

AUGUST 2016  
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## The Blasket Islands

The Blasket Islands are a group of islands approximately 3 miles off the southwest coast of the Dingle Peninsula in County Kerry. The islands in the group are:

The Great Blasket Island (An Blascaod Mhór – ahn blas-ked vor – Great Blasket),

Beginish (Beiginis – beg-inish – small island),

Inishnabro (Inis na Bró – inish-na-bro – island of the millstone),

Inishvickillane (Inis Mhic Uileáin – inish-vick-il-lane – meaning not clear),

Inishtooskert (Inis Tuaisceart – inish-toos-keart – north island),

Tearaght Island (An Tiaracht – ahn tearacht – western island).

No one knows when the islands became known as the Blaskets. In the 14th and 15th Centuries, the names "brasch," "brascher," and "blaset" are recorded on some Italian maps; in 1589 a variant form of these names, "Blasket Isles," appears for the first time. Irish language scholar Robin Flower has suggested that it originates from the Norse

word "brasker," meaning "a dangerous place."

The Great Blasket Island is the largest of the island

group. We know that Christian monks inhabited the island at a very early time. A recently-discovered document records people living on the island as early as 1597.

The number of people living on the Island has ebbed and flowed over the centuries. There was a population of about 150 living there in 1840, but after the Great Famine that had decreased to 100. The population is said to have reached its peak in 1916, at 176. From then on it was in decline, due to death and immigration to America.

Island life was a constant hardship and struggle. Fishing was their main industry, but that was fraught with peril as the inhabitants fished from a 20ft, 3-man curach called a naomhóg (neevog – little holy one) on the always rough Atlantic.

Some on the island grew crops or raised cattle. Although the mainland was only three miles away it was often unreachable due to gales and storms. Reaching the mainland at Dunquin harbor it was often a five mile walk by road for a priest and a twelve mile walk to reach a doctor.

By the beginning of the 20th century, however, the islanders knew their way of life was coming to an end. Some decided to write down their memories to preserve them, like Peig Sayers (An Old Woman's Reflections), Muiris Ó Súilleabháin (Twenty Years A' Growing), Micheál O'Guiheen (A Pity Youth Does Not Last), and Tomás O'Crohan (The Islandman). And so a remarkable collection of books came from this remote isolated place, written in the pure form of the Irish language that was unique to the Blaskets. The books told of the joys, sorrows and hardships of island life. As Thomás O'Crohan wrote in The Islandman, "I have written minutely of much that we did, for it was my wish that somewhere there should be a memorial of it all, and I have done my best to set down the character of the people about me so that some record of us might live after us, for the like of us will never be again."

In addition, there was a stream of visiting scholars including Robin Flower, Carl Marstrander, George Thomson and Kenneth Jackson who made their way to the island, drawn by the island's pure version of the Irish Language and unique culture.

In the late 1940s, the island was being drained of young people by emigration; life there seemed to go from very bad to worse. In early 1947 a young man on the island died of meningitis because a doctor could not be contacted on the always faulty government provided radio phone. It was some time before he could be buried despite a heroic attempt by three islanders to retrieve a coffin one from the mainland. This event convinced the islanders that something needed to change.

The government had closed the island school and post office. The islanders began writing to Taoiseach Éamon de Valera and other politicians for help. During a visit to the Great Blasket as part of an island tour in July 1947, De Valera was implored by the islanders to get them off the island. There were only about 40 inhabitants at that time.

De Valera has been blamed for the delay in providing any relief to the islanders. It was finally after six years of studies and general procrastination by the government, on November 17, 1953, that the remaining 21 citizens on the Great Blasket were evacuated and resettled in the town of Dunquin on the mainland. Their homes on the island



were abandoned and fell into ruin. Little attempt was made to preserve the life they had known. The resettled islanders were left on their own, "A lot of them just curled up and died after leaving," says a surviving islander. "I don't ever recollect my two grandfathers going to Dingle, which is just 30 or 40 miles away." It was a common sight to see the elderly islanders walking the roads around Dunquin single-file, as they had done on the narrow cliff roads of the Great Blasket.

In the days when the Great Blasket Island was occupied, island people who were leaving Ireland for America would gather their family and take the rough boat ride from the island to Dunquin Harbor. From there the group would walk together to the point where the road crests. There they would say goodbye for the last time. The emigrants would get one last view of their island home before walking down the far side of the hill to the town of Ventry where a train would take them to Cork and on to their new life in America. Their relatives would remain at the top of the hill and watch as their brother, son or daughter passed out of sight then they returned to Dunquin Harbor and dangerous trip back to the island.

Today, the Great Blasket Island remains uninhabited, but visitors can travel (weather permitting) from Dunquin Harbor by ferry to this remote and wildly beautiful place and spend several hours or all day marveling at its natural beauty and the remains of the homes of the islanders who once called the island home. The Blasket Center in Dunquin celebrates the story of the Blasket islanders, keeping alive the unique literary achievements of the island writers and their native language, culture and tradition.

\*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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## Editor's Corner



**John O'Brien, Jr.**

After the Cavs championship parade, the Republican Red met in Cleveland. I am forever grateful for all the money a city that couldn't afford to even fix its roads, has now turned into a vibrant, alive city of gleam AND substance. They were the best of times; they were the worst of times. Driven by 15,000 25ish year olds now living in downtown Cleveland – I have seen firsthand, the rising of the sun.

But Cleveland Irish Cultural Festival, held the same weekend, rocked! It was our 25th year at the Berea Fairgrounds, and 34th overall; memories of festivals past are decoration to the ones we create now. Can't wait for Dublin Irish Fest August 5-7 to continue our love affair with the music, dance, and people, the festivals bring together. I'll be signing the new book all weekend in Author's Tent, and performing from the book on

### The Irish in Action

*Are you running for an elective office?*

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Sunday at 1:30 in the Spoken Word tent. Please come by and share a pepsi with me.

August is often called the dog days of summer. But for me, August is when my summer begins, after Cleveland Irish Fest. I love the heat, but the fest heat is off and I am free! So I pack in as many festivals, camping weekends and live music shows, visiting with as many friends as I can, before the weather dictates different choices. January is such a motivator!

Cleveland is full of opportunity to see the best of so many nationalities, live and with vibrant and moving sound tracks. I know your town is the same: #seekandyeshallfind #LiveMoreLifeBeMoreIrish.

What did you think of Brexit, and the implications for Ireland? I have seen much debate, but the sense of doom is striking. Some calling for another vote; some calling for reunification of Ireland; some calling, amongst Little Boxes, Little Boxes ... simply, to be heard. Ironically, if you gave Ireland back to the Irish, I think they'd still be in the EU. While the sun never sets on the Irish Diaspora, perhaps it is time for it to set on the Empire part of being British.

In case you haven't gotten your Irish on, August and September are filled with options, coast to coast. Festival Focus gives all the highlights within. Its up to you to make the highlights within, you.



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## On This Day in Irish History

by Terrence J. Kenneally

1 August 1915 - Patrick Pearse (1879-1916) gave the graveside oration in Glasnevin Cemetery at the funeral of Fenian Jeremiah O'Donovan Rossa.

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

8 August 1914 - The Endurance, commanded by Sir Ernest Shackleton, set off on its celebrated expedition to the Antarctic.

11 August 1835 - Death of Henry Grattan Guinness, Protestant Christian preacher, evangelist, and author.

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.

14 August 1598 - Battle of the Yellow Ford, in which Irish forces under Hugh O'Neill defeat the Crown in one of the

greatest Gaelic victories of the war.

20 August 1919 - The Irish Republican Army is established by the Dail Eireann.

28 August 1814 - Joseph Sheridan le Fanu, journalist and writer, notably for his influential vampire tale, "Carmilla" (1871), born in Dublin.

29 August 1975 - Death of Eamon De Valera, (92), revolutionary, co-founder of Fianna Fail (1926), Taoiseach (1932-48, 1951-54, and 1957-59) and president of Ireland (1959-73), dies.

31 August 1602 - Death of Red Hugh O'Donnell, who fought in the decisive battle of Yellow Ford. It was suspected that he was poisoned spy James Blake of Galway.

## About Our Cover

*Remember Our Fallen*

Photo by John O'Brien, Jr.



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## Staying for the Mission

By Steve Lennox  
Irish Network USA

When the Vice President of the United States, the Taoiseach, and a former President of Ireland are among your guests at the gala dinner, and it's not the biggest highlight of the conference, you can be confident that you succeeded in putting together a truly memorable agenda.

Set against the backdrop of the centenary of the 1916 Rising, the event that ultimately led to Ireland's independence, and on the occasion of their 40th anniversary Worldwide Conference in Dublin, The Ireland Funds did just that!

While there was no shortage of business networking opportunities, and socializing well into the night, and in some cases early morning, those that gathered from every corner of the globe did so with the intention of forwarding the mission of the Ireland Fund at the forefront of their minds.

At its core, the mission of The Ireland Funds is simple: to support programs of peace and reconciliation, arts and culture, and education and community development throughout the island of Ireland. With over \$500 million raised, and more than 3,000 organizations supported, the success is unquestionable.

With such tremendous accomplishments under their belts, the Ireland Fund would be perfectly entitled to simply celebrate their success. But for the leaders gathered in Dublin, it simply isn't enough.

The foundation that "Global Irish" icons Dan Rooney and Tony O'Reilly laid forty years ago has grown into an iconic monument to philanthropy, poised to continue its outstanding work into the next forty years, and beyond. After playing her own legendary role as Chair, Loretta Brennan Glucksman, a role model to so many, handed the reins over to John Fitzpatrick, a true gentleman who continues to inspire many of us to do even more to help others.

A Rolodex made of up exclusively of the contact information for The Ireland Funds' Boards of Directors would be the envy of anyone who considers networking a sport. Combined with the day-to-day stewardship of a staff whose commitment, integrity, and ability is unmatched, the Ireland Fund is surely on a course to do even more good.

However, as we were reminded regularly over the course of the weekend, it's the donors that really steer the ship. While there are many benefits to getting involved, and giving, to the

Ireland Fund, the real return on the investment we make is the ability to reach out and support a wide range of organizations that are creating meaningful change all throughout Ireland. Whether it's giving unrestricted funds, or through a donor-advised grant, donors that support the Ireland Fund can rest easy with the knowledge that their own hard earned dollars are being put to work appropriately and efficiently. Transparency is at the very core of The Ireland Funds' efforts to lead philanthropic efforts in Ireland and among the "Global Irish" into the future.

In addition to their fundraising efforts and subsequent giving, The Ireland Funds has also taken on the tremendous task of creating a greater awareness of what philanthropy is, and creating a culture where philanthropic efforts are the norm. Giving back, whether it's to community, fraternal or other organizations, is an important part of attaining financial freedom as we progress in our lives and careers, but doing so with a plan in mind makes an even greater impact. When one can match that giving plan to a passion, such as The Ireland Fund has for decades for the "Global Irish" around the world, donors transform into philanthropists.

I have been proud to play a small role in The Ireland Funds as a Young Leader, and look forward to helping to advance the Global Leadership Network which will ultimately develop the next generation of the organization's leadership and help direct its course through the next phase of success.

Having had the chance to meet, and develop meaningful relationships with outstanding organizations such as the Abbey Theatre, Social Entrepreneurs Ireland, and the Little Museum of Dublin, and learning so much about so many more, my only regret is that that I don't have even more to give. I know, however, that as my ability to give becomes greater, and I continue to develop and execute my own philanthropic plan to help build stronger communities, The Ireland Fund will be an important part of that.



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## The Olympics Needs to Find its Soul

Like most sports enthusiasts, my first experience of the Olympics was as a kid and when the Seoul Games arrived in the summer of 1988, they landed like a beacon of fascination and delight upon my seven-year-old sensibilities.

Every school day, I would get up earlier than usual so I could saturate myself with new sporting codes and although I had no previous familiarity with many of them, such was my captivation, it was not long before I could tell my parallel bars from my high bars in gymnastics and my bowmen from my coxswains in rowing.

When you're a kid, it is bewildering to look at the strongest, the fastest, the most athletic people on the planet and it seemed all the more of a privilege as the sporting colosseum would only pass by once every four years.

During those weeks, the Games completely took over and in school, we would compete and race ourselves in a variety of sporting disciplines, as Olympic fever took hold.

And as a kid, it was easy to

believe in heroes.

The event the 1988 Olympics is most remembered for is the final the 100m sprint, which is remembered for all the wrong reasons.

Canadian Ben Johnson won the race on the track but afterwards his gold medal was stripped from him after he was caught with performance enhancing drugs (PEDs). He was and still is the villain of that race but its hero was American Carl Lewis, who was deemed the champion.

At the time, it seemed that sporting justice had prevailed. That the cheater had been exposed and the clean athlete given what he justly warranted.

However, in hindsight, that proved not to have been the case as Carl Lewis, the hero of the '84, '88 and '92 Games was also taking drugs in that final. That most of the other athletes were as well saw that final become infamously known as the 'Dirtiest Race of All Time.'

### PEDs

It certainly didn't prove to be an isolated incident as Linford Christie of England, who had finished third in 1988, won Gold

in the 100m at the Barcelona Olympics in 1992. In 2000, there was American female sprinter Marion Jones who cheated her way to four gold medals at the Sydney Olympics.

I mention Jones because in ESPN's '30 for 30' documentary "Marion Jones: Press Pause," the disgraced sprinter wasn't in the least apologetic about taking banned substances. Instead she admitted that her biggest mistake (wasn't taking drugs to cheat) but that she didn't listen to her lawyers before she lied to federal prosecutors about her performance enhancing drug taking.

We know that PEDs aren't confined to sprinters as athletes have been caught doping all the way up to the 50km walk and there have been cheaters across most Olympic codes from weightlifting to canoeing and from judo to equestrian.

Neither is the problem country specific and although, the Russians are currently bearing the brunt of the blame, after whistles-blowers Yuliya Stepanova and Vitaly Stepanov told of the systemic doping in their country's sports system, it is a universal issue.

Ireland's Michelle Smith wasn't caught red handed, as she took home four swimming medals at the Atlanta Games in '96, it is still a glaring stain of embarrassment on our country's sporting reputation.

It is somewhat noteworthy that her attainments never get mentioned by the national broadcaster when the Olympics comes around and neither does she get credited with any sporting achievement by the television analysts in Ireland. Others countries and other broadcasters have been more forgiving with their own.

### IOC

Undoubtedly, there has been institutional failures to stop or deter athletes from journeying in this deceitful direction. Many of the athletes still believe that cheating pays.

It is still the major issue that has remained unsolved and it is eating away at the fabric of what the Olympics as a sporting establishment always strove to be about.



*Ben Johnson*

There have been strides with the holdover of blood tests to expose cheats retrospectively but in my opinion, it is not enough. Call me a cynic but that two of the three fastest men and two of the three fastest women on the planet in 2012 all came from Jamaica seems sinister to a kid who remembers deeply the final of '88.

The Olympics needs to find its soul and have heroes for people to believe in.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) needs to go further. Three ways they could help clean up the Games include:

- 1.They should ban every athlete who tests positive at any event from competing at every Olympics for life. Those athletes could still find redemption by competing at lesser tournaments but not at the Olympics.

- 2.Additionally, in my opinion, every athlete should be tested every time they compete at an Olympics. It should become the standard.

- 3.Also, if a competitor wins a medal and are found to cheat at any later sporting event, then they should have their medal taken away from them.

Unfortunately, I have very little faith in the IOC.

When you look at some of the decisions they make in the name of the Olympics, it is easy to reason that as an entity, they are more interested in commercial interests rather than adhering to the integrity of sport.

I would argue that professional sports like golf or tennis have no place at the Olympics. The Olympics are a once-in-four-year-event that amateur athletes prepare in four-year cycles to qualify and compete.

For even the most patriotic golfer, the Olympics doesn't hold with winning any of the four majors in 2016 or even the Ryder Cup, the Fed Ex Cup or the Race to Dubai. I would doubt most golfers would prefer a gold medal to the 1.2million paycheck Dustin Johnson received at winning the WGC-Bridgestone Invitational at Firestone last month.

Golf and tennis at the Olympics should be the realm of amateurs only.

That stance however, doesn't fit with the commercial interests of the IOC suits, who make decisions based on advertising dollars rather than on the integrity of sport or the spirit of the Olympics.

That the IOC recently made the decision to allow professional boxers compete for medals with amateur boxers again highlights where their moral compass is pointing.

If it wasn't so serious it would be almost laughable, but not as laughable as the Olympic men's soccer tournament, where it is an Under-23 tournament (this part I don't have a problem with) where each qualifying country then gets to add three overage players for the Games.

This is an obvious example of decision which was made not in the spirit of fair play but rather to attract the television dollars that a Ronaldinho (Brazil) and a Lionel Messi (Argentina) could bring to the tournament respectively since 2008.

The Olympics continues to lose its soul and should heed and tender to its troubles before compounding apathy eventually turns into terminal indifference.

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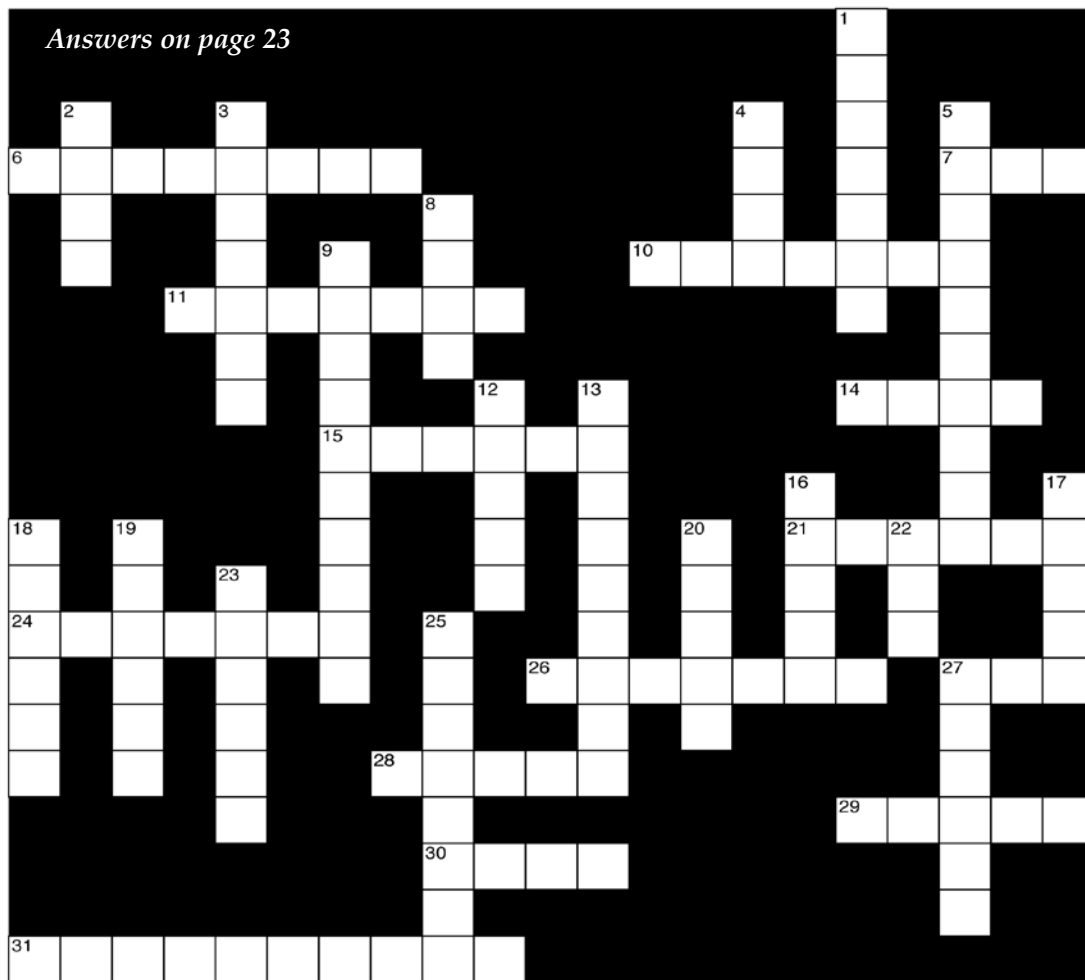
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# This and That Trivia

by Linda Fulton Burke

Answers on page 23



## ACROSS

6 The \_\_\_\_\_ is a nickname for Michael Collins.

7 The prefix Derry means a place of \_\_\_\_\_ trees in Irish place names.

10 It takes 119.5 seconds to pour a \_\_\_\_\_ pint of Guinness.

11 Balbriggan, Co. Dublin, was once the \_\_\_\_\_ capital of the world.

14 \_\_\_\_\_ of the Gaels is more commonly known as St. Brigid.

15 \_\_\_\_\_ Square in Birr, Co. Offaly, marks the centre of Ireland.

21 The suffix beg means \_\_\_\_\_ at the end of Irish place names.

24 \_\_\_\_\_ pipes are Irish bagpipes.

26 Michael \_\_\_\_\_ is the President of Ireland.

27 The prefixes \_\_\_\_\_, Don, and Down mean fort or fortress in Irish place names.

28 The prefix \_\_\_\_\_ means hill in Irish place names.

29 The prefix \_\_\_\_\_ means

town of or place of in Irish town names.

30 \_\_\_\_\_ Kenny was re-elected Taoiseach this year.

31 Irishman, James Hoban designed the \_\_\_\_\_

## DOWN

1 Erin go bragh means Ireland \_\_\_\_\_.

2 The prefix Ard means \_\_\_\_\_ place in Irish town names.

3 Pres. Kennedy's ancestors were from Co. \_\_\_\_\_.

4 There are \_\_\_\_\_ provinces in Ireland.

5 \_\_\_\_\_ is the Emerald Isle of the Caribbean.

8 The suffix \_\_\_\_\_ means either a narrow bay or a narrow crossing point in a river in Irish town names.

9 Lockes, Tyrconnell, and Connemara Irish whiskey are all made in \_\_\_\_\_.

12 The first Governor General of Irish Free State was Timothy Michael \_\_\_\_\_.

13 \_\_\_\_\_'s real name is believed to have been Maewyn Succat

16 The midland Bog of \_\_\_\_\_ is the largest peat bog in the world

17 There are \_\_\_\_\_ seven Celtic Nations.

18 The prefix Kil means \_\_\_\_\_ of in Irish town names.

19 The largest carillon of bells in the British Isles (128 of them) is housed in the spire of St. \_\_\_\_\_'s Cathedral in Cork

20 The prefixes Drum or Drom means \_\_\_\_\_ in Irish town names..

22 prefixes Clon or Cloon mean a dry place in Irish place names.

23 The \_\_\_\_\_ Party is the oldest political party in Ireland.

25 \_\_\_\_\_ registered the Harp as its symbol in 1876.

27 Arthur Guinness signed a 9,000 year lease on the \_\_\_\_\_ property.

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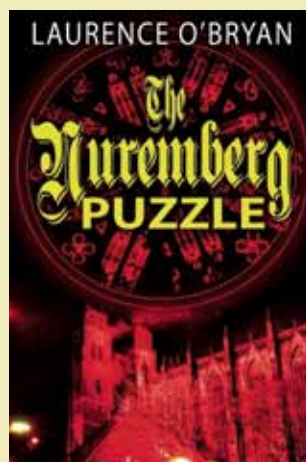
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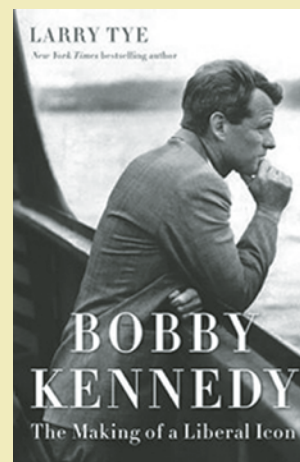
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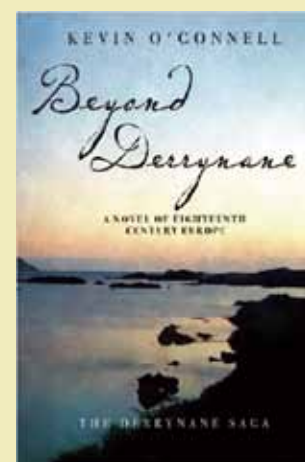
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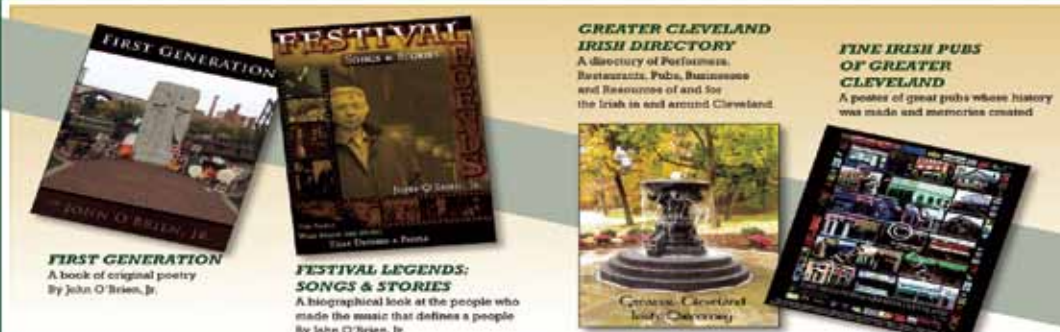
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Events happen. Some of these events are what we call historical and some historical events are celebrated as transformational, kinda like the fireworks the other night in Cleveland. Uncle Michael would always yell, "Take that England!" after each pre-grand finale. Transformational historical events have importance in their creation and in their consumption. This tends to alter the recollection of such events: they are often purified and made more palatable.

Immediately following the Easter Rising, the American press generally interpreted the event with denunciation. The majority of the American public was in favor of neutrality. However, it was clear that American attitude, especially the opinion of those in power, gave the impression of being more pro-British than pro-German, transformational historical event notwithstanding, fireworks or not.

Irish America and some of the organizations that represented it were less neutral; the enemy of my enemy paradigm. It was impossible to send messages directly between Dublin and Berlin. Therefore the Irish Republican Brotherhood, particularly the Military Council, utilized the Clan na Gael as a channel for communication to the German government via its embassy in Washington. According to some accounts, IRB requests for air raids and naval attacks on England and the landing of German troops were sent via the Clan na Gael. This placed leaders of the Clan na Gael in a very privileged and very informed position.

Just days before The Easter Rising, the American government ransacked the private Washington offices of German embassy staff. They seized documents naming Clan na Gael leadership and indicating the time and place of the Irish Rebellion, as well as a shipment of arms from Germany to Ireland. The Clan na Gael had committed no crime due to American neutrality. Questions remain if the Wilson administration remained neutral; and, more importantly, it remained silent.

Perhaps in response to IRB requests, the German army launched air raids on London on Easter Monday and bombarded the English ports. However, the British Navy off the Irish coast intercept-

ed the German arms shipment for the IRB. Clan na Gael leadership attacked the Wilson administration for apparently leaking information collected from the raid on German embassy employees.

Irish America was initially skeptical of the Rising. The Clan na Gael and the closely related Friends of Irish Freedom were not skeptical at all. The FOIF sponsored meetings across America in support of the Irish Rebellion. An estimated 3,500 attended the meeting in Boston at Faneuil Hall, where the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence occurred on July 18th, 1776. "Take that England!"

If the reaction to the Rising was varied, the executions aroused the Irishness of America, in those either Irish by birth or by principle and sympathy. The FOIF opened 106 new branches and named many of them in honor of those who had been executed by the British. This connected the FOIF and its members in America to the tradition of Irish nationalism and its heroes.

The FOIF started petitions and letter writing campaigns to members of Congress. Fundraising activities for the Irish Relief Fund, including picnics, raised over \$100,000 for Irish suffering in the months following Easter Monday. Officials of the Irish Relief Fund were refused entry into Ireland by the British government.

America joined the war on April 6th, 1917. This eliminated any German communication. America at war was a passionate context of heightened suspicion of un-American activities, which included for many non-Allies activity. During WWI, editions from five Irish-American newspapers were banned from the mail by the United States Post Office. Some branches of the FOIF suspended activities during the war. Branches in Irish enclaves of Boston and New York curtailed their undertakings due to the climate in America. The Ancient Order of Hibernians cancelled their national convention.

FOIF and the Clan na Gael fully endorsed the war effort. The FOIF sent a telegram to President Wilson pledging its support. FOIF attempted to combine their American patriotism with a path to Irish freedom. This path was seen

as part of Wilson's view of the America mission to bring freedom and democracy to the submerged nationalities of Europe. Wilson did not necessarily agree.

FOIF collected 500,000 signatures insisting that Ireland should be one of the small nations for whom Wilson stated the US was fighting. This position became increasing untenable for the FOIF, as America struggled with the political attack on its ally.

Irish America was a collection of opinions and not all agreed with the timid and ultra-American approach of the FOIF. The Progressive League was established to voice the continued call for an Irish Republic. The League established an Irish National Bureau in Washington and attempted to bring political pressure on Congress. Members of Congress were polled on the Irish question, many responding with indignation.

The Progressive League championed the drive against British army conscription in Ireland. It also fought against American plans to conscript Irishmen living in the United States. The League worked to register all Irish nationals as citizens of the Irish Republic. Those efforts did not prevent plenty of Irish and Irish American fellows from fighting and dying in the war.

"Those that I fight I do not hate. Those that I guard I do not love." - William Butler Yeats.

In February of 1919, the FOIF hosted the third Irish race convention in Philadelphia. Over five thousand delegates attended as a testament to the prominence of the FOIF in America. They officially embraced the Irish Republic and invited delegates from the Progressive League, who attended the convention. The FOIF were more representative of the collectivity of Irish America and becoming more independent from the Clan na Gael. Their acceptability by Irish American included over 260 clerical delegates at the convention, including 30 Bishops and Archbishops.

Membership in the FOIF following the 1919 convention increased by nearly 70,000 members. The Irish Victory Fund was endorsed in Philadelphia. In six months after the convention the fund contained over 1 million dollars, to be administered by the FOIF.

President Wilson was supplied with the con-

vention's resolution. It signaled a considerable shift in the relationship with the Wilson administration, albeit only domestically and perhaps only publically. Delegates to the Paris Peace Conference, from both the Irish Dail and the American Commission on Irish Independence, failed to get an audience.

More conflict ensued between the FOIF and the Clan na Gael. Mr. McCartan was not pleased either. Eventually Harry Boland was able to secure \$250,000 for efforts in Ireland. All the while his friend, Michael Collins, did not attend a conference nor a convention. He was, however, responsible for a number of initiatives. Collins established two underground newspapers and built an intelligence network. He also created arms smuggling route and a bomb making factory, organized a national loan, and oversaw the creation of this elite hit unit. Collins also concocted a variety of other schemes to free his comrades from English prisons. The Easter Rising was still continuing to be a transformational historical event.

For additional readings please see: "Irish-American Diaspora Nationalism; The Friends of Irish Freedom, 1916-1935" by Michael Doorley; "Rebels; The Irish Rising of 1916" by Peter de Rosa; "Washington's Irish Policy, 1916-1986" by Sean Cronin.





## Doughnuts

The passing of George Voinovich brought back a memory of an incident at the Irish American Club East Side a few years back. The exact year escapes me but I think it was about 2004. I was vice president of the club and Linda Walsh was the president. On St Patrick's Day, we all would start the day at St William's church, marching in with pipes piping and little pom-pom girls and drums and fifes etc, and every one decked out in their finest green.

Linda told me she had some duties downtown to take care of and asked if I could cover things back at the club after mass? She said Senator George and Janet Voinovich might stop by for coffee and donuts and I should be sure to be hospitable to them. I assured her I could handle that.

After mass Kay and I were

heading back to the club as Kay (who was the bookkeeper of the club) reminded me that we had bought 6 dozen donuts. She went on at length, "Every year we buy doughnuts, put out a sign that says DOUGHNUTS .25, but nobody ever pays for them. You make sure if you take

doughnuts and don't pay. "They think this club is made of money. You make sure you pay if you take a doughnut."

"I will, I promise," I said sincerely.

We got back to the club and things were going well. I spotted Senator Voinovich and his wife come in the main door and rushed over to greet them. I introduced myself and brought them in, pointing out some changes we made since the last time they were there. We exchanged pleasantries and I asked if they could use some coffee and doughnuts.

"We would love some," they said enthusiastically. I got two coffees and passed them out and went back for two doughnuts. Just as I was about to hand them the doughnuts, Kay approached from behind the Senator and his wife. She couldn't tell who I was talking to but she sure saw those doughnuts I was handing to these two people.



a doughnut that you pay for it. Are you listening to me? Make sure you are a good example. If they see the vice president take a doughnut without paying than they won't pay either."

"Yes, dear I sighed." She then went on at length about the number of people who take



## Living With Lardie

by Richard Lardie



"DID YOU PAY FOR THOSE DOUGHNUTS?" Well, I thought George was going to spill his entire cup of coffee. I think some coffee came out his nose as he exclaimed "No, but I will." He started fumbling in his pockets for some money.

I started laughing, told him not to worry and then explained the conversation we had in the car about the doughnuts. I assured him that a few doughnuts for he and his wife fit into the budget.

To give equal time to the democrats, I have a great story about Tip O'Neill; Kay and I were at a dinner where Tip was the key note speaker. It was a fund-raiser for democrats, so there was no fixed subject matter for the speeches. Tip started to weave a tale about a guy from

Boston who was at every party wedding, graduation, funeral etc. Everyone knew his name and a little about him but nobody ever remembered inviting him to anything. He was just always there shaking hands and drinking drinks. I don't remember his name but for this story we will call him Murphy. (It was something like that).

Tip talked about when President Kennedy was elected how proud Tip was. He succeeded JFK in the House and considered him a good friend. The day of his inauguration in January 1961, Tip told us how the House would release people by seniority, a few at a time. He was a long way down the list at the time so he knew he would not get a good seat on the dais because of how late he would arrive for the inauguration speech.

When he finally was able to leave, he rushed to the stands and almost all the seats were taken by important dignitaries. He sat up high, far removed from his friend John on this special day. That is when he noticed Murphy. He was in the first row behind Jackie Kennedy. These were tough seats to get. How had "that" guy managed that?

It almost ruined the inauguration for him but he finally put it behind him. Later that night at the inauguration ball, two secret service men came to him and said The President would like to talk to him. He told us how important he felt as he walked across the ballroom floor with the secret service guys flanking him.

I wonder what the president wants to talk to me about he thought. Maybe a big job. It would be the first time he would call his friend "Mr. President" As he approached the table, the President looked at him and asked, "How the hell did Murphy get that seat behind Jackie?"

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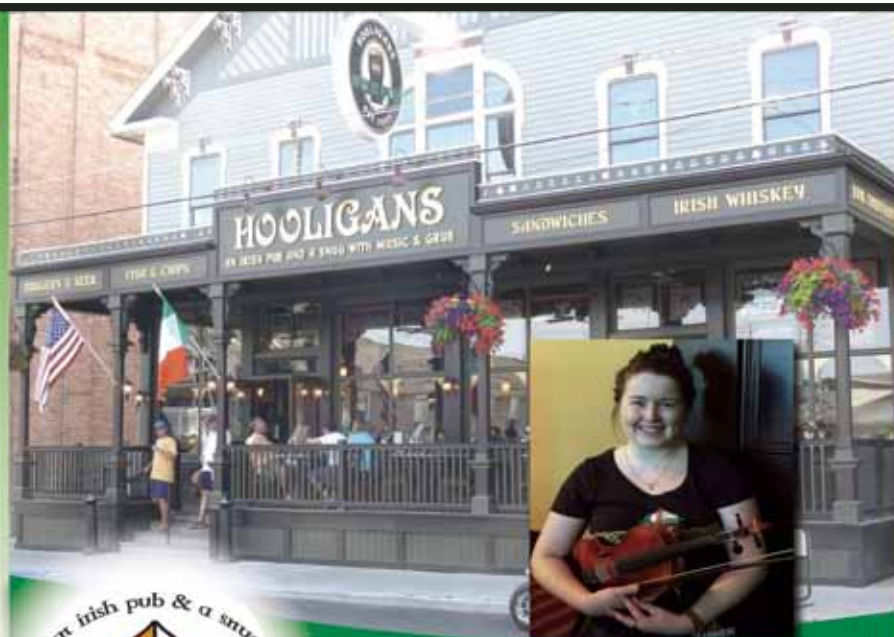
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## Terry From Derry

by Terry Boyle



### The Mercy of Change

We live in exciting times. Politically, the world in turmoil; the thought of traveling anywhere outside of one's comfort zone is scary, and each day brings yet more disturbing news. When Britain decided to leave the European Union by less than 2 percent, the effect was 'shock and awe'.

For those of us who didn't believe they ever would do it, the decision was a painful reminder of how not to underestimate the power of democracy. While the majority of Northern Ireland and Scotland voted to remain, the English had just enough of an edge to make the unthinkable happen. Families were divided, there were calls for another referendum, and Cameron, the British Prime Minister, resigned.

The aftershock of this momentous decision is yet to be felt. Over the next 2 years, as Britain dissolves its European partnership, there will be a general feeling of insecurity, and fear.

The bond that has held European nations together has been seriously challenged by this departure of a key player, and there are calls from other countries to follow the British lead. But there are others, like myself, who believe that this would ultimately do more harm than good. For me, the process of democracy is the fullest expression of political freedom.

Whether we like the decision of the majority or not, we are bound to honour the choice of the many. Having said that, I equally believe that such decisions should not go uncontested. When a majority is swayed by fear and faulty political rhetoric, we need to counter this approach with the facts. For many in England the threat of losing the effectiveness of the National Health Service, the influx of im-

migrants, and loss of control is exaggerated by extremists.

What this referendum showed us was how out of touch politicians are with their constituents. The elected representatives erred in believing that they understood and had the confidence of their electorate, and, subsequently, this assumption was duly turned on its head when it came to Election Day. Now, the border between Northern Ireland and the Republic will become even more pronounced, as the gap between these two entities widens.

The shared connection with the E.U. has gone. The United Kingdom and Northern Ireland will operate outside of Europe, and this will inevitably affect relationships between those in the North and those in the South. How this will play out, only time will tell.

In the midst of European instability, there is the ever-increasing threat to security. The recent bombing in Turkey has continued to breed fear in the hearts of those of us who travel. Now, those perpetrators of violence view us as 'soft targets' that can be brutally disposed in order to make some sort of misguided sacred gesture. The terror produced by such acts is symptomatic of a larger problem that cannot be ignored. This violence comes from somewhere.

It is not unrelated to the international policies of larger constituencies. Countries being targeted may have engaged in mistreating the rights of others, and as a result are reaping what they have sown. Some are experiencing the consequences of their actions. However, while this may explain in part the level of barbarity, it should never excuse it and if we allow ourselves to react in bigoted, prejudicial ways we only throw more fuel on the fire of racial hatred.

When people feel they are not being listened to, they respond in drastic ways.

We have seen in the past how the IRA took their campaign to England bombing London, Warrington and Manchester. This approach was motivated by frustration and desperation. Innocent people were killed, Irish men and women were wrongfully imprisoned, and ultimately this tactic did not achieve anything more than reinforce a political stalemate. A new approach was needed, and that was the impetus for the Good Friday Agreement.

If we react, as Trump would suggest, fire with fire, then we create even more problems. The only way to defuse such aggression is to educate people with the facts. Fear mongers such as Trump, or those who advocate for Britain's departure from Europe, incite and legitimize sectarianism.

We live in a time that requires courage to stand against the knee jerk reaction of Trumpism. Many innocent people die in countries we deem as

enemies, and yet we think them unlucky instead of victims. When it comes to creating a way forward we have to believe that the will of the people, the democratic creed, is the only way that we can ensure lasting peace.

We cannot bring those who feel disempowered to the table by alienating them further. The victims of Orlando, Turkey, Bel-

gium or Omagh deserve to be vindicated by a lasting justice that does not drive us to become the thing we despise.

If we choose to live by the sword, then the means will never justify the end, since the violence will never cease. We need to silence the fear mongers and find those who want to make peace a lasting reality.



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**Don't  
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By Lisa O'Rourke



## The Eloquence of the Farmer

Anyone knowing anything about the Irish knows that they have a gift when it comes to language. Many have speculated exactly how that gift came to them. Surely some of it comes from their native tongue and its nuances. The pundits who believe in that bit of common knowledge point to Swift, Shaw, Wilde, Yeats, Heaney, etc.... as the perfect illustrations of the heights attained by the Irish and their use of language. Poets and authors aside, what always amazes me are the gifts bestowed on the ordinary man.

A recent conversation with a gentleman farmer yielded these nuggets: "If it rode on a hare's back it wouldn't come half-fast enough", and "The hungry eye sees far". The second one is known as a sean fhocal, (shan fukal) meaning "old words", or proverbs as we would call them. Old words aside, there is more poetry and fun in those phrases than the plain speaking person would consider at first glance, the idioms express more than just saying something like "aren't you clever?" There is great stock in Ireland placed on being able to retrieve the apt proverb for any given situation.

There are merits in plain speaking. It avoids tumultuous purple prose and keeps us close to the facts and in turn, hopefully truth. But as virtuous as we think we are, many Irish see us as dull-witted in our discourse. To speak plainly is to lack imagination and thought in your speech.

Plain speaking can also fail to penetrate the veneer of action to get at truth. We as a people, may know many proverbs, but hesitate to use them so as to not seem too old-fashioned. Yet what is wrong with that? There is both charm and wisdom in being old-fashioned.

I heard quite a few sean fhocals on this trip: "It

is the poor tradesman who blames his tools", "Small boats should stay close to shore" and "There is no money to be made in working". These give color and understanding to a story.

If you have read this column with any regularity, I have mentioned that my trips to Ireland always include visits to family and their hometown in Roscommon. That county bears no distinction beyond its very rural nature. Yet many of the seemingly most ordinary farmers from there could entertain for hours with nothing more than their wit. It may be a necessity of the rural enclaves to be able to amuse easily as a type of social Darwinism.

There are several gentleman in that area who would be among my first choices to be stranded on a desert island with - I wouldn't be bored for a long while! A bit of literal truth may be sacrificed in their anecdotes for the sake of the narrative, but who cares?

An evening chat regarding a clever and thrifty neighbor yielded this comment, "Well, if there's flies on her, they are paying rent". About the neighbor who is inclined to both drink too much and too often, it was said, "He'd clear a wake". On the topic of a poor meal it was said, "There was more meat on the tip of the butcher's pen than my plate". Of a dim-witted politician, who will remain nameless, "There's more between the cheeks of my bum than his ears". Surely these assertions have more accuracy and sparkle than any literal statements.

As fond as the Irish are of random swearing, it is not really directed at people the way that it can be here. It is often asked of me as someone who has some knowledge of Irish (Gaeilge) how to say certain swear words. There is, I suppose, an inner adolescent in us all that wants to know the naughty words.

The Irish derive no pleasure that I can see in swearing at someone. It just isn't smart for one thing in a small rural place where you are sure to meet again and probably quickly. And it is perceived again as a bit dull to resort to that. I have heard Irish people howl with laughter at how they have been sworn at on the highways during visits here.



Once the shock wears off, they think that it is pretty funny that we get so hot and bothered driving and that we are so lacking in our ability to express it other than stabs of language. If for example you are considered cheap in Ireland, you aren't called that; it would be said "no one had seen the color of your wallet": a turn of phrase that is both gentler and more pointed all at once.

Language can also jab with the point. I was asked if we would think of moving back to Ireland and I complained that money stops that thought. Colm replied, "It's not your money I want, it's your friendship." So if you hear me borrowing one of these comments, please don't count me as a shabby impersonator. Rather, realize that I am trying to keep the proverbial sword sharp and to bring the depth of expression to a language that is constantly being reduced to tweets and hash tags.

It is not that those can't have an economical phrasing and sense of fun of their own. It is just rare that they have the eloquence to illuminate an idea with the same insightful humor as many of the aforementioned expressions can.

*\*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 Hefernan 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.*

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## The Old Curiosity Shoppe

I marked the first day of summer, by hauling our screen door into Lakewood Hardware for repairs. Much like fireworks on the Fourth of July, my journey seemed to be an annual event. Really, I don't mind this particular errand, as a trip to this store is like walking through a portal into the past. An American Standard toilet sits proudly and unapologetically in the storefront window, while the scent of Scott's fertilizer and sawdust blends seamlessly with the fragrance of old wood floors and nostalgia.

Red, white, and blue pinwheels make for a patriotic bouquet in an old wooden barrel. Hungry customers can purchase mason jars filled with homemade dill pickles and a throwback bottle of Coca-Cola. Bubblegum and Mary Jane's huddle together in vintage candy jars like so many bees in the hive.

A freestanding fan cools down groups of old men and lawn care workers as they linger to discuss the most recent ballgame. Time slows down in Lakewood Hardware, to the point that one can almost remember an era where agreements were sealed with a handshake and receipts were written in pencil.

When I was growing up in Chicago, my grandmother Rose and I would indulge in almost daily walks to our neighborhood department store. Throughout the years, this particular emporium housed everything from caged canaries to jars of pickled pig's feet. Grandma Rose would walk to the store bearing her shopping cart in one hand and my small hand in the other. She would treat me to penny candy and a new dress for my babydoll. This journey was more for ritual than need.

When my family and I traveled to Billings, Missouri each

summer I was delighted to have yet another store to frequent with my mother, Grandma Mim, aunts, and uncles. Here we would make trips to the MFA, or the Farmer's Mercantile. Old timers and classmates of my mother, the prodigal child who left the farm for the big city, would embrace her with familiar greetings, "Why Catherine, bless your heart, its been a might too long since I last seen you!" My mother was always delighted to make their acquaintance, while I stood thoroughly engaged with all the sights, sounds, and smells the MFA offered.

An old vending machine would spit out glass bottles of Dr. Pepper and Orange Crush for a quarter. The produce bins were stacked high with field corn and fresh country tomatoes. My favorite sight was always the farmers wearing manure encrusted work boots and dusty overalls. The store smelled of chewing tobacco, cow feed, and farm. I can still remember walking down the old wooden plank that led from the entrance to the aisles of produce and animal feed.

After our shopping was done, the spicy sweetness of a cold Dr. Pepper eased the heat of the Ozark summer sun. Back then, parents didn't worry about the sugary evils of a soda pop, it was a refreshment: pure, sweet, and simple. In fact, that is what a trip to the local mom and pop shop, locally owned variety store, or farmer's retail is all about, a simple routine and a sweet escape from the monotony of domestic life.

My travels have afforded me the opportunity to explore many a store near and far. I have window shopped on Rodeo Drive and browsed for artisan-crafted goods beneath Montreal's tin ceilings. My purchases include a kitschy tea towel from Bognor Regis, Sussex, England, spaniel themed porcelain salt and pepper shakers from a gift shop along the River Tweed in Scot-

land, and a leather bookmark from Shakespeare's recreated Globe Theater. Each trinket is a fond reminder of an irreplaceable memory.

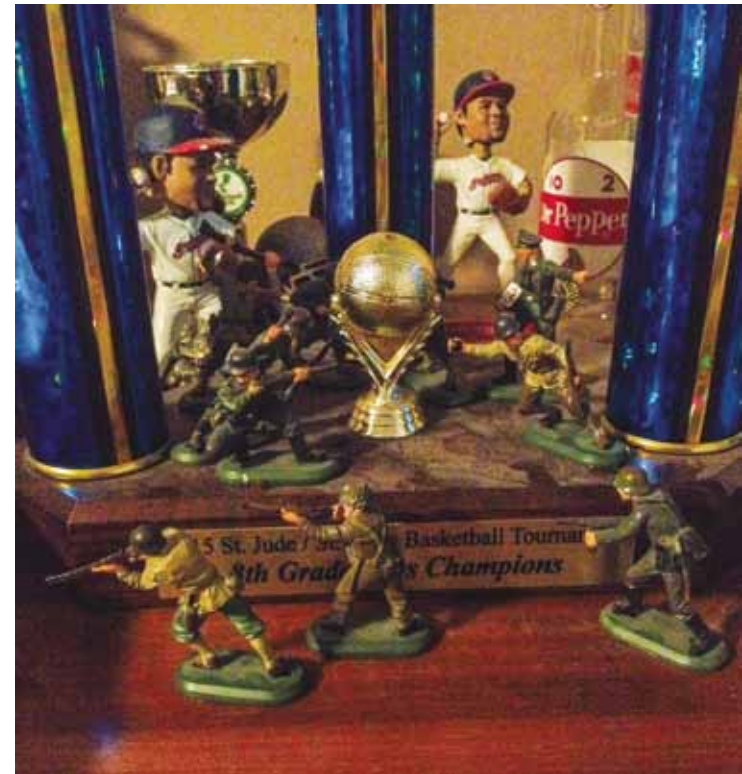
Among my prize finds is an antique plate decorated with Little Nell and her grandfather from Dickens' "The Old Curiosity Shop." More importantly, I purchased this plate during my maiden voyage to Mayfield Village in Sussex, England. My great-grandfather was an ironmonger and his shop, "Napper's" still holds court on the uneven cobbled street. At the time of my visit, it had long since been sold to different proprietors and was converted to a souvenir shop, but they did indeed keep the name "Napper." It was here that I flushed out this treasure.

Oftentimes, interesting shops lie in urban back alleys. One of my favorite shopping adventures involved my oldest son and our trip to Dublin, Ireland. We spent a few nights on the banks of the River Liffey within walking distance of the famed Temple Bar neighborhood. Outside this area, the sites did change a bit. Bars were carefully placed over the windows on basement apartments and the streets did appear more littered with rubbish. Now, the seeker does tend to wander, and at times may become lost, and so, my son and I found ourselves on a most curious street.

While I tried to recapture our bearings, my son abruptly stopped in front of an old storefront. It appeared largely deserted except for an old train set and a maze of elaborately displayed toy soldiers. My son begged to enter and I reluctantly agreed. We were on an adventure of sorts and I was clinging to my positive tourist attitude, even though the store resembled "The Little Shop of Horrors."

Large and brooding, the shopkeeper greeted us through his mouthful of chips and bangars. Clearly, we had interrupted his tea. In fact, his whole demeanor, dark and spare, blended right in with the store. In fact, I would not have been surprised if he kept his mattress beneath the wooden stairs that led to some storage annex.

Undeterred, my son had a



plethora of questions about the army figures: "What battles were they fighting?" "Who made them?" "Sir," did you mold these yourself?" Like the Grinch, the man warmed up to my son's youthful enthusiasm. Michael spent the last of his Irish pounds on a paper sack full of World War II toy soldiers. Six years later, these figurines still grace the top

of my son's dresser, reminding me that though childhood passes as swiftly as a whisper, a trip to the old curiosity shop can often bring back a bit of the past.

\*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](mailto:suemangan@yahoo.com).

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**The Harp**  
3 - Lonesome Stars, 5 - Rachel Brown, 6 - Chris Allen, 10 - Chris & Tom, 12 - Brent Kirby, 13 - Porter Sharks, 17 - Lonesome Stars, 19 - Crawley, Taylor & Custy, 20 - Kristine Jackson, Chris & Tom, 26 - Fior Gael, 27 - Bill Fox, 31 - Lonesome Stars. 4408 Detroit Road, 44113 www.the-harp.com

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Traditional Irish Session 1st Sunday of ea/month, Happy Hour Monday-Friday 4 to 7. 1306 West 65th Street Cleveland 44102 216-281-6500

**Flat Iron Café**  
5th - Snazzy Cats, 12th - Becky Boyd & Groove Train, 19th - Donal O'Shaughnessy, 26th - Kristine Jackson. 1114 Center St. Cleveland 44113-2406 216. 696.6968. www.flatironcafe.com

**Treehouse**  
12th - Hollywood Slim Band 6-9 patio; 14th - Braxton Marbury; 21st - brokENGLISH; 28th - Craic Brothers. 820 College Avenue, Cleveland, 44113 www.treehousecleveland.com

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5th - Derek Davis Duo, 6th - The Swap Meet, 12th - The Bar Flies, 13th - Brent Kirby, 19th & 20th - The New Barleycorn, 26th - Austin "walking" Cane, 27th - Kristine Jackson. 323 East Prospect, Cleveland 44115 216.781.7782 www.flannerys.com

## Cincinnati

**Irish Heritage Center**  
Irish Teas/Library / Genealogy Detective/ all three by appointment. Irish Heritage Center 3905 Eastern Avenue 513.533.0100. irishcenterofcincinnati.com.

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**Shamrock Club Events**  
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**Irish American Club East Side**  
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www.eastsideirish.org

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*Kristine Jackson – 20th @The Harp, 26th @Flat Iron Café, 27th - Treehouse*

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## Cleveland Comhra by Bob Carney

Art by John P. O'Brien

### Bridgid's Cross

Paul Baker, Peggy Goonan-Baker, Richie Reece and Dick Goonan, aka "The Rooster"

OhIAN: This past May was the 20th anniversary of Bridgid's Cross, how did the band form?

Paul: Peggy and I used to be part of a band called The New Barleycorn, Alec and John are still around and doing very well.

Peggy: We were with Alec before The New Barleycorn, we were playing with him when he had Darby O'Tooles in North Olmsted, then we played with Barleycorn for about six months.

Paul: We had different ideas of what we wanted to be.

Peggy: They're more traditional, and we love that, but we came from a different background, playing a lot of country and rock, and thought it would be fun to mix things up and appeal to more people than just Irish music fans.

OhIAN: Why was that important to you?

Peggy: A lot of people who come to these festivals are not necessarily all Irish, sometimes just one person in a couple is, maybe the husband is something else. So we can introduce someone to Irish music, who came because they like the country or rock tunes we do, then when we play a nice traditional piece, hopefully they can enjoy that too!

Paul: We also have more of a party approach when we play, so anyway, that's how it started and over the years it's kind of morphed into this.

OhIAN: You're more of a two piece band these days.

Paul: About six years ago, Richie decided he wanted to get off the road to be with his family. He went with his dad to be part of the family business, The Hoooley House Restaurants. He still joins us occasionally, maybe a half a dozen times a year, so it's very special for us when he can.

OhIAN: You seem to play in Florida quite a bit.

Peggy: Almost six months a year!

Paul: We don't have much use for winter, especially as we get up there in years you know! We're trying to create this thing called the premature snowbird!

OhIAN: You're doing cruises now too,

right?

Paul: Yeah, we just hosted our first one; we've done three Irish Festival cruises and two of Joanie Madden's Cruises, so this past January we hosted

our own. We had planned on it being just Peggy and I, but Richie managed to shake away and join us. It was a nice surprise for everyone to have him on board. It was a lot of partying with two-hundred and fifty of our friends for a week! We're going to do another one in January 2018. It's a little



ambitious for the likes of us to do one every year, it's a lot of work, but also a great time!

OhIAN: Peggy, I can kind of guess how you got into Irish music.

Peggy: My dad! He's the best, a living legend; he should have been an entertainer his entire life! Having raised five kids and working two jobs, he still found time for music and was in a lot of plays. It's really special to have him as a member of the band whenever he can make it. He's an amazing person, and how lucky am I to have my father on stage all these years! Richie came to the music the same as myself, we grew up with it. We've both always loved it, Paulie's a different story.

Paul: I came rather late to the game, I was playing rock and country music for about twenty years, and was taking a break from it. I was doing a two piece with Kevin McCarthy. I knew Alec had Darby O'Tooles back then and his band took nights off, so I asked him if he could use us on those nights. He said yes and liked my playing, and asked me what else I was doing. I said this is it! So he said why don't you come with me and do the Irish stuff? I told him I'd never played it before and he told me he could show me what I needed to know. Peggy was in Ireland at the time with Richie, who was dancing in the World Step Dancing Competition when I joined the band, that's how I came to Irish music.

OhIAN: Was there an instant attraction when you two met?

Peggy: NO! I didn't want to like him! I thought he was taking my place. When I came back from Ireland, I heard rumours there was a new guy in the band, and I was out and he was in. None of this was true however.

Paul: I didn't know any of this at the time!

Peggy: Anyway, that first week, I didn't want to like him, but it was hard not to.

Paul: What's not to like! Come on!

Peggy: He's a very talented guy and charming.

Paul: I think you forgot sexy!

Peggy: Yeah, I forgot sexy, but we had a great time with Barleycorn and were just friends for a long time and then I don't know what happened! What happened Paul?

Paul: I don't think I should answer that

with a tape recorder running!

OhIAN: I think one of the things that comes across in your shows is your relationship.

Peggy: Luckily, we are the best of friends who happen to be able to do what we love with the people we love. Paul's got such a great personality and it's fun to be the side person and let go with some zingers on stage! I think people enjoy that and it helps them to get to know us, as well as our music. Just a regular couple! We're together almost 100% of the time, so even though we're celebrating our 19th anniversary, it's really double that! My dad and Richie have the same sense of humour so it works! It's family, that's what counts and that's what makes it easy!

Slán go Foill!

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## Churchill and Ireland

By Paul Bew  
Oxford University  
Press/ ISBN 978-0-19-  
875521-0/ 2016/ 215pp

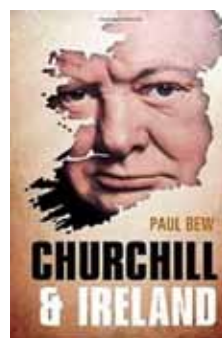
Several years ago the Irish Times published a special section in its paper naming the top ten English historic figures hated by the Irish. Prominent on the list, along with the 'usual suspects' such as Oliver Cromwell and Charles Trevelyan, was Winston Churchill. This month's Off the Shelf book review is the story of Winston Churchill's lifelong engagement with Ireland and the Irish. The author of the book is Paul Bew, a Professor of Irish Politics at Queen's University Belfast, who has written numerous books and articles on Irish political history.

Churchill's engagement with Ireland encompassed many of the historic events of twentieth century Irish history, including the Home Rule crisis of 1912-14, the Ulster crisis of the same period, Ireland's involvement in World War I, the Treaty Settlement of 1922, and Irish neutrality during the second World War.

Churchill's legacy in Ireland



by Terry Kenneally  
A TOP Shelf Selection



is characterized by intense paradox. In the Home Rule crisis of 1912-14, he spoke of the need to 'comfort the soul of Ireland', if this were not done, 'there could be no peace.' He criticized the 'insulting condition of inferiority,' to which as he said, Unionists relegated the Irish members at Westminster. But in 1941 Churchill was in an entirely different, more pro-Unionist place.

In many instances, Churchill's Irish

stances fit rather suspiciously and all too neatly with his contemporary political ambitions. His embrace of home rule after 1906 made him, as a recent Tory convert, much more acceptable to his new party and his colleagues in the Liberal government. The subsequent more unionist tone of his pronouncements including his effective alliance with Michael

Collins, was also compatible with his British political ambitions, including his return to office under the Tories in 1925.

It was perhaps however, Irish neutrality during World War II which infuriated Churchill the most, including De Valera's refusal to allow England to use the treaty port of Berehaven. Despite a British offer of unity for Ireland in return for Irish support in the war against Hitler, de Valera refused to budge on the issue of neutrality. Following the war, in his victory speech, Churchill spoke to the role of Dublin, and declared: "Owing to the actions of Mr. de Valera, so much at variance with the temper and instincts with southern Irishmen, who hastened to the battlefield to prove their ancient valor, the approaches which the southern ports and airfields could so easily have guarded, were closed by the hostile aircraft and U-boats."

This was indeed a deadly moment in our life and had it not been for the loyalty and friendship of Northern Ireland, we should have been forced to come to close quarters with Mr. de Valera or perish from the earth." From *The Roar of the Lion: The Untold Story of Churchill's World War II Speeches*.

The book successfully reassures the ambitious, complex, and, at times, deeply flawed nature of Churchill's engagement with Ireland.

I rate this a TOP SHELF read.

\*Terrence J. Kenneally is a lawyer and president of Terrence J. Kenneally & Associates Co. in Rocky River, Ohio. Mr. Kenneally defends insureds and insurance companies in insurance defense litigation throughout the State of Ohio. He received his Master's Degree from John Carroll University in Irish Studies and teaches Irish History and Literature at Holy Name High School. He is also the President of Holy Name High School for the 2016-17 school year.



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## Around the Midwest GAA: July 2016

by Vincent Mitchell

The season is in full swing throughout the Midwest with each team vying for the top seed in the Divisional Championship. This year's tie-breaker for regular season champion will be Goals For. A top spot finish during the regular season equals an automatic bid into the Divisional Final on Sunday while the other clubs battle it out on the Saturday before.

On June 18, Pittsburgh beat Detroit in the Motor City where it was raining goals. The final was 7-10 to 5-9.

There was a full schedule on June 25th where Detroit travelled to Cleveland. Cleveland held the Wolfe Tones to 0-1 through halftime. The final was Cleveland 3-13 and Detroit 1-5. Columbus GAA got their first official Divisional win in Buffalo with a 7-12 to 2-6 final score. The hurling was close in Akron, where the Celtic Guard beat out the visiting Pittsburgh Pucas by one point, 6-6 to 3-14.

July 9th saw another full day of GAA action. There was a double header at Founder's Field in Pittsburgh. The hurlers opened the day where Akron was victorious over the Pucas by the score of 4-10 to 1-4. The Pittsburgh footballers won their home opener against Cleveland

with a slew of goals again, 7-11 to 1-12. Cincinnati traveled to Buffalo to get their second win of the year (score not confirmed). The Columbus Ladies scratched for the scheduled game against Pittsburgh.

Games to come in August :

- August 6: Cincinnati at Buffalo (Men's Football C)
- August 13: Pittsburgh Blitz (Youth Tournament)
- August 13 & 14: Midwest Divisional Championships

Throughout the Midwest, youth and minor's football is in full swing. Buffalo, Cleve-

### Season Standings:

Junior B Men's Football	Wins	Losses	Goals For
Pittsburgh	2	0	14
Cleveland	1	1	4
Detroit	0	2	5

Junior C Men's Football	Wins	Losses	Goals For
Cincinnati	2	0	~ 4
Columbus	1	0	7
Buffalo	0	3	~3

Junior C Hurling	Wins	Losses	Goals For
Akron	2	0	10
Pittsburgh	0	2	4

land, Detroit, and Pittsburgh continue their city leagues and training sessions leading up to the Cleveland Blitz, Continental Youth Championships (in Chicago), and the Midwest Championship (in August at Pittsburgh).

To get involved or have your kids join in on the fun, you can contact the local GAA club in your area: [www.buffalofenians.com](http://www.buffalofenians.com), [www.clevelandgaa.com](http://www.clevelandgaa.com), Detroit Harps Youth Gaelic Football (Facebook), and

[www.pittsburghgaa.com](http://www.pittsburghgaa.com).

In Cleveland and all of the Midwest Clubs, the youth program is open to boys and girls – no experience required. Sessions in Cleveland are

### JUNIOR B FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP/ TOM O'DONOGHUE CUP WINNER REPRESENTS MIDWEST AT NACB JUNIOR B MEN'S FOOTBALL

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8/13/16	MIDWEST SEMI FINAL TEAM 2 VS TEAM 3		
8/14/16	MIDWEST FINALS TEAM 1 VS WINNER OF TEAM 2VS3		

### MIDWEST JUNIOR C FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP WINNER REPRESENTS MIDWEST AT NACB JUNIOR C MEN'S FOOTBALL

DATE	CINCINNATI	BUFFALO	COLUMBUS
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		

on Sundays from 2-3PM at the West Side Irish American Club. The season has started, but those interested are still welcome to come out and try the sport before committing. Contact

[stpatsyouth-gfc@gmail.com](mailto:stpatsyouth-gfc@gmail.com) for more information.



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Marys Lane, Ladies of Longford, Peel Regional Police Pipe Band, Enter the Haggis, Seven Nations, Whiskey of the Damned, Wild Colonial Bhoys, Bastard Bearded Irishmen, Mossy Moran, Friday Night Ceili, Dance Groups, Pipe Bands, Local groups and More.

Other Weekend Highlights include: Amateur Highland Games, Kids Highland Games, Sheep Herding, Dub Crawl and IGS Energy/Dublin Irish Festival 5K, Irish Dancing and the Columbus Feis, Shop till You Drop, an Traditional Irish Wake, Irish Sports demonstrations, Whiskey Tasting, Dublin Wine Cellar, Sunday Mass, Contests, dancing, Celtic Canines, Brian Boru's Ireland, and of course, a great cup of Irish tea! "Like Ireland, Except Smaller." [www.dublinirish-festival.org](http://www.dublinirish-festival.org)

## 5th Annual Ohio Celtic Fest Aug. 12 - 14



Featuring: Byrnes & Kelly, Next Generation Leahy, Off Kilter and Ciaran Sheehan, New Barleycorn, Brigid's Cross, Mad Macs, No Strangers Here and performances throughout the weekend by Ohio's World Champion, Murphy's School of Irish Dance.

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Classic Park, Home of the Lake County Captains, is located at 35300 Vine Street, Eastlake, OH 44095. Event hours are Friday 5:00 pm - 11:30 pm, Saturday 12 pm - 11:30 pm, and Sunday 12 pm - 8:30 pm; Mass will be celebrated @10:30 am.

[www.ohiocelticfest.com](http://www.ohiocelticfest.com) and on Facebook: Ohio Celtic Festival

## 17th Annual Muskegon Irish Music Festival September 15 - 18

Featuring: Scythian, Altan, Anthony Irvine, JigJam, Tupelo, Aoife Scott, Bonny Men, Ten Strings & Goatskin, Dallahan, Seamus Kennedy, Blackthorn, Moxie Strings, Kennedy's Kitchen and much more.

MIMF is kicking off the festival a day earlier this year by adding a Pub Preview Party on Thursday night. Irish &

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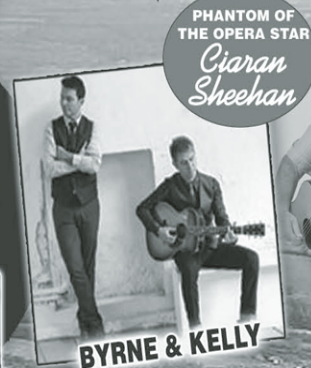


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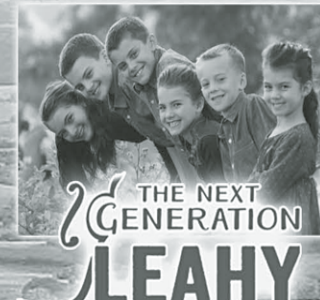
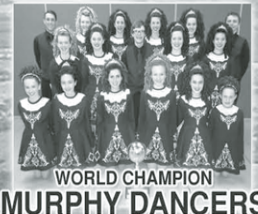
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## 13th Annual Kansas City Irish Fest Sept. 2 - 4

Featuring: The Elders, Gaelic Storm, Solas, Keith Har-kin, High Kings, We Banjo 3, Lary Kirwan, Derek Warfield & The Young Wolfe Tones, The Young Folk, Runa, Ed-die Delaunts, Tupelo, Bob Reeder, Ceili at the Crossroads, Driscoll School of Irish Dance, O'Raida Manning Academy of Irish Dance and many more.

Plus: Cultural displays & interactive workshops, Tourism Ireland's Culture Café, Comedy Stage, shopping, ethnic food, genealogy, Whiskey Tasting, Beer Tasting, Children's Village, Rock Climb-

ing Walls, inflatables, Irish Marketplace, Art in the park, Catholic Mass 9:30 a.m. Sunday, Art in the Park, The Snug, Boulevard beer tastings and Jameson Irish Whiskey tast-

Crown Center Square - Downtown Kansas City: [kcirishfest.com](http://kcirishfest.com)

## 25th Annual Pittsburgh Irish Festival Sept. 9 - 11

Featuring: Skerryvore, Screaming Orphans, Makem and Spain, The Step Crew, Ruaile Buaille, Socks in the Frying Pan, local favorites Corned Beef & Curry, The Wild Geese, Donnie Irish, and more!

PLUS: Workshops and performances, ceili dancing, Irish dogs tent, special Irish



Mass Sunday at 10 am, Irish conversation, Irish musical instrument demos, Irish Extreme Zone, Hedge School, Curragh Racing, Blarney Bingo, Irish Brigade (Civil War re-enactors), and more. Celebrate Gaelic Mass on Sunday. Visit [www.pghirishfest.org](http://www.pghirishfest.org) Facebook.com/PittsburghIrishFestival Twitter: @pittsburghirish Instagram: @pghirishfest for info. Fun for the entire family.

21st Annual Indy Irish Fest September 15 - 18

Featuring: Off Kilter, Led Farmers, Gailfean, Tom Sweeney, Brian Doherty & Kevin Evans, Chance the

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the Easter Rising, Irish American Presidents, the history of Ireland, memorials to the Great Famine, origins of popular Irish songs, Celtic Saints, and Wild Irish Women.

en, sporting events and more. Sunday has a 10:30 a.m. Celtic Mass. For other highlights, sched and more, see: [www.indyirishfest.com](http://www.indyirishfest.com)

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## InnerView

by Bob Carney

### Ireland Past & Present Columnist Niamh O'Sullivan

Niamh O'Sullivan grew up in the Netherlands, on her return home to Ireland she qualified as a lawyer. She worked in Kilmainham Prison for twenty-four years, starting as a volunteer in the Restoration Society and finishing in the Archives. She has written two books on the jail. Now, self-employed, she lives in beautiful Kilkenny and writes Ireland; Past and Present for the Ohio Irish American News.

Oh IAN: Were you born in the Netherlands?

Niamh: My family emigrated to Holland when I was a child. I went to school there and spoke Dutch after being there a year. My brothers and sister and I really loved it, but when my father (from Cleveland Ohio) realized we spoke Dutch more easily than English, he added it to his reasons to come home to Ireland, which we did when I was fifteen. I mentally resisted that move, always translating what anybody said to me into Dutch first before answering them. But of course, given the passage of time, I got over it!

OhIAN: How did your father end up in Ireland?

Niamh: My father was from an Achill Island / Kerry background, and growing up in Cleveland, always wanted to 'go home' to Ireland. After his stint in the Navy in World War Two, he came to Galway to study Irish history at Galway University, met my Mom, and after they married, lived Dun Laoghaire, where I was born. I was always aware of a mix of nationalities as a child, especially when living in Holland. I had a certain ease with languages, studying German, French and Italian afterwards.

OhIAN: Do you speak any Irish?

Niamh: I am keenly aware of my lack of Irish, but honestly – after getting on so well in those other languages it seemed like a barrier too far. One language too many – a shame I feel keenly. But you can only stutter and stammer in that beginner's way through a limited number of languages; at least that is how it was for me. I frequently watch TG4 (Irish language tv station). They have a

pretty decent soap twice a week in Irish, and I smugly thought I was on my way to learning it, reading the subtitles. Then came the week they forgot to upload the subtitles, and I realized how very little I knew.

OhIAN: Where did you study law?

Niamh: I studied law in the Kings Inns School in Dublin, and found it to be another language altogether. Where before any word, in any language, would do – Law had it's strict meanings



and even the position of a comma in a sentence can have the power to totally alter the meaning of that sentence. One of my favorite quotes is Blake's: "To see a world in a grain of sand and heaven in a wild flower."

Beautiful, but not an option in legalese! I resisted probably too much, and when I got an opportunity to work full time in the Archives in Kilmainham Prison, it was not difficult to choose. Free from ultra strict interpretation to the wonderful world of possibilities!

OhIAN: What is it like being a writer living in Ireland?

Niamh: I think that answer is already in place; all of these languages went into a very mixed bag, and together with the discipline of legalese, strongly influenced my writing style. This is such a mix that it does not really matter that I'm an Irish writer in the strictest meaning of the word – having a laptop and being online means that you can physically be anywhere now when you write. But what I love about being able to write for the Oh IAN is the fact that my father is from there. I still have his articles on 1916-1966: an Ohio American writing in Ireland about the commemoration of 1916. Now I have my 1916-2016 articles in the Oh IAN written by his Irish daughter in Ireland. It's like the circle has been completed, and I'm very proud of it!

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The Cleveland Ceili Club promotes the musical traditions of Ireland by providing opportunities for adults to enjoy traditional Irish music and dance.

Set dancing lessons:

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

Wednesdays 7-9 pm, Irish American Club - East Side  
No Ceili dancing lessons for the summer.

Set Dancing workshop at the Cleveland Irish Cultural Festival on Saturday & Sunday.

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



## Ongoing Traditional Irish Sessiúns

*Bring your instruments and play along!*

- Unitarian Universalist Church of Fairlawn, 3300 Morewood Dr. 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays. All skill levels welcome.
- Bardic Circle @The Shamrock Club of Columbus Begin-

ner - friendly, intermediate level Irish session meeting every other Thursdays 8:00 pm - 11:00 pm

• Briquette's - 1st Saturday of the month, 2-4 pm. Ashtabula on the Harbor

• The Harp - 1st Friday of every month, 9pm. 4408 Detroit, Cleveland

• Logan's Irish Pub - 3rd Wednesday of the month, 414 S. Main St., Findlay, 7:30 pm

• Oberlin's Traditional Irish Session - 2nd Monday of the month 7 - 9 Slow Train Café, 55 East College St. Oberlin. Informal all experience welcome: [www.oberlin.net/~irishsession](http://www.oberlin.net/~irishsession)

• Plank Road - Every Thursday 7 - 10. All ages and experience welcome. 16719 Detroit Road, Lakewood, 44107

• Tara Hall - Traditional Irish music w General Guinness Band & Friends 2nd Friday 8:00 - 11:00pm. 274 E. Innis Ave. Columbus, 43207 614.444.5949.

## Traditional Irish Social Dancing:



The Cleveland Ceili Club promotes the musical traditions of Ireland by providing opportunities for adults to enjoy traditional Irish music and dance.

Ceili at the Cuyahoga Valley National Park on August 4th from 8-10:30 pm. Music by the Portersharks

Set dancing lessons, Tuesdays 8-10 pm, St. Clarence Church, North Olmsted / Wednesdays 7-9pm, Irish American Club - East Side. No Ceili dancing lessons for the summer.

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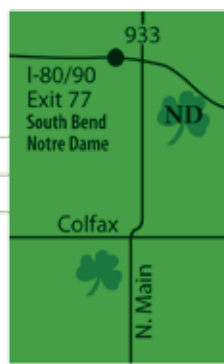
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# SPEAK IRISH

Labhair Gaeilge

By Bob Carney



Learning is a process. John Dewey, the American philosopher and education reformer said "education is not preparation for life, education is life itself". In learning a language, it's important to listen and read, but to learn to speak a language you must speak it. Trying anything new, we are bound to make mistakes, it's part of the learning process. To become adept at anything takes time, patience, perseverance and most of all, a willingness to succeed. Those who are not afraid to make mistakes, the so-called "risk takers" tend to learn languages the fastest. Here are some new phrases to help us as we use our cupla focal.

Tá sé sin go maith (taw shay shin guh mah) that's good  
 Tuigim (tiggum) I understand  
 Ní thuigim (nee higgum) I don't understand  
 Níl a fhios agam (nee liss ah gum) I don't know  
 An bhfuil Gaeilge agat? (un-will gallah gay ah gut) Do you speak Irish?  
 Tá beagáinín Gaeilge agam (taw be ah gawnin gall ah gay ah gum)  
 I speak a little bit of Irish  
 Cuir Gaeilge ar ... dom le do thoil? (cur gallahgay ar ... dum led hull)  
 How do you say...in Irish please  
 Cad is brí le ... ? (cad iss bree la) What does ... mean?  
 Abair arís é, más é do thoil é (ah bar ahreesh ay mosha duh holey)  
 Repeat it please  
 Ná labhair chomh tapa san, más é do thoil é (naw lohwer coe tawpa sahn, mosha duh holey) Speak more slowly please  
 Scríobh é, más é do thoil é (skree vah, mosha duh holey) Write it please  
 Tá an ceart agat (taw ahn kyart ah gut) That's right  
 Foclóir (foe klhor) Dictionary  
 Aistrigh (ah strig) To translate  
 Ba mhaith liom Gaeilge a labhairt (bah vahlum gall ah gay ah lowert)  
 Tá sé sin go maith (taw shay shin guh mah) that's good  
 Tuigim (tiggum) I understand  
 Ní thuigim (nee higgum) I don't understand  
 Níl a fhios agam (nee liss ah gum) I don't know  
 An bhfuil Gaeilge agat? (un-will gallah gay ah gut) Do you speak Irish?  
 Tá beagáinín Gaeilge agam (taw be ah gawnin gall ah gay ah gum)  
 I speak a little bit of Irish  
 Cuir Gaeilge ar ... dom le do thoil? (cur gallahgay ar ... dum led hull)  
 How do you say...in Irish please  
 Cad is brí le ... ? (cad iss bree la) What does ... mean?  
 Abair arís é, más é do thoil é (ah bar ahreesh ay mosha duh holey)  
 Repeat it please  
 Ná labhair chomh tapa san, más é do thoil é (naw lohwer coe tawpa sahn, mosha duh holey) Speak more slowly please  
 Scríobh é, más é do thoil é (skree vah, mosha duh holey) Write it please  
 Tá an ceart agat (taw ahn kyart ah gut) That's right  
 Foclóir (foe klhor) Dictionary  
 Aistrigh (ah strig) To translate  
 Ba mhaith liom Gaeilge a labhairt (bah vahlum gall ah gay ah lowert)  
 I want to speak Irish  
 Is iontach an spraoi é seo (iss uhntach un spree eh shay) This is fun!

A special thanks to everyone at Daltaí na Gaeilge (daltaí . com) who made us feel very welcome at their Satharn na nGael this past June in Philadelphia. This one day Irish language immersion event provides students like ourselves with an opportunity to improve our proficiency in Irish. Language classes, combined with workshops and social gatherings at lunch and dinner along with a party at the end of the day made for a great time. All of us from Speak Irish Cleveland that

made the trip made many new friends. Daithí MacLochlainn and Jerry Sweeney were very generous with their time, recommending learning materials and new ways to have fun while studying Irish. Daithí's teaching method kept us all involved, his love of the language comes across as soon as you meet him.

I would also like to thank John Handy of Irish Language Learners for introducing me to this wonderful organization. Finally, Speak Irish Cleveland's Micki Ansberry for handling all of the travel and hotel accommodations, we are grateful for all of your hard work making our classes successful.

New classes start the first Tuesday in October at P J McIntyre's Irish Pub. Advance registration is required ( John O'Brien, Jr. @Ohio Irish American News jobrien@ianohio.com). The class is open to all levels. Our goal is to have fun while keeping the language and culture alive!

Slán go Foill!

Bob Carney

carneyspeakirish@gmail.com



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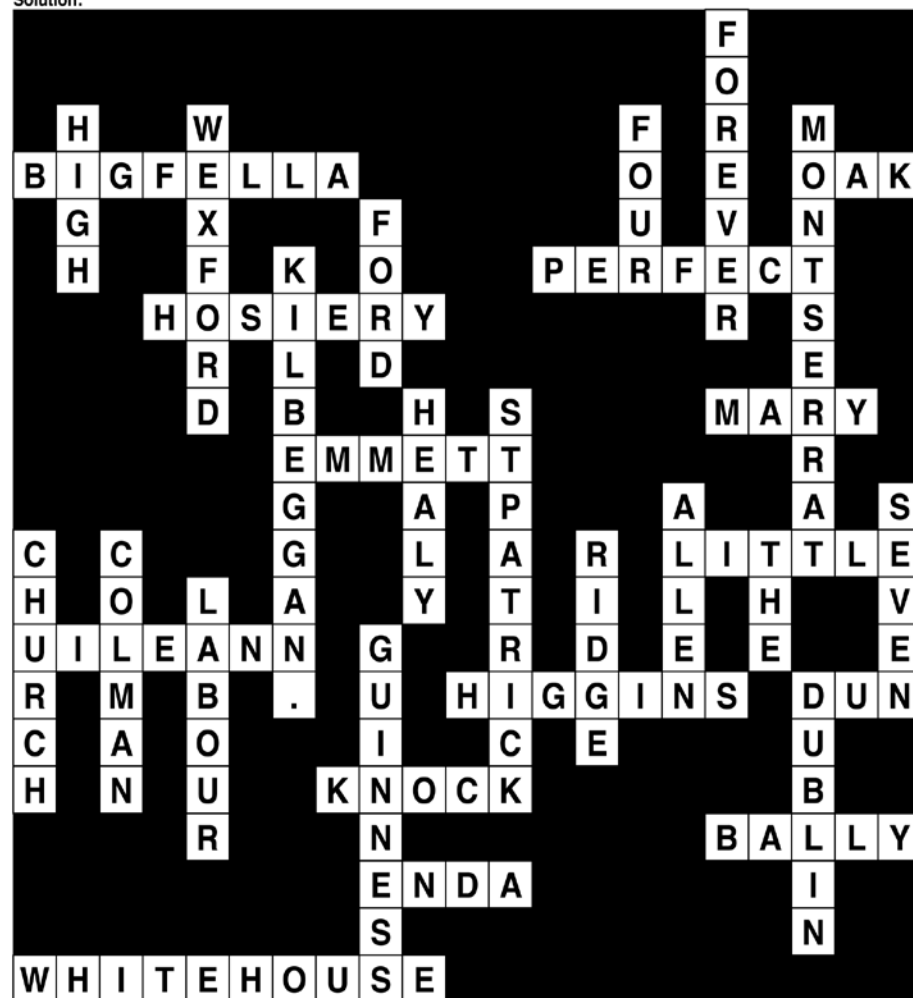
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## This and That Trivia

by Linda Fulton Burke

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## Saturday

10am - 11am: Johnson Brothers Irish Hour WKTL FM 90.7

## Sunday

7am - 9am: Sweeney Astray WCBS FM 89.3 & on wcsb.org

10am - 12pm: Gerry Quinn's Irish Hours WHK AM 1420

w/ Colleen Corrigan Day & Eddie Fitzpatrick

1pm - 3pm: Echoes of Erin WCWA AM 1230 w/ John Connolly

6pm - 7pm: Songs of Britain & Ireland WCPN FM 90.3

w/ Joe Nichols & Kevin McGinty

4pm - 6pm: Beyond the Pale WRUW FM 91.1 w/ Roger Weist

5pm - 6pm: The Hooley Hour WHK AM1420

9pm - 10pm: Hooley Hour WHK AM 1420

w/ Tara Quinn & Josh Vaughan



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15th - 18th: Michigan Irish Music Fest

16th - 18th: Indy Irish Fest

18th - West Side Irish American Club Annual Clambake

24th - West Side Irish American Club Steak Shoot

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