent Ohio River. You're fighting for air, as you are being pulled downwards. With each breath, your lungs take in as much water as air.

There is no lifeboat service; a capsized boat in such conditions inevitably means certain death, even for the strongest of swimmers. One of three men, you watch as your companions fight a futile battle against the greater force of nature. And, when hope finally begins to fail, the miracle happens.

Two young Irishmen, Billy Devan and Jack Gillooly, put aside their safety and rush to your aid. Without a second thought they abandon their labour. Ripping you from the clutches of death, your life is spared and your hope returns. While this is not your story, and your life is not at risk, the three men trapped in the maelstrom of the Falls of Ohio, were saved. Death was cheated on that day by the heroic deeds of strangers who cared.

In June I was privileged to hear about the bravery of these rescuers when I attended a book launch commemorating their incredible selflessness. John Tully, who later joined both Devan and Gillooly, also volunteered to save people from the turbulent Falls of the Ohio. In three years, these three men saved 49 people from drowning. The book, *Heroes at the Falls*, is an inspirational record of this small band of Irishmen who 'endangered their own lives while saving or trying to save others from the perils of the waters.'

Devan, Gillooly, and Tully have long passed; their deeds forgotten to most but remembered by the few, were heroes in their time. Congress would later recognize them for their valour, and they would become pioneers in the area of rescue service, simply because they wanted to save lives. Indeed, Tully, whose family had emigrated from Dublin to Louisville, was saved



from drowning as a 10-year-old boy, and vowed to spend his life 'paying forward' the kindness bestowed to him.

As we sat on the Belle of Louisville, the oldest steamboat left in America, listening to these stories, the hearts of some beat a little faster. For among the audience at the book launch were the descendants of the heroes. Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren, some sporting mementos passed down from generation to generation, gathered to remember those who went without ever knowing if they would come back. While some of those gathered were directly connected to the heroes, I was wondering about those who were saved. I wondered if their families, descendants, were even aware that their existence was due to the hero-

ism a gallant trinity of Irishmen.

The author, Leland R. Johnson, was sadly not in attendance. A retired historian for the Army Corps of Engineers, Johnson, collected date over a period of 40 years, which would become a fitting historical tribute to the Life Saving Service at the Falls of the Ohio. While reading *Heroes at the Falls* I was always aware that the heart of the story was not simply a historical narrative. Johnson's knowledge of historical period and context is finely fleshed out with his love of the human spirit. Courage, valour and dignity shine in this work.

As *Heroes at the Falls* recounts stories of lives saved and crucial services implemented, one realizes how a single brave deed can ripple into hundreds of lives. Indeed, this is the heart of Johnson's narrative. All of us are indebted to those strangers who have risked their lives to ensure our safety. What the writer evokes in his reader is a profound sense of privilege. The Irishmen of the Falls of the Ohio acted intuitively, without hesitancy, or thought of self-preservation. They were a credit to their community, and role

model for generations to come.

By the time the work was published, Johnson's health had deteriorated. In the final hours of his life, his son presented him with a copy of the book. Johnson died knowing that he had saved the memories and stories of those who paved the way for services we now take for granted.

For me this story is one of many stories that need to be told. As someone who is quite ignorant of those Irish women and men who left their homeland for a better life, the *Heroes at the Falls* has been another piece in the diaspora jigsaw.

www.butlerbooks.com.

*Terry, originally from Derry, now resides in Chicago and teaches Irish and British Literature at Loyola University, Chicago. terryaboyle@gmail.com

Turf Wars

By Lisa O'Rourke

Anyone who has visited Ireland when the weather was less than desirable has had their senses invaded by a rich, smoky, earthy smell that is unlike any other. To the rural Irish especially, the aroma immediately evokes the feeling of being home. That smell is of burning turf, the essential fuel for many Irish homes. However, that iconic fuel is currently a source of controversy and division amongst the people of Ireland.

Turf is actually peat that comes from the many bogs in Ireland. The peat is cut into brick shaped logs called sods. The sods are dried out on the ground and then propped up together, so they look like mini haystacks, this is called footing.

Once the turf sods dry, they become hard and condensed. At that point, the farmer gathers them in a trailer and takes them back to a shed.

The goal is to gather the turf that would be needed to heat the family home through the winter. Many houses in Ireland have a range, fueled by turf, which supplies steam heat throughout the house. But, the real pleasure of turf is in the fireplace. While it burns quicker than coal or wood, it is so quintessentially Irish.

Turf is not exclusive to Ireland; Finland is the largest user of turf for fuel. The choice of turf for fuel in Ireland was one made out of necessity; it is not a country of abundant trees. The practice of cutting turf and using it for fuel is centuries old, and the right to cut turf in a certain area of bog often goes with the land; a parcel of land in the country would come with rights to an area of the local bog. This right is called turbary, the right of an individual to harvest turf for private use. Many of these rights have been in families for decades, if not centuries.

There are three basic types of bog; upland blanket bog, raised bog, and lowland blanket bog. The upland blanket bog is found around mountains and is more common where the rainfall is greatest, mainly

in the West. Raised bogs form in shallow lake beds and are found more in the Midlands. The lowland blanket bog is formed in the rich, rainy lowlands of the West.

A bog is not a stagnant thing,

densified sods, called briquettes.

So, why the turf wars? In three words, the European Economic Union. The EEC have a Commission that is involved with habitat preservation. That commission has made several

bothered to get back to me. At 6 this evening I will bag my turf. We will take no more of this bullying. Try bully those who will be in Cloonchambers bog this evening from 6 and see how far they get. Time to

cost of heating their homes without their turf. It is also felt that there is a lack of understanding on the part of Europe regarding the Irish way of life.

The conservationists counter that the bogs are rare and endangered habitats. Once these bogs are gone and destroyed, there will be no getting them back. Further muddying the waters is that the commercial harvesting by Bord na Mona seems to be carrying on unabated. The areas that they work look like they have been strip-mined.

This is a tough situation. Ireland, like much of Europe, seems to be feeling an identity crisis of sorts, are they individual countries or just part of Europe? While Ireland should not be a retro tourist village, it is also a shame to see the vestiges of the Irish way of life dismantled bit-by-bit. Irish culture is something worth preserving too.

Sources/links: www.irelandforvisitors.com/articles/winning_the_turf.htm

www.rte.ie

news/2011/043/299831-turf/www.irishexaminer.com/ireland/farmers-protest-with-illegal-turf-cut-240982.html

www.thurlesinfo/2012/03/18/turf-cutting-in-a-fast-changing-environment/www.ipcc.ie/a-toz-peatlands/blanket-bogs/



they grow and spread, filled with unique plants, habitats, and watery pits called bog holes. Bogs have been known to bury stone walls and houses in their path. You hear stories of people finding anything and everything in a bog; from ancient Tara brooches, antique butter still intact, to human remains almost perfectly preserved.

Historically, turf was cut by hand with a kind of modified sharp hoe, called a slane. This was hard work and like many rural tasks, neighbors and families all helped each other. It was part of the farming calendar, like saving hay and making silage.

Tractor-like machines have replaced the slane and decreased the arduous cutting of days gone by. You can still see people out with the slane, especially in areas like Connemara. Summer is the time when these jobs are done, since that is the time when the Irish rain occasionally takes a vacation. In addition to the private turf cutters, there is also a government company that harvests turf commercially, Bord Na Mona. Bord Na Mona peat supplies one sixth of Irish electricity and also sells prepared, con-

ditioned sods, called briquettes. So, why the turf wars? In three words, the European Economic Union. The EEC have a Commission that is involved with habitat preservation. That commission has made several

rulings in the last few years, but the one that had really pushed urgent preservation action, enforced with fines, came in 2011. They first set out to protect the rarer raised bogs, but have moved forward calling many of these areas endangered habitats. The Irish internal arguments are often between the conservationist "Greens", primarily city dwellers, against the rural farming community, who see nothing wrong with using the bog as it always has been used. This fight has escalated to the point where the normally laid-back Irish farmers are protesting by cutting "illegal turf", daring the local police, the Gardai, to arrest them. The comment and photo below were taken from the Facebook page of Roscommon TD and European council representative, Luke "Ming" Flanagan:

"Please share Far and wide. On Wednesday Gardai threatened elderly turf cutters on my bog in Cloonchambers near Castlerea. The Garda Sergeant in question told them they were criminals. The same Sergeant visited my bog back in May and threatened others. Yet when I reported to his Garda barracks that I had cut my turf he never

put up or shut. Time for an end to this tyranny. Please share."

The rhetoric is undeniably angry and provocative. For the rural people, this is economic as well as a quality of life issue. The EEC has offered compensation of a thousand euros to those who have opted to stop using their turbary rights, but many will tell you that this amount is about a third of the




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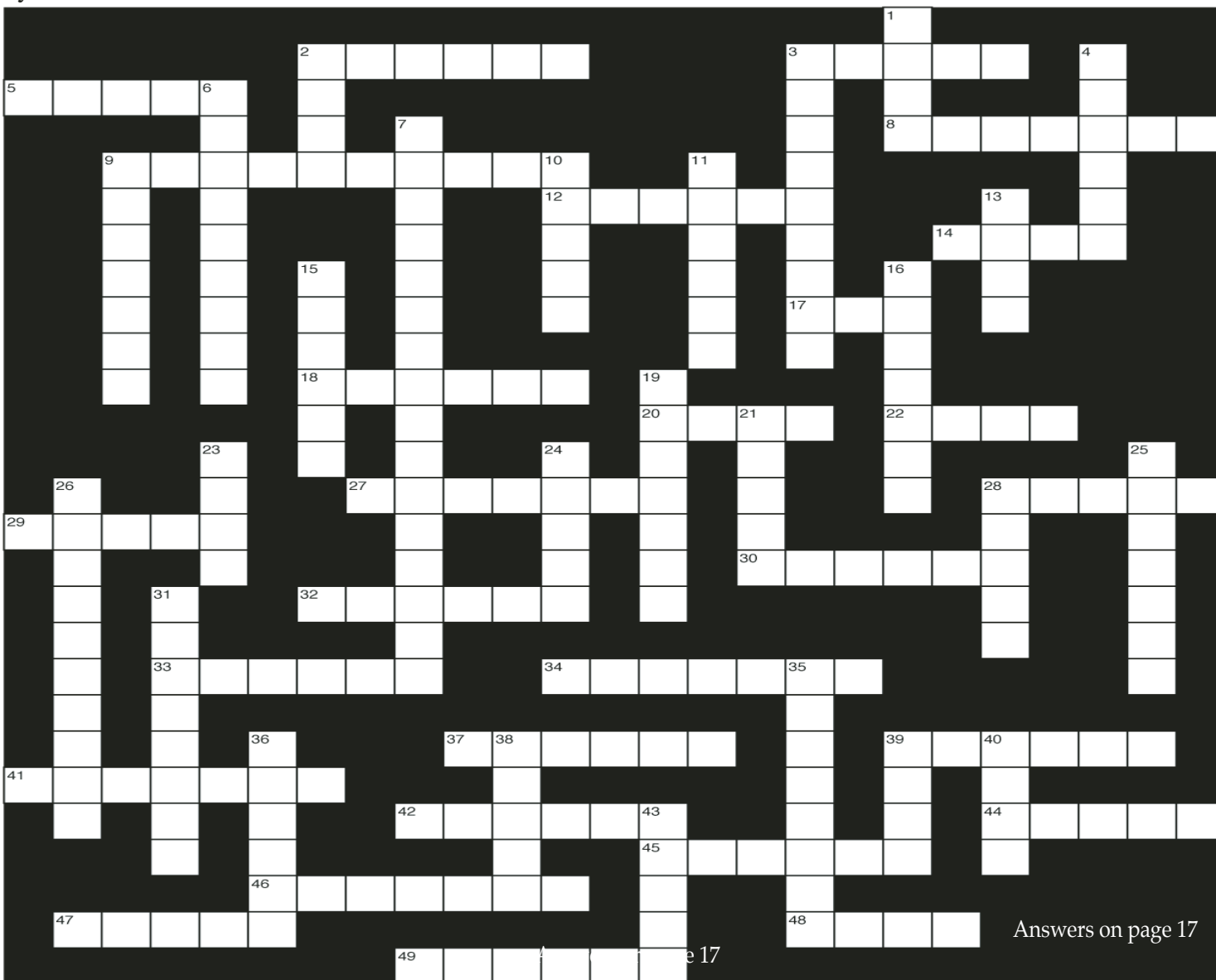
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Things to Do and See in in the Midlands

By Linda Burke



Answers on page 17

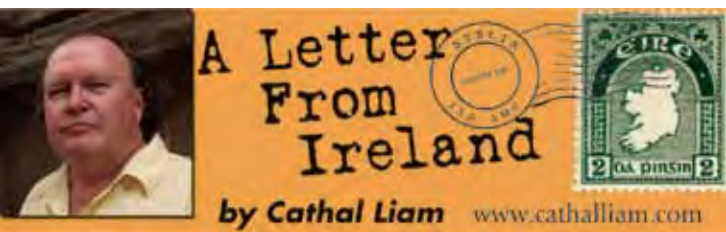
ACROSS
2 For an insight into the town's Quaker and industrial heritage, visit Mountmellick _____, where you can also see a display of superb embroidery.
3 15th-century Multyfarnham Franciscan Friary's remains are hidden inside a 19th-century church. Outside are unusual Stations of the _____ near Crookedwood
5 Banagher's J.J. Hough's is a 250-year-old vine-clad pub renowned for its _____ sessions
8 St George's Heritage Centre in Carrick-on-Shannon in a restored church, looks at the history and landscape of _____ from old Gaelic traditions through to Plantation times.
9 The Electric Picnic, an alternative music festival, is held in August on the grounds of _____ Hall in Co. Laois.

12 Birr's Leap Castle is reputedly one of the most haunted castles in _____.
14 Near the shores of Lough Lene, the Fore Valley, where 7 wonders occurred, is a superb place to explore by bicycle or on ____
17 La Téne Stone, a rare Iron _____ spiral-inscribed stone can be seen on private land in Castle strange near Roscommon Town.
18 Lough Borra has over 50km of _____ across the area with birdwatching, rare flora, a mesolithic site and a series of impressive environmental sculptures to explore.
20 The life of the first president of Ireland and co-founder of the Gaelic League, is celebrated at the Douglas _____ Interpretive Centre in Frenchpark, Co. Roscommon.
22 Corlea Trackway , an

_____ Age bog road that was built in 148 BC, near Longford Town offers tours of the bog.
27 Roscommon Castle, built in 1269 by _____, stands alone in a field to the north of town.
28 _____ on Lough Ennell, go gorge walking and orienteering from the Lilliput Adventure Centre near Mullingar.
29 The 110-seater boat Moon _____ runs one-hour cruises on the Shannon from Carrick-on-Shannon
30 Carrick-on-Shannon's Leitrim _____ House features the work of local artists, designers and craftspeople.
32 Abbey Sensory Gardens is sensory playground set in the walled gardens of a 19th-century Brigidine convent with vibrant blooms, wind _____, humming stone and _____ fragrant plants.

33 Haunted Charleville _____ was the family seat of the Burys, who commissioned the design in 1798 from Francis Johnston , is located near Tullamore.
34 The 12 hectares of Tullyally Castle Gardens have Ornamental lakes, a _____ and a Tibetan garden in Castlepollard.
37 Anderson's _____ Pub , dates from 1734, is worth a trip for its live music sessions in Carrick-on-Shannon
39 The 16th-century Clonony Castle where Anne Boleyn's cousins Elizabeth and Mary are _____ is enclosed by an overgrown castellated wall.
41 Athlone's Shannon Safari offers private hour-long powerboat _____ year-round..
42 Drumanone Dolmen is one of the largest _____ dolmens in Ireland, measures

4.5m by 3.3m and was constructed before 2000 BC.
44 Tour the unusual, green-domed Emo _____, designed in 1790 by James Gandon architect of Dublin's Custom House in Co. Laois.
45 Athlone's Sean's Bar dates way back to AD 900, and stakes its claim as Ireland's _____ pub.
46 Stradbally Steam Museum is a haven for steam enthusiasts, with a collection of lovingly restored fire _____, steam tractors and steamrollers.
47 Gracing the _____ Boyle is the finely preserved (and reputedly haunted) Boyle Abbey, founded in 1161.
48 Dún na Sí Heritage Centre is a folk park near Moate, with a recreated ring fort, portal dolmen, lime kiln, mass rock, farmhouse and forge. It hosts ceilis, _____ sessions, and storytellers..
49 Strokestown Park House & _____ Museum in County Roscommon lovely house has its original contents, a very eerie famine museum, and a beautiful walled garden.
DOWN
1 Ireland's first and last _____ mine (1600s to 1990) story is told at the Arigna Mining Experience, set in the hills above Lough Allen.
2 Cleanse the _____ and spirit and get back to basics at Ard Nahoo, a rustic eco-retreat in North Leitrim.
3 _____ of Christ the King has large mosaics by Russian artist Boris Anrep, as well as a small ecclesiastical museum in Mullingar.
4 Lough Key _____ Park has long been popular for its picturesque ruins near Boyle.
6 Clonmacnoise is an Early _____ site founded by St. Ciarán in the mid-6th century on the bank of the River Shannon in Co. Offaly
7 Cruisers has boats for hire along the Grand _____ and River Barrow from Vicarstown, Co. Laois.
9 Visit the Athlone Castle built in 1210 by the Normans on the _____ River.
10 Cloghan Castle , in use for nearly 800 _____, is near Banagher in Co. Offaly.
11 Over the May Day Bank Holiday weekend, Strokestown



Glued to the telly, watching the action, World Cup excitement has many caught in its grip. It's compelling viewing, emotionally draining, nerve ranking at times and to think, we don't even have a dog in the fight, so to speak. Packed out pubs can't pour pints fast enough to accommodate their thirsty trade. Banners fly and streets are festooned with flags and streamers. The big screen is in its heyday while soccer paraphernalia sales are through the roof.

Yes, as you well know, Ireland didn't make it into the round of thirty-two, but the United States did. Besides hanging the hopes of a nation on the play of Clint Dempsey and his teammates, it's hard not to like the honesty and freshness of Jurgen Klinsmann, America's newest transplanted coach. Good luck lads...we'll be watching and cheering for you in the knockout rounds.

Back home there's another fever beginning to build. Like the rumble of a distant freight train, the sound slowly grows despite attempts by some to ignore it. Too political...its old hat...not relevant now...boring...what does it have to do with me? These are some of reactions offered in casual conversation when the subject of the centenary of the 1916 Easter Rebellion is mentioned.

As in the recent past [1991, the 75th Anniversary & 1996, the 80th Anniversary], the Irish Government downplayed honouring the Rising participants for fear that doing so would glorify the guerrilla conflict then being waged between Irish republicans and Ulster loyalists, especially in Northern Ireland. Newspapers muted their reporting, not wishing to deify past violence. They paid scant attention to the people and events surrounding Ireland's thrust for independence

in the early twentieth century.

This was in stark contrast to nationalist multimedia reports surrounding the 50th Commemoration in 1966. Back then, the men and women who had been demonised for their deeds



in 1916 were honoured and 'saintified' around the country.

Now, once again, with the 1998 signing of the Good Friday Peace Accord and almost two decades of uneasy calm in the North, Ireland, despite its naysayers, is preparing to pay tribute to those who opened the floodgates of Irish freedom after centuries of British domination.

To date, the Irish Government is spending millions preparing for 2016: buildings, cemeteries and historical sites renovated; exhibitions readied; lectures and symposiums planned; new books published; and the list goes on.

Three volumes that I've recently picked up comprise but a very short list of those new titles detailing the people and/or events surrounding Ireland's watershed encounter. Ray Bateson's Memorials of the Easter Rising [€24.99] is fabulous. It is the only book I know of that painstakingly ferrets out and chronicles every monument, grave or incident framed by '16. Ray's many photographs offer a treasure trove of graphic references, adding to the interested person's understanding of details so often only casually

mentioned in other references.

For the first time Easter Rising 1916: The Trials [\$25.00] by Seán Enright delves into the proceedings and secrecy behind the one-hundred-sixty post-Rebellion trials of Irish rebel prisoners conducted in Dublin during early May, 1916. Fearing the actual courtroom accounts would damage their WWI recruiting efforts in Ireland, the British meticulously denied prisoners their judicial rights while secretly suppressing each closed-door proceeding. It's an astounding accounting.

Finally, I've just finished Paul O'Brien's latest, A Question of Duty: The Curragh Incident 1914 [\$17.99]. This Dublin military historian, who's carefully studied the principal characters, venues and strategies underpinning the events of the Easter Rebellion in earlier works, now examines the defiant clash between high-ranking British military officers

stationed in Ireland and their London overseers during spring 1914. This 'misunderstanding' certainly influenced happenings two years later and might well have changed the course of world history.

On the verge of a multi-national conflict in Europe and a festering civil war in Ulster [Ireland], the British had to walk a tightrope between supporting its army officers, delivering promised Irish Home Rule legislation and pacifying the Ulster Volunteers, an extra-legal military force, threatening civil war. Thinking they'd be ordered into Ulster to enforce the rule of law and protect British interests, a group of top-ranking army officers threatened resignation rather than face-off against fellow anti-Home Rule Protestants and recalcitrant unionists. It's a fascinating account of who will blink first.

In the spirit of O'Brien's other 1916 books which centre on the battles of Mount Street Bridge, the South Dublin Union, the Four Courts, the village of Ashbourne & Dublin's Stephen's Green, the author again describes, in human terms, this intriguing and impassioned do or die conflict.

bursts into life during the International ____ Festival.

13 St Munna's is a 15th-century church with a barrel-vaulted ____, a crenellated battlements, and a weathered sheila-na-gig near Crookedwood.

15 19th-century former courthouse, the Docks Arts ____ hosts performances, exhibitions and workshops in Carrick-on-Shannon.

16 Cruachan Aí Visitor Centre in Tusk has 60 ancient national monuments. It is the most important ____ royal site in Europe.

19 The Tullamore Dew Heritage Centre, located in a 19th-century canalside warehouse, mixes intriguing local history with ____ propaganda.

21 Roscommon County Museum contains an inscribed 9th-century slab from St Coman's monastery, a superb medieval sheila-na-gig, and an unusual Star of ____ window.

23 Tour ____ Castle Demesne, a 1620 castle in Co. Offaly, view a telescope that was the largest in the world for 75 years and the world's tallest box hedges.

24 Get your wagers in at the Kilbeggan ____

25 At the Mullingar Pewter Visitor Centre, you can tour the ____ floor and see artisans turning the matt-grey metal into goblets, tankards, candle sticks and objects d'art.

Speaking of '16, I found it interesting that others in high places also share my opinion about excluding British royalty from proposed centenary events. [See my comments in April, May & June 2014 OhioIAN letters.] The latest to voice his displeasure at any such invitation is Dublin's [politically independent] Lord Mayor, Christy Burke. He's appealed to the Irish Government NOT to invite any British royalty to the upcoming 2016 Commemoration. In fact, he plans to introduce a motion at a forthcoming Dublin City Council meeting blocking their attendance. His action will call upon the Taoiseach's office to exclude members of the royal family from any "strategic positions" at the March 2016 ceremonies. To clarify his position, the Lord

26 Whiskey buffs and industrial technology enthusiasts will get a kick out of the Kilbeggan ____ Experience.

28 King House Interpretive Centre has sinister-looking dummies from various eras that tell the turbulent history of the Connaught ____, the town of Boyle and the King family.

31 Birr Outdoor ____ Centre offers hill walking, rock climbing and abseiling in the nearby Slieve Blooms, as well as sailing and kayaking on local rivers

35 Costello Chapel Europe's ____ chapel was built in 1877 is located in Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim.

36 Mullingar's Yukon Bar has a resident fortune ____ and regular live (soul, blues, and rock) music.

38 If you fancy some ____ riding, try the Mullingar Equestrian Centre.

39 Sligo's Parke's Castle, with swans drifting by on Lough Gill and neat grass cloaking the old moat, offers 1 1/2 hr. ____ rides.

40 The ____ of Dunamase is an arresting sight: a craggy limestone outcrop rising dramatically out of the flat plains near Portlaoise.

43 Tour Belvedere House, an immense 18th-century hunting ____ set in 65 hectares of gardens overlooking Lough Ennell

Mayor recently said, "It is nothing against the British monarchy, but the primary purpose of this commemoration is to celebrate the 1916 Rising...the centenary belongs to those who gave their lives in 1916."

Finally, as the September Scottish vote to secede from Great Britain gains momentum, Northern Irish Protestant politicians can be heard threatening that if Scotland gains its self-governance, loyal unionist in Northern Ireland may retaliate, fearing Catholic nationalists will demand their independence too, forcing a defacto united Ireland. One UUP follower even went so far as to say that the Scottish National Party was more a threat to the union than the IRA violence ever was...Hmm!!!!

Éireann go Brách, Cathal

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by Terry Kenneally
A TOP Shelf Selection



into six sections, jumping back and forth between the present (2012) and the past (1992). Finnerty's plotting is intricate. As the strands of the plot converge, the book becomes a story of a teenage daughter's

rejection of her mother, the choice her mother made and the consequences of that choice as it affects both mother and daughter.

The Last Goodbye is a heart-rendering story for mothers and daughters everywhere. It is an addictive and hugely emotional story, which this writer thoroughly enjoyed. I rate it a TOP SHELF read.

**Terrence J. Kenneally is an attorney

and owner of Terrence J. Kenneally & Associates Co. in Rocky River, Ohio. His practice consists of defending insured's and insurance companies throughout the State of Ohio. He has a Masters Degree in Irish Studies from John Carroll University and will establish an Irish Studies program at Holy Name High School in September 2014.



Caroline Finnerty

The Last Goodbye

By Caroline Finnerty
Ward River Press ISBN 978-1-84223-618-5; 360 pp ; 2014

This book is billed as a page-turner by the publisher and it did not disappoint. Set in London and in the West of Ireland in a fictional town named Ballyrobin, its protagonist is a young thirty-something Irish woman named Kate Flynn. For reasons that at the beginning of the book are unclear, she leaves Ireland following her Leaving Cert examinations. The reader only knows that it had something to do with her mother.

In London, she meets Ben, a teacher, whom she falls in love with and becomes pregnant. At around the same time, she gets a job in a photography gallery where she becomes best friends with a co-worker named Nat.

The story is divided





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By J. Michael Finn



The Flying Irishman

Douglas Corrigan was born in Galveston, Texas on January 22, 1907, the son of a construction engineer and a teacher. Corrigan was named Clyde Corrigan after his father, but legally changed his name to Douglas as an adult. He was of Irish descent. The family moved often, until his parents divorced. Douglas Corrigan settled with his mother, and two siblings in Los Angeles, California. Quitting high school, he went to work in construction.

In October 1925, Corrigan saw people paying to be taken for rides in a Curtis JN-4 "Jenny" biplane near his home. He paid the \$2.50 for his own ride. After that ride he was hooked on flying. A week later, he began flying lessons, spending non-flying time watching and learning from local aircraft mechanics. After twenty lessons, he made his first solo flight on March 25, 1926.

Benjamin Franklin Mahoney and T. Claude Ryan, aircraft manufacturers, operated Ryan Aeronautical Company from the airfield where Corrigan

had learned to fly. They hired him to work at their San Diego factory. Charles Lindbergh commissioned the design and construction of the Spirit of St. Louis from the company shortly after Corrigan was hired. Corrigan was responsible for the wing assembly and the installation of the gas tanks and instrument panel. He recommended increasing the lift of the aircraft by extending the wing of Lindbergh's plane 10 feet longer than any previous design.

After Lindbergh's successful transatlantic flight in 1927, Corrigan decided he would duplicate it and selected Ireland as his objective. He discussed the idea with friends and even mentioned the possibility of flying without permission. In those days you required government approval to make a transatlantic flight. When Ryan Aeronautical moved to St. Louis in October 1928, Corrigan stayed in San Diego.

Corrigan moved from job to job as an aircraft mechanic and instructor, using his employer's planes to develop

his flying skills. He gained his transport pilot's certificate in October 1929. He also made money with barnstorming displays of his stunt flying.

In 1933, Corrigan spent \$310 on a used 1929 Curtiss Robin monoplane and flew it from the East Coast to California, where he again went to work as an aircraft mechanic while he modified the Robin for transatlantic flight.

He installed a new engine, increasing the plane's horsepower from 90 to 165. He also installed extra fuel tanks. Corrigan applied to the Bureau of Air Commerce in 1935, seeking permission to make the transatlantic flight from New York to Ireland. The application was denied. His plane was deemed unsound for a nonstop transatlantic trip.

Over the next two years, Corrigan made repeated modifications and reapplications for certification, but none succeeded. By 1937, after making extensive modifications to his plane, his aircraft was again refused renewal of its license because it was deemed to be too unstable for safe flight.

On July 9, 1938, Corrigan and his modified plane named "Sunshine" flew nonstop from California to Floyd Bennett Field, Brooklyn, New York. The flight plan he filed called for him to make a return nonstop flight to California.

Upon his unannounced arrival at Floyd Bennett Field, Corrigan decided against repairing a gasoline leak that had developed during the flight from California. He wanted to take off that same night, but the manager of the airfield persuaded Corrigan to wait until first light. Corrigan also stated that the manager advised him to take off on the east runway and then circle back over the Atlantic to be headed west.

When he took off on July 17, 1938 at 5:15 in the morning he had 320 gallons of gasoline and 16 gallons of oil, Corrigan headed directly east from the

runway of Floyd Bennett Field and kept on going. Corrigan consistently claimed to have noticed his directional "error" only after flying over the ocean for about 26 hours.

During the flight the cockpit floor was awash with gasoline leaking from the unrepaired tank. He had to use a screw-



driver to punch a hole through the cockpit floor so that the fuel would drain away on the side opposite the hot exhaust pipe, preventing a midair explosion. His provisions on board were just two chocolate bars, two boxes of fig bars, and 25 gallons of water.

Corrigan landed at Baldonnel Aerodrome, County Dublin, on July 18, 1938 after a 28-hour, 13-minute flight. He stepped out of his plane, and exclaimed, "Just got in from New York. Where am I?" After being asked for an explanation, he stated that he flew the wrong way because his World War I compass stuck after entering a cloud bank. His plane had fuel tanks mounted on the front, allowing him to see only out of the sides of the plane. He had no radio.

His landing in Ireland caused a media sensation around the world. The press referred to him as "Wrong-Way" Corrigan. Even before he left Ireland, he had become an instant national celebrity. Did he really fly the wrong way or was it all a ruse to make

the transatlantic flight that he always wanted to make? US aviation officials sent him a 600 word telegram to explain the number of aviation rules he had broken. His punishment was a 14-day suspension of his pilot's license.

After his famous flight, "Wrong Way" and his plane returned to America, aboard a steamer. As the ship entered New York Harbor, whistles started blowing and fireboats shot streams of water into the air. The Mayor's reception committee came on board and welcomed him to New York. At noon the next day he was given a ticker tape parade down Broadway in New York. Later he received the United States Flag Association medal in 1938. Galveston, Texas named an airport after Corrigan. He was also given a ticker tape parade in Chicago. The US was in the midst of the Great Depression and somehow the Irishman's implausible story of his wrong-way flight took the country by storm.

Corrigan wrote his autobiography, *That's My Story*, within months of the flight; it was published on December 15, 1938. He also endorsed "wrong-way" products including a watch that ran backwards. Hollywood reinforced his celebrity status. He helped RKO Studios make and starred in a movie about his flight entitled *The Flying Irishman* in 1939. A high point of his life was when President Franklin Roosevelt assured him that he never doubted his story for a minute.

Corrigan retired from aviation in 1950 and bought an 18-acre orange grove in Santa Ana, California. He lived there with his wife and three sons until his death on December 9, 1995. Throughout his life Corrigan stuck to his story of flying across the Atlantic by mistakenly flying the wrong way.

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



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On This Day in Irish History:

3 August 1916 - Sir Roger Casement is hanged for treason by the British for his part in working with German and Irish nationalists in planning the Dublin Easter Rising of 1916.

9 August 1886 - Death of Sir Samuel Ferguson, poet and antiquary. Because of his interest in Irish mythology and early Irish history, he is seen as a forerunner of William Butler Yeats and other poets of the Celtic Twilight.

12 August 1652 - "Act for the Settling of Ireland", allows for the transplantation to Clare or Connacht of proprietors whose land is confiscated by Cromwell to meet promises to adventurers and soldiers, also known as the "To Hell or Connacht" Act.

17 August 1858 - Birth in Rutland Square, Dublin of Oliver St. John Gogarty, singer, wit, writer, and Olympic Bronze medal-winner (literature, Paris, 1924) for his "Tailteann Ode."

22 August 1922 - Michael Collins (31), commander-in-chief of pro-Treaty government forces, was killed in an ambush at Beal na mBlath, near Macroom, Co. Cork.

25 August 1803 - The British capture Robert Emmet, an Irish nationalist who led an abortive rebellion against British rule. He was tried for treason and executed September, 1803.

27 August 1979 - British Lord Louis Mountbatten and two others are killed by an IRA bomb on his boat in Mullaghmore.

28 August 1897 - John Huston (81), film director, screenwriter, and actor whose last film, released that same year, was an acclaimed adaptation of James Joyce's "The Dead", died.

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Burning River Ramblers 2nd - Hooley House Westlake; 29th Hooley House Brooklyn

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Out of the Mailbag ... Comes Songs & Stories

By John O'Brien, Jr.



Marys Lane, See You Next Time

2014 11 Tracks, 43 minutes

Guests: Brent Hopper, Brian Bigley

Celtic rock – hard to define, hard to resist, much like Marys Lane. "Marys Lane" is a place, way back in the old country, not owned by Mary, at least not any more. The band Marys Lane is rock, and reel, but most of all, the good times roll. Their Cleveland Rock roots are evident, but they are knee deep in the ghosts of Ireland – not maudlin mind you, but in the typical Kitchen Party made so famous by the Irish – everyone comes, everyone joins in, one way or another, and everyone leaves wishing the night would never end.

Their newest release is See You Next Time. Given the prolific playing schedule of Marys Lane, it won't be long, till next time, is tonight. The guys were all musicians, and got together one day at Cleveland Irish Cultural Festival; "Hey,



we should start a band?". One year later, they met again, and realized waiting was no longer an option. They have been full steam ahead ever since, playing festivals and gigs in an ever-widening circle testament to their skill, their fun, and the passionate following their performances and personalities provoke.

Marys Lane is Michael Crowley: Vocals, Guitar; Patrick Mulloy: Vocals, Guitar; Matthew Sofranko:

Bass guitar, vocals; Mark Whalen: drums; Paul Kirk: fiddle.

1. Slowpoke – a tease of an intro, soft and subtle, gives way to the trademark, "Let it Rip" sound of Marys Lane in I got a Letter Today,
2. I Got a Letter Today – We all hear the wisdom – stick to the plan, go to college. Sometimes, it's not enough.
3. Robin Hood of Collinwood (Danny Greene Ballad) – Danny Greene is a local legend, whose story went front page in the bombings that shook the Collinwood neighborhoods as he fought for control of Cleveland's gangster streets circa 1977. Greene challenged the mafia head on, and survived four assassination attempts, brazenly. He gave to the neighborhood, and protected it fiercely. Lyndhurst Police Chief Rick Porello wrote his story, "To Kill the Irishman: The War that Crippled the Mafia" that explained how bombs in Cleveland caused explosions across the US. For the first time in US history, Omerta was violated and the Mafia's code of silence

with a drink in your hand, when will we meet again? Classic merge of country and rock, with a little Americana thrown in to balance it all out.

6. Wrecking Ball with No Clue – One of my favorites, trying to win back the girl, and not knowing how; we're a Wrecking Ball, despite best intentions. Another song that brings to mind a packed dance floor at PJ McIntyre's, arms in the air at Avenue Tap House and a sweaty, pulsing, laughing, loving it, crowd at Cleveland Irish Cultural Festival.

7. The Tangie – Instrumental, The Tangie is a different kind of dance, starts quick and goes quicker, leaving nothing but spent breathes in its wake.

8. See You Next Time – The title track, "... take me to where the beaches are gold and the sheep guard the sea ..." Going Home, the craic and the cousins, this may be Marys Lane most recognized song, full of joy and longing, home like only the Irish treasure it.

9. West Side IA - The West Side Irish American Club is home base for most

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was broken. Convictions across the country became a model and an end. The movie, "Kill the Irishman", starred Ray Stevenson, Christopher Walken, Vincent D'onofrio and Val Kilmer.

4. Picture of Jesus – "This isn't something that one Sunday can fix". Regret, and wondering why, one little mistake, and ripples, why?

5. Sway – the song's melody causes the sway, love of the next meeting,

of the Irish who came to Cleveland; 475,00 of their descendants and new immigrants are now in Greater Cleveland. The WSIA was first at West 65th, then at West 93rd and now, at it's home since 1990, in Olmsted Township on 38 gorgeous acres. "Songs they wrote as they braved the boat" ... Lovers met, wedding receptions, baby showers and baptisms, generations follow

Continued on next page

Mai in the Mick of Time!

By Ryanne Gallagher

Mick McEvilly first heard the moving voice of Mai Hernon, the woman who would eventually become his wife and musical partner, while listening to the radio back in early 2000. At the time, Mai was living in Ireland, and when she first received an email from Mick, requesting a copy of her cd, her



initial thought was, "I'll do that later." Luckily, Mick was a persistent fan, and two months later he sent a follow-up email, outlining in detail the lengths he'd had to go through just to find Mai's email address in the first place (a miracle, really, since Mai was "computer illiterate" at the time), and asking again if she would please send him a cd. Feeling guilty for her neglect, Mai replied to Mick with a hand-written letter, including the story behind the cd

he went so far out of his way to acquire. And thus began a beautiful friendship, which later morphed into a trans-continental relationship, and finally as of last year, a domestic marriage here in the U.S. Now both well-established traditional Irish singing performers working both together and on separate projects, Mick and Mai are becoming quite the musical duo.

Born in the village of Gurteen, south Sligo, Ireland, Mai has been singing and dancing most of her life. She's been a member of the band Dillies, and now along with Celtic Font, her musical project with Mick, she's also a member of the four-woman band, Beeswing. She's released three albums, has toured Ireland, England, Europe, and the U.S., she's an accomplished Banjola player, and currently a teacher of traditional singing, hosting classes, workshops, and one-on-one Skype lessons to those wanting to learn.

Mick, hailing from Cincinnati, learned the guitar and banjo in childhood, and performed folk music with The Brandywine Quartet in college at Marquette University. It was around the time of the Irish Tenors that Mick became interested in Irish music, and he began tuning into Shamrock Radio on the internet, which is where he first heard Mai sing (Mick McEvilly about page, maihernoncelticfont.weebly.com). During that time, he was also finishing up his book, An



Irishman by Now, which can be purchased on Amazon. Now a semi-retired lawyer in Cincinnati, Mick has been a member of the Irish American Theatre Company since 2004 (last year he received an Adjudicator's Award at the Acting Irish International Theatre Festival), he's one-half of the acoustic duet The Wood Pickers, and he and Mai are working to release an album for Celtic Font.

Making their home in Dayton, Kentucky, just across the river from their work in Cincinnati, Mai and Mick recently returned from an East Coast tour for Celtic Font. Of singing traditional Irish music in this day and age, Mai says, "It's the wrong genre to really make a fortune. But the thing is, you get to see places, and you get to meet so many fantastic people." And about performing in the U.S, she adds, "What amazes me here is how passionate the people are about hanging on to their heritage, and the fact that I am a tradi-

tional singer, they love that."

Mai's band, Beeswing, also stars Andi Hearn on fiddle, Jeanne Chardon on tenor banjo, and Margaret Ryland on guitar and flute. Mai contributes the bodhran and dance, and all four women loan their vocals. From their Beeswing press release: "The ladies, although from different musical backgrounds, are each strongly influenced by Irish traditional music and culture. Beeswing keeps the music sweet and simple, spirited and hearty, while always respecting its origins and traditions."

Moving forward in the near future, Mai is working to promote Beeswing, she and Mick are working on their Celtic Font album, and they have various trips planned for Mai to perform and continue teaching traditional Irish music.

Information about Mai and Mick, Celtic Font, and Beeswing, can be found at maihernonirishsinger.weebly.com. Check their site for tour dates and shows!

Marys Lane

Continued from previous page

and home across the ocean becomes a two way street. West Side IA captures the essence of the 1st Generation.

10. Pretty Little Song – "I wonder when I'll get my piece of the pie..." A little love, a little longing and waiting, anticipation, for you, with head held high. It's a proud song, a bit of defiance, but not without hope.

11. Sweet Mary – A bit more bittersweet "do you remember the first time I asked you to dance, tho I didn't have a chance ... Take me back....". We all wish we could fix the big wrong, have another chance for the missed "one". It's harder when they are still in sight. We can't go back, we can't stop wishing we could.

See You Next Time is a fun, rollicking ballad from start to finish. It is Irish life, with musical interludes, emigration, the auld sod, making your way to a better world, and the hills you have to climb to get to, where ever you are. The typical Irish American Story, sung well, played well, and with an unmistakable life loving style that is so typical of our story, with the style that is all Marys Lane. See You Next Time is a Top Shelf Selection. <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Marys-Lane/www.maryslane.com>

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