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Editor's Corner



John O'Brien, Jr.

Talk about ending summer with a bang! Cleveland Irish Cultural Festival then the Midwest GAA Championships left me feeling immersed, both in the ancient feeling that being Irish graces upon us all, and in a new feeling of vibrancy and sustainability for the events I love with all my heart. Cleanup is as urgent; I was sorry to have to miss Dublin Irish Fest, but heard it was a blast.

The big bang was festifying and the Fields of Glory, in all its

glory, under stern but legacy's approving eyes. This generation leaves judgments checked at the door, not care about your sex or sexual preference, your race or your religion, your health or your hipness; they all hold the same position in my heart - irrelevant. What is relevant, is what you accomplish - it is the only criteria that matters.

Within, there is a bit of history with Mike Finn's Illuminations: The Battle of Yellow Ford and Anne Waters' 100th Commemoration, a bit of sports with Fields of Glory and the coming Gaelic sports U.S. National Championship, plus David McDonnell's Our Irish Man on the Street's World Cup Preview; a bit of humor and mental health with Dick Lardie's Living with Lardie, Maureen Ginley's Growing up Irish and Sue Mangan's committing to living as a child in Blowin' In'; mental tests in Linda Burke's

Pubs Around Ireland Puzzle and Irish Language Cleveland's monthly Speaking Irish lesson; and mental madness as Festival Focus features 3 big fests to come this month in Pittsburgh, Muskegon and Kansas City - all festivals going and growing strong.

Terry Kenneally's Off the Shelf book review and September Out & About Ohio's music and cultural celebrations are highlighted throughout this issue. I write an Inner View on what it is like to put on a festival and Francis McGarry writes on Irish Immigration to Ohio

Vibrancy is Mecca. Not only is there new energy and direction in the festival and the sports, notice the new strength in the paper? 32 pages is following the consecutive streak started in January of '14, of each issue being or tying a record sized issue for us. Your commitment to the OhIAN, with active support speaking thousand fold over the very much appreciated words alone by advertising with us, has allowed us to grow so significantly in the last 21 months. Thank you; words are not enough, but Thank you.

Slán,
John

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About Our Cover

Dancing like no one is
watching, at Cleveland
Irish Cultural Festival.

Photo by Tom McNerney



Living With Lardie

by Richard Lardie



A Time Before Credit Cards

The title is a bit misleading. I actually had one credit card. A Sohio card for gas stations. Let me start at the beginning of this story.

The year was 1970. Kay and I were living in Tacoma, Washington with two babies; Joey was 20 months old and Kevin was 7 months old. My work had taken me out there and the economy was terrible. I was on straight commissions and had been struggling for the last few months, as more and more people were laid off in my target industry.

To make a long story short (something I am not good at), we had \$9.53 cash to get to the end of the month and it was the 16th of the month. We were feeling a bit stressed, but being the eternal optimist, I suggested we load up the kids, grab some peanut butter and jelly, and then head to the ocean for a picnic on Saturday.

We had been in Tacoma a year without seeing the ocean. I mapped out the route (no GPS then): drive south out of Tacoma, then west and north up to the Hood Canal Bridge, cross the bridge into the national park and on to the ocean. We had a porta-crib in the back seat so the kids traveled as if they were in a play pen. The cars didn't even have seat belts back then.

Off we went. Our money troubles were forgotten for a day. The day was sunny and the kids were in a good mood playing together as we headed north towards the Hood Canal Bridge. "30 miles to the Bridge", the sign said. We were getting excited to get into the national park.

20 miles to Hood Canal Bridge, the kids were starting to fuss; 10 miles Hood Canal Bridge, someone needed changing. There was nowhere to pull off so we decided to push on and pull over when we got across the bridge. 3 miles to the bridge Kevin started

crying; Hunger was setting in. 5 more minutes and then I saw the sign: TOLL \$2 per car, PLUS \$2 per person. What? \$10 to cross the bridge. I had \$9.53.

Kay and I looked at each other and almost cried. That would have made 4 of us crying. I suggested we can turn around, pull into a clearing, feed the kids and change two diapers. We headed back, but we drove for 10 or 12 miles with no clearing. I don't know if the crying kids or the smelly diapers started us arguing but we were beginning to yell at each other.

Those of you reading this probably don't think this could get any worse. You're wrong, hang on to your hat. I told Kay that I would pull onto the next dirt road just so we could feed the kids and change the diapers. I made a hard right on to a dusty one lane road, drove a while looking for an area where another car could get by me, if necessary. I went about a mile but the kids were in tears, so I just stopped on that dirt road.

Kay leaned over the seat and started changing diapers. I grabbed the loaf of bread and the peanut butter and jelly and began making sandwiches on the hood of the car. I passed them in as Kay finished each of the kids. They were dry, eating and happy again.

I was passing Kay's sandwich in when a look came on Kay's face that I figured she had seen Bigfoot. That's when I heard the Whooping and Hollering behind me. I turned around to see a pickup truck with about 8 Indian youths (Utes?) yelling at me to get off the reservation. The Puyallup Indian tribe had just occupied a federal fort and there was a major sit in and confrontation going on at the time.

One of the headlines says it all "Fort Lawton military police clash with Native American and other protesters in the future Discovery Park on March 8, 1970." I



guess I missed the paper that day.

Remember when we said it couldn't get worse? Well I was one mile onto the reservation on a one lane dirt road, with 8 drunk, Indian boys/men wanting to get revenge for us stealing the fishing rights of their tribe. They started yelling at me to get off the reservation. I asked where I could turn around. They started chanting for me to BACK UP, BACK UP, and BACK UP.

I got into the car, settled everyone in, leaned over the seat looking backwards and began backing up the mile I had driven in. Every now and then they would run into my front bumper just to hurry me along. The babies

thought it was funny.

That was the longest mile I have ever driven. Kay's hands were shaking by the time we finally got on the road. The Indians made a U turn on the highway and with a final shake of the fist headed back up the dirt road. We survived. That's as good as it gets.

I needed some gas so we were on the lookout for a station that would accept a Sohio card. A small country store was coming up and it had a single gas pump. I pulled in, when the man came out to pump the gas (no one pumped their own gas back then), he said sure they took Sohio cards. While he was pump-

ing I asked him if there was any chance I could charge a pack of cigarettes on the card also. Then he said something that changed the whole trip. "I don't care if you charge a month's groceries." So we did. The rest of the ride was happy and we had cookies.

Kay and I will be celebrating our 50th anniversary soon. One of the things on our bucket list is crossing the Hood Canal Bridge.



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On This Day in Irish History

1 September 1830 - "The Wild Colonial Boy", Dublin-born John Donohue (aka Jack Duggan) is shot dead in Australia.

9 September 1845 - The arrival of the potato blight is reported in The Dublin Evening Post.

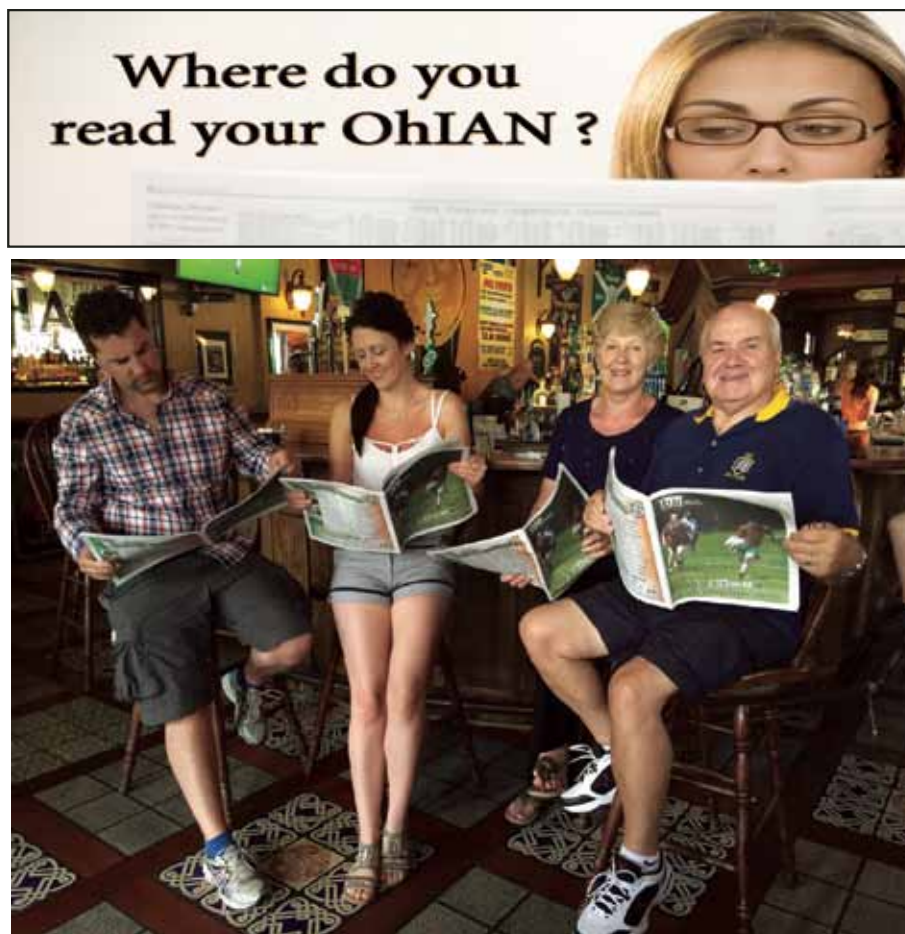
11 September 1649 - The Massacre at Drogheda, in which Cromwell captures the town and slaughters nearly 4,000 people.

12 September 2001 - Families in Limerick take in American tourists grounded since 9/11 at Shannon Airport after all flights in and out of the US are cancelled.

20 September 1911 - Anna Parnell (59), younger sister of Charles Stewart Parnell and co-founder of the Ladies Land League (1881), drowns in Devon, England.

25 September 1960 - Down becomes the first team from Northern Ireland to win the Sam Maguire Cup in Gaelic football, defeating Kerry 2-10 to 0-8.

29 September 1854 - Birth of poet Francis Arthur Fahy, who wrote the song, "Galway Bay".



Brendan O'Neill, Laura McManus, John and Eileen Lackey prepping for The Fest

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GOT IRISH?

Sláinte is táinte! (slawn-cha is tawn-cha)

Health and wealth! Dia daoibh (jee-uh yeev)

Hello all, Last month we learned how to greet someone with the phrase,

Dia duit (jee-uh ghitch) this literally means, God to you.

Irish speakers use this as we use hello in English (béarla)

To respond back to someone, we would say

Dia's Muire duit (jee-uh smwir-uh ghitch) God and Mary to you

I have found and still am discovering, that Irish is a beautiful as well as a spiritual language. It allows us to communicate at a very personal level.

We can continue with...

Conas atá tú?(kun-us uh -taw too) How are you?

Tá mé go máith(taw may guh mah) I am well

Agús tú féin?(ah-gus too fayne) and yourself?

Tá mé go h-iontach! (taw may guh hee-un-tahkh) I am wonderful!

Next month we'll learn to introduce ourselves and bid

farewell in different ways. Slán Go Foill (slawn go fall) Goodbye for now!

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A Golfing World Within Their Grasp

By David McDonnell

If you have any fascination with sports in Ireland you will have heard about the Maguire twins.

Lisa and Leona are two Irish golfing prodigies from Cavan who in 2010, at the age of 15, became the two youngest players to represent Great Britain and Ireland against the United States of America in the Curtis Cup. The Curtis Cup is the women's version of the Walker Cup, and is the most prestigious amateur team event held on alternative sides of the Atlantic Ocean every two years.

It was a remarkable achievement for the then teenagers; however, it was not the first time that the pair had appeared in the Irish national consciousness. Back in 2006, at the age of 11, Lisa Maguire overcame more than 800 worldwide competitors to become the winner of the Under-12 World Golf Championship at Pinehurst in North Carolina. Her twin Leona placed third in the tournament and later that year, the sisters were chosen to bring the Ryder Cup to the presentation ceremony after Europe's victory over the USA at the K Club. There was a tangible sense that these two girls were going to be worth keeping an eye on as their golfing careers developed.

In the intervening years, the Maguire twins haven't disappointed, with both Lisa and Leona racking up a host of amateur domestic and international titles. Currently, Leona is the top ranked amateur women's player in the world.

Last year, after completing secondary school in Ireland, the pair decided to go to an American university to progress their golfing careers and get a third level education. After much deliberation, Lisa and Leona embarked on a four year venture at Duke University in North Carolina.

For Lisa it was a return to the state where she won that world underage title all those years ago: "We went and visited a few places, a lot of different universities. North Carolina is not as industrialized as some of the other places. It is not too dissimilar from home. It definitely took a while to get used to, the weather is a lot warmer and the food is a wee bit different, but it's a nice part of the world at the same



Curtis Cup stars Lisa and Leona Maguire

time. We talked to a lot of the coaches over there and we just thought the weather is always really good, there are good facilities and good coaches, so everything just lined up well to go out there."

Lisa is currently studying psychology. For someone with the aspiration to be a professional golfer in the not too distant future, it seems an ideal major. She has one year of a four year degree completed and has a timetable that allows her and her sister to get the required practice to help fulfill their golfing ambitions, "We have a good schedule. We get to go to our lectures in the morning up until lunch time. In the afternoons, we usually play golf or go off and practice. That was one of the incentives of going to the US. We knew we would get a lot more time to play golf as well as get a bit of study done at the same time. Especially with golf people say it's a mind game more than anything else, so psychology can't do any harm in that respect."

In May, Lisa and Leona came back to Ireland to spend some time at home for the summer break. As an added bonus, it provided the pair with a plethora of European events to partake in.

With their second year at Duke University starting in September, Lisa Maguire is looking forward to be competing stateside once again. Throughout the first semester, most of the golf events are based on the East coast, while after Christmas the events transfer over towards California and Arizona.

"I guess when we come home for the summer there are a lot of tournaments all across Europe that we can play," said Lisa.

"When you are home during the summer you miss the sunshine. You have to get used to playing in the rain all over again. In America the weather to play golf all year around is definitely an upside. But the main focus right now is when we go to Florida on the first week in September. Then we have one event in Georgia and two more in North Carolina. Right now there are a lot of European players in college over in America. We all kind of play the same circuit from September right through to May. We see each other the whole time and it gets very competitive."

Next summer the Curtis Cup will take place at Dun Laoighre golf course in Dublin. It is an event that both girls have earmarked to be involved in, particularly as it takes place on Irish soil. It is perhaps one of the carrots on the horizon from keeping the Cavan pair from turning professional in the interim.

It is a topic that Lisa has come across before and for the moment she remains coy. "That is the question people always ask, 'When are you going to turn professional' and go at it full time? Right now we are over in college in America. We have one year done so we are going back for another year, so we'll see how that goes and then see what the options are. I guess the timing of the Curtis Cup works out well. We will be coming home from America at the end of May and it is on during the first week of June, so it kind of works out well that way. A lot of people in previous years have played the tournament and turned pro the week after. We have played it before and it is a great experience to represent your country. As it is at home, it would definitely be a nice one to play in."

One thing for certain is that the Maguire twins are still well worth keeping an eye on as they make the golfing world their home in the coming months and years.

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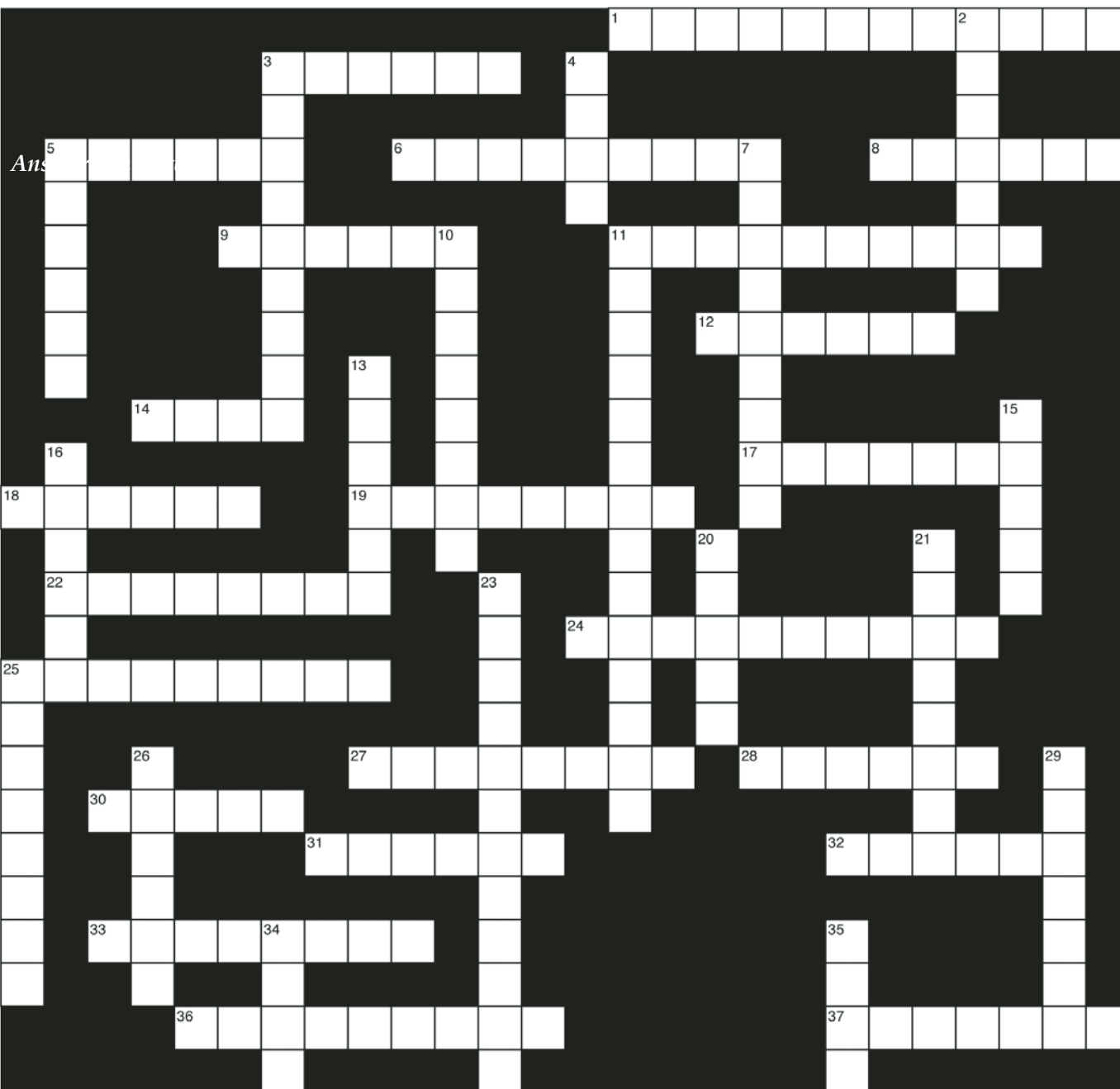
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Immersion

I have never dealt well with departure. As a child, there were two occasions each year to which I looked forward almost feverishly and always seemed to end with great haste: Christmas and our annual family visit to my grandmother Mim's home in Missouri.

There was so much about the farm that I loved: the soft white noses on the newborn Holstein calves, the cats that scampered around my uncle's dairy barn, the beagle pups that frolicked in clovered fields, Mim's orange and black walnut cookies. For me, the farm was an amalgam of all that brought me comfort and escape, escape from the structure of school and the din of Chicago traffic.

At night, fireflies cast their spell with luminescent lights, while cicada-heavy harmonies balanced the deep bass of bullfrogs in forgotten ponds. Mornings were for chatter among the womenfolk in the house, as they bustled around the kitchen preparing fried eggs and sliced tomatoes warm from my aunt's garden.

At lunch time, the children would feast on salted watermelon, pink juice dripping down our already sticky wrists, while my uncles, parched from farm work in the sweltering Ozark sun, would thirstily guzzle glass after glass of iced sweet tea. There was camaraderie and companionship in Mim's house, something I didn't always have in the quiet of my bookshelf-lined room back in Chicago.

At night I would lie awake, half frightened by the ghosts that my younger cousin and I convinced ourselves haunted the rafters in Mim's attic. Tucked beneath a quilt that Mim patched from my mother's Depression-era dresses, my fears were soon assuaged while I listened with ears open and eyes tightly shut against the shadows of the moonlit farmhouse, as the adults would tut and debate, laugh and sigh over heated games of pinochle in Mim's parlor.

When work was to be done on my uncle's farm, my cousins stood at attention by their father's side. Farm work was serious and negligence could result in dangerous outcomes for both the farmer and the animals in his care. A quiet, but commanding presence, when Daddy Pat spoke, you listened. If you did your job well, you were rewarded with a nod from

my uncle, a delighted grin, and a twinkle of appreciation in his pale eyes. While my cousins worked, I tried my best to stay out of the way.

Often, I would find myself sitting on a fallen

log by a moss-covered pond intermittently singing Kansas' "Dust in the Wind" and Don McLean's "American Pie" to myself, as a random calf would stumble over in my direction. Clearly, I was a bit odd, but not a threatening presence, as the barn cats and cows seemed used to my solitary arias.

One night before our intended dawn departure, I hid in a hall closet. According to my juvenile brain, I was as transparent as the apparitions that silently floated about Mim's attic. Surely, my parents would forget about me, and I would be left to live in



Missouri among the calves and dogs, cats and frogs, the fields and ponds. From my hiding place, I could hear my older cousins call for me, and the mixture of sympathy and annoyance in my mother's voice.

For an hour, or perhaps for only a few minutes, I was left, hidden. In those moments, I absorbed the musty smell of old wood and the hint of powder among Mim's best dresses. In this, I found comfort. I had a habit of gathering trinkets of memory to savor when I became overwhelmed in my young life. Like drawing taste from Willy Wonka's Everlasting Gobstoppers, I could immerse myself in the silken feel of the calf's white snout.

I could smell the dew- moist fields of sweet grass during sunrise. I could hear the relaxed ring of my mother's laughter as she helped her mother, my grandmother Mim, in the kitchen. My knack of immersion, of silencing myself so that I might absorb the sights and smells of a treasured moment brought and continues to bring me utter comfort.

For this brief time, I can continue to pull

from my trove of memory; as I immerse myself in moments past, middle-age may continue to creep up on me, but my hair is no longer touched with grey, and my skin is tanned and smooth from play in open fields. My heart, although, is changeless, still filled with awe and bittersweet longing for the peace found only in nature.

At long last, my family found me, curled up in the closet, tear-streaked and near sleep. My oldest cousin clucked "Bless her heart," as she embraced me in a hug of departure. I remember the warmth of her love, the smell of Wrigley's Juicy Fruit Gum, and the sounds of KC and the Sunshine Band singing songs of adolescent hope.

As autumn approaches, winds can be soft and warm, gently coaxing hues of yellow and red from green summer leaves, or they can blow with fierce conviction, pulling the most steadfast foliage from her anchor.

Such days remind me of my last visit to Ireland. Not knowing when I would again feel the pull of the Atlantic tide or the tender caress of the soft breeze on a summer's day in foxglove-strewn meadows, I stood completely still, barely breathing. Like the eternal child that I am, hidden away in an unobtrusive closet, I offered myself to the moment. Absorbing the taste of the salt, and the downy cool of the breeze as it whispered across the fields, my mind and more importantly, my soul was nourished immersed in nutrients for those days when the world and her troubles may become almost too heavy to bear.

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

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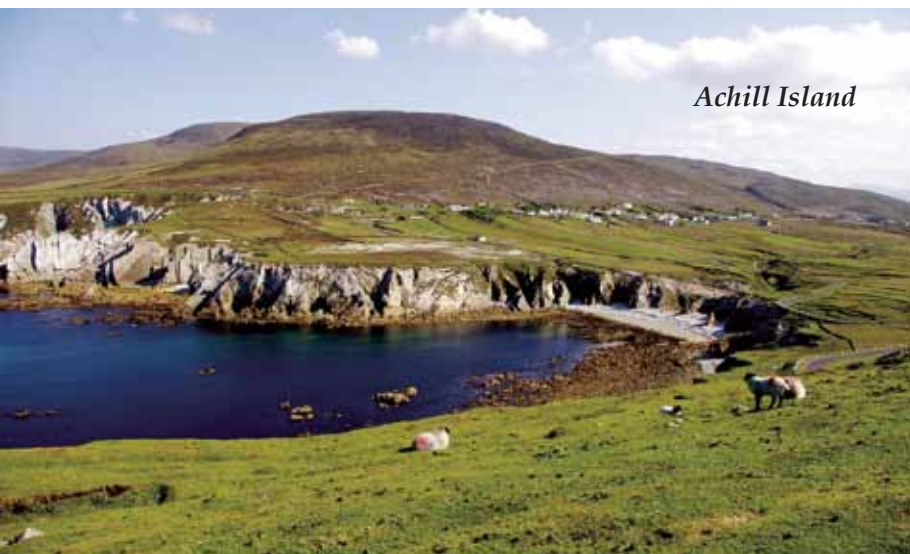
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By Lisa O'Rourke

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The Cratur

After watching a rural veterinarian revive a dying lamb with a drop of the "cratur", you would have to wonder, what exactly is that "cratur" stuff? The lamb was very grateful for it anyway. Cratur is a euphemism for whisky, but I have heard it used more often for Poitín, pronounced (put-cheen). "Truely a spiritual thing that the Irish did long ago when they trapped the pure and magical of nature to

create from sunshine and rain, in the mountains and valleys, the original treasured spirit "Potcheen".

The above quote is from a legal distiller of Poitín, the Bunratty Winery in Ireland. Poitín is the Irish equivalent of the mountain moonshine of the United States. Like the US moonshine, it has been mainly illegal to produce and possess. Also like the moonshine of the US, it is made and found mainly in the remote mountainous areas of the country and is something that

is mentioned only discreetly amongst acquaintances.

When I first visited Ireland, I never heard anyone talking about it. Like many things, it was something of the past, and not something in which people showed

much pride. Just like here, it has some connotations of a past that is less than educated. However, I would occasionally hear an older person say that many things could be cured with a "drop of the cratur, from arthritis to the common cold.

The first poitín that I was exposed to was presented one cold evening during Christmas, while my husband and I were visiting in Connemara. It was taken from an unmarked bottle stored at the back of a kitchen cabinet. The lady of the house admonished the husband for revealing that they kept such thing in their house, but we reassured them that we were not going to expose them. I was offered a glass. Just smelling it was enough to make me fear for the survival of my eyebrows, I was not about to ingest it! My husband happily had one glass, but that one glass was enough for all.

Time Magazine placed it at number one in its "Top 10 Ridiculously Strong Drinks" list in 2010. According to the magazine, poitín could reach 95% alcohol by volume. Other sources state that it comes in at anywhere between 45%-90% alcohol by volume.

I heard a story during my recent visit to Connemara. It was about a young man whose grandfather was a rather infamous poitín maker in his day. He was caught by the local guards during their pursuit of a dangerous criminal. The guards saw his still and some bottles hidden on the property. The grandfather displayed intelligence and bravery and helped to apprehend the criminal. The guards felt that they could not prosecute the man for his still under those circumstances.

They actually tried to recruit him to the guarda force at that point. The grandfather realized that his lack of literacy in Eng-

lish anyway would make that impossible since he would be unable to write reports, so he declined the position. He was allowed to continue his production unhindered, and the essence of his recipe has survived and been passed down and perpetuated through the generations. The young man who was at the center of the story is getting ready to begin legal, craft-style production of the grandfather's recipe.

What is happening in Ireland is much like what has happened here; people are realizing that some of the products that they found backward or old-fashioned in the face of modern mass-production actually have value. There has been an impressive food revival, especially in West Cork, where they are making things like hand-made cheese and sausages.

Anyone who believes that food in Ireland is not good really needs to improve where they travel. Organic is not a necessary label with many of these producers since they were never anything else. Along with food, there is also a craft beer and cider revival going on around the country, and again, just like here in the US, is very popular with the younger crowd. So, poitín was inevitably next on the list.

The history of poitín is probably as long as that of the country itself. The term poitín comes from the Irish word for small pot, which describes what the mixture would have been made in. A law was passed in 1661 placing a tax on spirits made for personal consumption. The law was reinforced in 1760 with another law that made it illegal to operate a still.

Poitín was made in rural areas, mostly in the mountains and places that would have been difficult to get to. Stills were often put on land borders so that one person could blame another for the still

and its products. Just like the moonshine operations here, smoke was often a give-away that something illegal might be "cooking", so the windy Connemara weather provided a good disguise for the stills.

Poitín, however, has had a bigger battle to fight. Due to the strength of the drink, there are many stories of people becoming very ill after drinking it, with even blindness having been reported. After my experience with it, the idea of

someone becoming sick after drinking it seems likely but I have never heard of anyone actually losing their sight.

Poitín is also not consistently made from any one product. It could be made out of things like barley, potatoes or apples; whatever someone had plenty of. With the mix of ingredients and makers, the quality of poitín varies greatly. Yet there are families who have a reputation with the locals for making a batch of reliable quality.

So now poitín, the old-wives cure for arthritis and colds, is starting to become respectable. The families, who have had underground production for generations, may be the ones to profit finally from their grandfather's secret recipe. The European Union has sanctioned that only poitín made in Ireland can be called that, so if you see it in a bar or liquor store, you know that you are getting the "pure drop" that is in so many songs and stories.

Quote from: <http://homepage.eircom.net/~bunrattywinery/historypotcheen.htm>

Other sources used: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Poit%C3%ADn>

Time, "Top 10 Ridiculously Strong Drinks" Nov. 16, 2010

Thejournal.ie-"How poitín went from illegal moonshine to being sold in Tesco" Nov.17, 2013.





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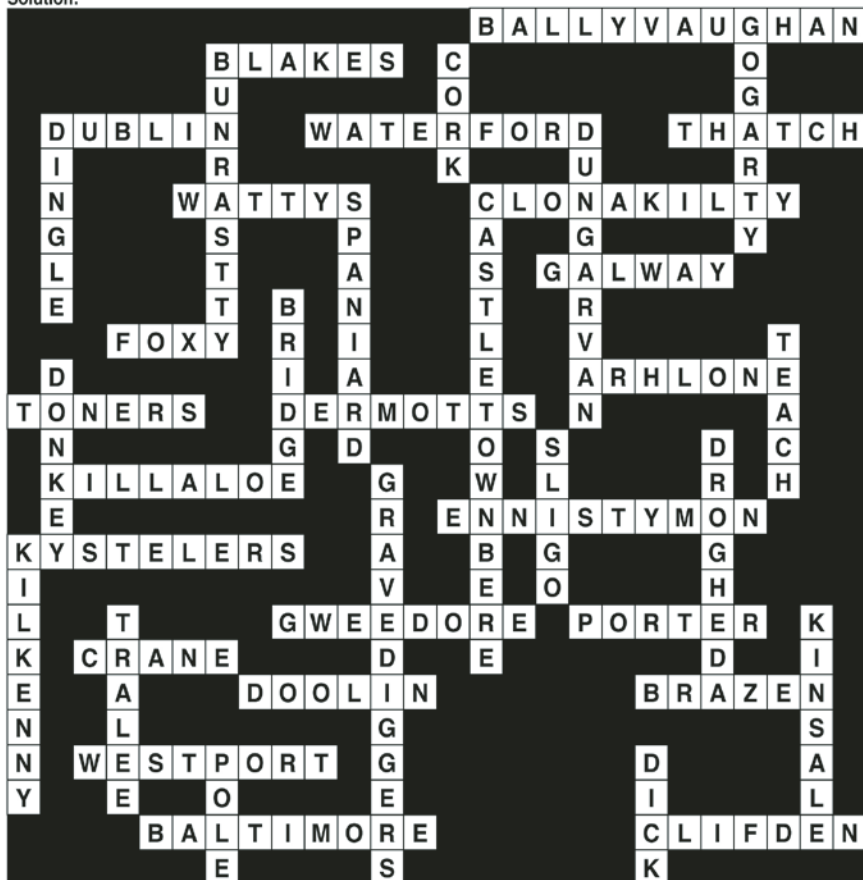


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Pubs Around Ireland

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Growing UP Irish

by Maureen Ginley



For as long as I can remember, the first day of a new school year has felt like Christmas morning to me. There's something about fresh notebooks; a nice, crisp, new outfit (in my case – a uniform for my twelve years of private school); and new syllabi that gets me more pumped up than any amount of eggnog and/or Christmas cookies could. Don't get me wrong, some of my best memories are sharing Christmas morning coffee with my family and watching my siblings open their presents, but there is just something magical about the beginning of a new school year.

One of my earliest school memories occurred when I began kindergarten at St. Christopher School in Rocky River. I had attended the Church since I was old enough to sit in the pews and not screech when my parents paid attention to the priest instead of me, so going to school there was the next

logical step. For kindergartners, the beginning of the school year kicked off with a big picnic.

I remember getting dolled up in my nicest dress, jamming my feet into a new pair of Mary Janes, and jumping up and down on the front steps of my house as I waited for my Grandma and Grandpa to pick me up. Once they did, we made the short drive to school, excited for the day ahead.

I stood in lines with my classmates, met my teacher, and explored the room where I'd be learning for the next year. Everything was so bright, so colorful. The books on the shelves were shiny and new, just like the excitement I felt at the opportunity to learn and grow in a new school environment.

What was so wonderful about this day was that I got to share it with two of my biggest supporters. My grandparents have always encouraged me in every aspect of life, but having

them behind me as I began my education is something I credit as a big influence for how much I grew to love being a student.

A big aspect of being a St. Christopher student was to complete a country report in the sixth grade. Normally, students were assigned a country, but if they turned in a note signed by a parent requesting the country, they were more often than not permitted to report on that nation.

Naturally, I requested Ireland. But I didn't just submit a note

to present my findings and stories about Ireland. It was customary to bring in a food from the country you presented on, so naturally I brought in some soda bread. Not only did my Grandma help in making the bread, she also delivered it right to my classroom! She spent the morning with my History class, explaining everything she had told me as I worked on the report and why her culture was so important to her, even after being in the United States for

liberal arts curriculum there allowed me to explore academic disciplines I had only heard of; I got to take classes such as Acting for Film, Italian, and even an independent study based on experimental short stories!

This diversity lead me to be more inquisitive and ask questions that would aid me in developing into a more well rounded, whole person. I asked "why?" instead of just taking what I was told at face value. I read assigned books and suggested readings. I went on immersion trips and participated in retreats with Campus Ministry. I was growing into the person I am today – someone interested in furthering her education while remaining passionate about making the opportunities like I had more accessible to everyone.

I graduated from John Carroll in May of 2014. Yes, I was all set to begin graduate school in the Fall, but I was leaving behind a place that had become a second home to me. I was at a loss as to what I should do.

How would I find that sense of familiarity when I started with the Northeast Ohio Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing Program? All of my worries washed away after attending Orientation and meeting the professors and classmates I'd be spending three years reading, writing, working, and learning with. The welcome I received that day is comparable to the one I felt at John Carroll when I moved into my dorm freshman year. In the NEOMFA, we all work together to grow as writers because we have a common goal: to get our words - words we believe are poignant and important - out into the world.

As you can probably tell by now, school always has been, and will always be, one of the most important parts of my life. When I step into a classroom and crack open a textbook, glance over a new syllabus, I see a world's worth of possibilities. A new school year is a new start for me, an opportunity to learn more, grow more. I cannot wait to see where this one takes me.



Columnist Maureen Ginley with her grandparents


from my Mom and Dad. I wrote an essay, a pages-long explanation for why my teacher should choose my and not the dozen other students who requested to write about the country where our families are from. My plea must have worked, because my teacher chose me and I got to begin in-depth research on Ireland's history, my family's history, and anything else I wished to explore. I tore through books, spent countless afternoons at the library, and talked endlessly with my Grandma about her life in Ireland and what it was like for her to grow up in County Mayo.

Finally, the day came

so many years. My classmates spoke of this for the remainder of the year, and it remains one of my favorite "Grandma Ginley stories" to this day.

After St. Christopher, I moved on to Magnificat High School, where I spend four years honing my skills in different classrooms – English, Art, French – and developing into someone that was prepared for the rigor of a college curriculum. I found my time at Magnificat to be completely and totally enriching; I didn't think anything could top my education there. Then I discovered John Carroll University.

To say that John Carroll was the best thing to ever happen to me would be a gross understatement. I could write an entire book about what that school did for me. While at JCU, I grew as a student. The



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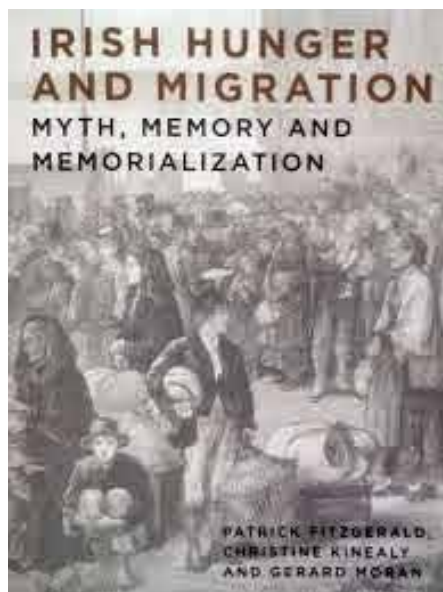
Irish Hunger and Migration- Myth, Memory and Memorialization

By Patrick Fitzgerald, Christine Kinealy, and Gerard Moran
Quinnipiac University Press 2015
ISBN 978-0-9909454-0-6 198 pps.

Having personally visited the Great Hunger Museum in Hamden, Connecticut, as well as the Irish Famine Museum in Strokestown, County Roscommon, I have come away with a better understanding of two of the most important themes in Irish history, famine and emigration. The book reviewed this month is a collection of essays about the Famine from different disciplinary perspectives, not only by historians, but also sociologists, geographers, literature specialists, political scientists, artists, musicians, and others.

While the Great Famine was a defining moment in Irish history, it was not the only occasion when Ireland experienced subsistence crisis and food shortages. The collection of essays by E. Margaret Crawford showed that these were a common feature in Ireland, particularly in the 18th and 19th centuries.

With poverty, hunger, and famine being constant features in the lives of the people, one of its consequences was an exodus from the country as people attempted to escape the ravages of hunger and death. While the famine theme is important in



helping us understand how Ireland was transformed, that of emigration is every bit as significant and has dominated the Irish psyche from the 17th century up to the present.

This book is a contribution to the ongoing scholarship about the Great Famine and I found it to be a TOP SHELF read.

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

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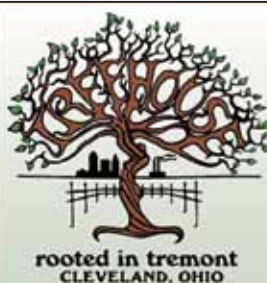


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Howlett Ready for Rugby World Cup to Sparkle

By David McDonnell

Four years we have been waiting and it's almost upon us. The last few weeks has felt like one long intake of breath, a sort of calm before the storm that we can now exhale with the greatest rugby event every four years finally approaching on the horizon. And like every World Cup, it seems that it's almost the All-Blacks to lose as much as it is every other teams to win.

Well at least it did until the last game of this year's southern hemisphere's rugby Championship, that saw Australia turn over New Zealand to take the spoils. It showed for the first time in a few years a sort of frailty about the Kiwi's. In the last few weeks the perennial World Cup favorites have come to a consensus that it is better to learn those lessons now instead of the knockout phase of rugby's greatest showpiece.

When Argentina convincingly beat South Africa away on the same day, everyone in the rugby sphere took a double take. It looked a result that had almost magically appeared. It had been the first time an Argentinean side had ever beaten the Springboks. That it was a 37-25 comprehensive victory made it all the more shocking.

The two top sides in the world, New Zealand and South Africa, losing games on the same day a little more than a month out from the start of the World Cup has given all the other side's a little more pep in their step. Could this be a year when a new team lifts the Webb Ellis Trophy?

Pool A is undoubtedly the group of death with hosts England, Australia and Wales battling it out for two spots, along with underdogs Fiji and minnows Uruguay. Realistically, three into two won't go and one of the world's top rugby Nations will exit the competition without getting to the quarterfinals. It should lend itself to some breathtaking early tournament matches.

The winners of Pool A will likely be paired with either Samoa or Scotland in the quarterfinals, while the group runners up will enjoy a last eight tie with South Africa. The Springboks are the bookies best chance of stopping New Zealand regaining their

world title.

The All-Black Opinion

It is a tournament that holds a lot of interest for former All-Black Doug Howlett, who is still their all-time record try scorer. Howlett last played for the Kiwis in the 2007 World Cup, before transferring to play his club rugby with Munster in Ireland. He believes that it is important for New Zealand peak at the right time: "The World Cup isn't on until September and you don't want to peak too early. I have been to tournaments before, where you have gone into the tournament as favorites and played great rugby, just to get pipped on the day. The

signs are good for the All Blacks. A lot of questions have been asked of the players but they are great questions to be asked now going in a World Cup.

"I like the depth within the squad. For example, when they left Dan Carter and Sonny Bill Williams behind the week they went to South Africa shows a lot of trust by the coach that someone else stepping in can do the job. Espe-

cially at Ellis Park. I have played there and that has to be the hottest of hotspots that you can play in.

"Australia is improving. They have made some adjustments to their group. England at home is a dangerous team. I like the look of what Ireland has done with the players they have under Joe Schmidt stewardship. It is exciting."

The other side of the draw sees Ireland facing France in the last match of Pool D. It looks set to be a winner takes all scenario, with a triumph seeing the victor into a quarter final with Argentina. A loss would likely bring an unwelcome pairing with New Zealand in the quarterfinals.

So who would Howlett rather his All-Blacks face in the quarters?

"Either game is going to be cracking. Personally I would rather play France. Hopefully Ireland will get a tilt at Argentina and progress a little further. If Ireland and New Zealand did meet in the quarter final that would certainly be a game I would be looking for tickets for.

"I think Ireland is well placed to go deep into the tournament. However, first things first is to get out of the group as the leaders. That will be their main goal. From there one off games is what Ireland is good at. Look at Munster, Leinster and Ulster; all the

provinces have proved that if they get to a quarter final or a semi final of a tournament like this then anything can happen."

The Munster Way

Doug Howlett came to Munster in November 2007. He was an integral part of team that won the Heineken Cup in 2008. Since he retired, Howlett now works as a corporate ambassador for the province. It is a challenging role especially considering the gigantic amounts of television money currently pouring into French and English clubs through massive television contracts.

These are teams Munster must compete with every year in Europe's premier club competition.

It is a challenge that Dougie, as he is affectionately known down Munster way, is relishing.

"Everybody knows the rugby landscape is changing. The funding that is coming into some of the French teams and into the Premiership is putting our game under threat.

"Munster is built on home grown talent. They have been for years and they have had success from them so the key fundamentally is retaining our own players first through schoolboys, then through academies and Munster A and onto the first team.

"A core of Munster players and a light sprinkling of international talent seem to be the right recipe to be able to compete with some of these superior funded teams."

One of the aspects of the corporate work undertaken by the Munster board is to

reach out and connect with successful Irish diaspora abroad who want to be involved in helping Munster maintain the success that they have enjoyed particularly over the last 15 years. Howlett believes that the most important factor for Munster to be successful is to maintain the winning environment that has been the bedrock of all their success.

"What I like about the environment in Munster is a bit like the All Blacks, that they are a small region but they are competing on a European scale and in 2006 and 2008 winning championships. So that was and is an attraction for me and understanding what makes this small group so successful.

"A lot of it is the environment that is already created. I came into a team with John Hayes, Jerry Flannery, Paul O'Connell, Denis Leamy and David Wallace. They came through the age groups together. They came through tough times and then achieved a lot. You are bred similar to that as an international player and it is hard not to play for guys like that.

"There are groups there that are developing in the academy and within the Munster A competition. Jack O'Donaghue is someone that has come through and started a few games for Munster last season but there is a line coming through. Sometimes all these guys only need an opportunity to show their wares. Hopefully, we can earth a few bright stars early in the season when we lose players to the World Cup."



Doug Howlett



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100th Commemorations

By Anne Waters



Margaret Skinnider

James Connolly's ideals and ideology attracted a variety of strong minded but little known female activists. One such was Margaret Skinnider. She was born in Scotland in 1893; her father originally hailed from Co Monaghan but her mother was of Scottish origin.

Margaret studied to become a teacher of maths and was active in the campaign for women's rights. As a member of the Women's Social and Political Union in Scotland she was involved in the campaign to obtain suffrage for women. The hostility and vilification that many of these campaigners received ensured that only the most stalwart and courageous of women were active.

She also joined the Glasgow branch of Cumann na mBan (Women's volunteer movement), thereby coming into contact with Countess Markievicz; it is believed she came to Dublin in 1915 at the request of the Countess. Her trip to Dublin was quite unique as she smuggled

bomb - detonators in her hat with the wires encircling her body. She stayed on deck the entire journey in order to avoid accidentally detonating the equipment. In addition, as a result of marksman training received in preparation for the pending war to defeat the British Empire, she became quite proficient with firearms. This was put to good use during the 1916 Rising.

Margaret had an obvious interest in the military and was asked to survey Beggars Bush Barracks by the Countess, with a view to detonating explosives should it be considered necessary. The plan was given to James Connolly, who decided it could be implemented in the event conscription was introduced in Ireland.

Skinnider subsequently became a close associate of James Connolly and in 1916 joined the Irish Citizen Army. It is surprising the number of women who found empathy with Connolly's ideals and the surmise is that his belief in the equality of the sexes found favour with educated ac-

tive women.

As a member of the Irish Citizen Army, Margaret was on active duty during the Rising. She acted as a dispatch rider for Michael Mallin and at one point during the fighting she aided 16 men to return to Stephen's Green in Dublin city centre. Her expertise with firearms enabled her to fire at British soldiers from the roof of the College of Surgeons. She later proclaimed, 'more than once I saw the man I aimed at fall.'

For the time she took command of a number of men in an attempt to set fire to a building, thus cutting off the British army retreat. During the conflict she was shot three times and subsequently spent seven weeks in hospital. She was incensed when eventually she heard the leaders of the Rising had been executed stating, 'We had obeyed all rules of war and surrendered as formally as any army ever capitulated.'

Margaret managed to obtain permission to visit Scotland; afraid of imprisonment she sailed to America, spending two years there campaigning for Cumann na mBan. On her return she continued her military activity through the War of Independence, eventually spending time in prison.

Skinnider was significant because of both her Republican and feminist ideals. She did not allow her gender, at a time when women were subordinate, to prevent her attempting to achieve her goals. The Irish citizen Army treated all men and women equally, so she was free to command and fight for Irish freedom without any hindrance despite being female.. This freedom continued through the War of Independence and was no barrier to her imprisonment. Yet, when the country finally achieved it's Free State status, she was denied a pension from the new government in 1925 because of her gender. They contended that the law relating to pensions was 'applicable to soldiers as generally understood in the masculine sense'.

Skinnider repeatedly applied, and was rejected until 1938, when she was finally awarded

Margaret Skinnider



a pension for her services. She returned to teaching at a primary school in Dublin and continued in this occupation until 1961.

During this time her activism did not cease. She was a leading member of the Irish National teachers Association fighting in particular for women's rights and equality of employment. She became President of the association in 1956, eventually becoming a member of the executive council of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions. She died in 1971.

It is through the efforts of women like Margaret Skinnider

that gender bias and prejudice was and is eliminated. Women in 1916 who put their head above the parapet literally and figuratively were very often scorned and isolated. Her assistance to obtain the new Free State was welcomed, but once the state was achieved, she was expected to return to her 'place'. This was the case with many women after the First World War as the social code of masculine superiority was once again enforced. Margaret Skinnider and her like ensured that women had a voice that could and should always

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Ireland Hopes to Pass History Lesson



and it was going to be 'our' World Cup. And in its own way it was, for it is still vividly remembered albeit for the wrong reasons.

A poor opening performance against minnows Namibia was followed by Ireland surviving to win by the skin of their teeth after a late onslaught from underdogs Georgia. Heavy losses to France and Argentina saw the Irish team return home with their proverbial tails between their legs.

The public found it hard to comprehend how and why the team had underperformed so badly. Accusations and blame were the order of the day, most of which were vitriolic in nature and aimed directly at manager Eddie O'Sullivan, who was roundly booed by a large section of Irish supporters at the next home international the following spring. Eddie was ushered out the door soon after and became a managerial pariah on the professional rugby scene in Ireland. When the dust finally settled and the postmortems completed, it became clear that the Irish management had made two serious errors of judgment.

The first was that the team had done too much physical work at the training camp in Poland. It was work more conducive to preseason training than sharpening their skills to hit the ground running at the most important

rugby tournament every four years.

The second major blunder by Eddie was making known his preferred starting 15 months out from the tournament. In the 2007 summer tour of Argentina, O'Sullivan left those 15 players at home to rest after a long season. It meant some of those earmarked for the starting 15 consciously or subconsciously took their place for granted, while others who were playing well in camp weren't rewarded with team selection.

A New Exam

This year the Rugby World Cup starts on September 18 and in some ways we are in similar territory to 2007. The team is riding high after winning successive Six Nations titles in the last two years. We are again in a group without the three southern hemisphere powerhouses. We have an excellent captain in Paul O'Connell and we have a much lauded coach in kiwi Joe Schmidt; the public is once again expecting Ireland to deliver at the very least a semi-final berth.

From the outside there seems to be no complacency from any of the players. We are told by the experts

that the depth of the squad has greatly improved. I like Joe Schmidt. He is very affable and generous in his dealings with the media. He displays no semblance of arrogance or self-importance. He respects all his peers and opponents and does so with an abundance of compassion and class. Yet inside the dressing room he has a reputation for demanding the highest of professional standards and adherence to his game plan. He is regarded in some quarters as the best coach in the world.

Ireland failing to perform on the biggest stage seems just as remote as it did all those years ago.

Ireland begin their campaign against an unfancied Canada and minnows Romania, before they are widely expected to beat Italy in their third match.

Ireland's best chance in reaching the last four rests on overcoming France in the final group game. Win and they will likely play Argentina for a place in the final four. Lose and it is a quarter final date with the best team in the world, the New Zealand All-Blacks.

France, for so long the jewel in the crown of northern hemisphere rugby, has been awful this year.

In the Six Nations, they lost convincingly to Ireland and Wales before getting a hiding from England in the final game of the tournament. Their coach, Philippe Saint-Andre, has been pilloried nationally and internationally as being inept at this level. His replacement, Guy Noves, has been lined up to take over in November. Although losing the final narrowly four years ago, bookmakers have them at odds of 20-1 to succeed this time around.

And yet rugby history tells us that any French team called underdogs bites worse than it barks. On their day they can beat any side in the world; one thing that is not in doubt is the caliber of their players. Any team with Morgan Parra, Thierry Dusautoir, and Wesley Fofana needs to be given the highest of respect.

Let's hope when France line up to face the men in green, the Irish players and management will be able to perform at their maximum on the biggest stage when it is most needed.

This time I believe they will. This time the whole country believes we'll triumph.

We have been wrong before.

Back in 2007 we got ahead of ourselves.

By 'we,' I mean the Irish rugby team, the Irish rugby supporters and truth be told the whole Emerald Isle.

In the final day of the Six Nations that year, Ireland played some scintillating rugby, scoring 50 odd points and demolishing Italy in Rome on St Patrick's Day. We were on the cusp of winning the competition, only for a last minute French try against Scotland to deny us on point's difference.

The 2007 World Cup was looming and this time it was going to be different. We believed with great surety that we were centimeters if not millimeters short of becoming the best side in Europe. We were in a group without any of the top three southern hemisphere sides, New Zealand, Australia or South Africa.

Our pack was backboned by a Munster side who had won Europe's premier club competition the year before. Our centers and outside backs were comprised of the best players that Leinster had to offer. We had a lauded coach in Eddie O'Sullivan and we had the best player on the planet in Brian O'Driscoll.

We had long been the nearly men of rugby, but that year it felt different.

A Lesson

In the lead up to the tournament the players acted differently too, talking up their chances in a very un-Irish way about winning the World Cup and about how reaching the semi-finals was the nadir of their ambitions. This team was Ireland's golden generation

GAA: Preparing to Take the U.S. Fields of Glory



The Midwest Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA), under the guidance of the North American County

Board, is the divisional board responsible for administering the Gaelic sports of Football and Hurling in Akron, Albany, Buffalo, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Detroit, Kalamazoo, Pittsburgh, Rochester and Syracuse.

The Ohio Irish American News is proud to carry on

a legacy of support for the Gaelic Athletic Association. The Midwest Junior Football Division winner is awarded the Tom O'Donoghue Memorial Cup, named after Pittsburgh legend Tom O'Donoghue (1935 – 2007). The Jr. competition teams are Buffalo Fenians, Cincinnati GAA, Cleveland St. Pat's and the Pittsburgh Celtics. The two finalists will represent the division at the North American County Board playoffs, held Labor Day Weekend, this year in Chicago.

Tom O'Donoghue, from Listowel, Co. Kerry, was a member of the GAA both in Ireland and upon arrival in Pittsburgh. He played in the U.S. from 1955 until 1973 and coached until 1988, bringing two National Titles to Pittsburgh. He served as President of the NACB of the Gaelic Athletic Association from the 1970s to early 1980s. His children and grandchildren continue that legacy of commitment and nurturing of the Irish culture by active participation.

The 317USA (Shield) Cup is named after a new online retail clothing company, and presented to the winners of the Midwest Division' Jr. Football Shield Competition; Columbus Naghten Street, Detroit Wolfe Tones, Cincinnati GAA and guest Baltimore Bohemians make up this year's competition. www.317USA.com



**Tom O'Donoghue
Cup Games: July 25**
Cleveland St. Pats 8-19
Buffalo Fenians 1-3
Pittsburgh Celtics 4-10
Cincinnati GAA 2-5
Midwest Hurling

Championship:
Akron Celtic Guards 3-10
Pittsburgh Pucas 4-7
**Inter-Divisional
Senior Football:**
Philadelphia St. Pats 2-17
Pittsburgh Celtics 0-9

**GAA Midwest
Championship:
August 8-9**

**Men's Jr. Hurling
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Pittsburgh Pucas defeat
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Men's Jr. Football

Continued on next page



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Men's Jr. Football
Shield matches:
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feat Baltimore Bohemians
2-19 to 3-8 (25 to 17)
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Detroit Wolfe Tones
defeat Cincinnati GAA
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Men's Sr. Football:
Philadelphia Kevin Barry's
defeat Pittsburgh Celtics
(Sr) 7-23 to 5-15 (44 to 30)
Jr. Football Final:
Cleveland St. Pat's de-
feat Pittsburgh Celtics (Jr)
8-12 to 1-9 (36 to 12)

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By J. Michael Finn



The Battle of Yellow Ford

The Nine Years War (1594-1603) was fought between the Irish, led by Hugh O'Neill and Red Hugh O'Donnell, and the English, led by a line of failed commanders. The Irish won quite a few major battles against the English, but ended up losing the war. One of the most significant battles during the period was won by a united Irish force at the Battle of Yellow Ford (In Irish: Cath Bhéal an Átha Buí) in County Armagh.

In 1597 the British built a fort on the Blackwater River which was the boundary between County Armagh and County Tyrone. The Blackwater Fort was intended to facilitate later military expeditions into Tyrone, the stronghold of the Earl of Tyrone, Hugh O'Neill. Resenting the fact that the fort was near his headquarters in Dungannon, O'Neill attacked the fort. O'Neill tried every way he could to overcome the fort without success. O'Neill decided to surround the fort and starve the occupants out.

After the siege had continued for some time, the British commander, Captain Thomas Williams, and his men began to run short on food. They had managed to seize a number of O'Neill's horses on which they subsisted for a time. Soon even this supply ran short. Despite the hardship they still resisted surrender.

News of O'Neill's siege at the fort reached Dublin. There had been little support for building the fort in the first place as many felt it was too far away to be adequately protected. Nonetheless, it was judged as necessary that the fort be relieved. Sir Henry Bagenal volunteered to command the English force that was assembled. Bagenal had fought previously in Ulster and had no

love of the Irish. He also held a personal grudge against O'Neill. It seems O'Neill had years earlier eloped with Bagenal's sister Mabel.

Bagenal assembled an army of roughly 4,000 foot soldiers and 350 cavalry. The force included Irish soldiers serving in the English army, as well as recently arrived soldiers from England. The soldiers were armed with the standard weapons of the day, muskets and pikes. They also had several pieces of artillery. They marched from Dublin to Newry and from there to Armagh town, where they stayed the night before venturing further north to relieve the Blackwater Fort.

O'Neill had a good intelligence network in Dublin and he soon found out about plans for Bagenal's expedition. He sent messengers to Red Hugh O'Donnell to come to his aid against this large force. O'Donnell proceeded immediately to join O'Neill along with all his forces both infantry and cavalry and other troops from Connacht. The Irish throughout the province of Ulster also joined O'Neill and were assembled before Bagenal reached Armagh town. O'Neill also had several Spanish engineers and many Scottish mercenaries in his army.

In addition to O'Neill and O'Donnell the force included Hugh Maguire and James MacDonnell of the Glens (and his Galloglass); all were leaders of ability and experience. Although we don't have the exact number of troops O'Neill assembled, estimates are that the total was around 5,000, just slightly larger than the English force. O'Neill's army was armed with axes, spears, swords and muskets. Unlike the English, the Irish foot soldiers were not heavily armored.

On August 14, 1598, Bagenal moved his army out of Armagh

town. Five miles of bad road lay between the Armagh garrison and the Blackwater Fort. It was a narrow strip of uneven ground, with bogs and thick woods at both sides. Right in the way, at Yellow Ford, on the river Callan, two miles north of Armagh, O'Neill had gathered his forces, and was determined to dispute the passage of Bagenal. At intervals along the way O'Neill and his Spanish engineers had dug deep holes and trenches, and had blocked the line of march with felled trees and brushwood. The largest of these blockades was a trench a mile long, five feet deep, and four feet across, with a thick hedge of thorns on top. O'Neill's men also hid in the forest and bogs along the road and harassed Bagenal's troops with musket fire and spears.

Bagenal's forces were organized in three sections, with the cavalry in the center. An experienced commander would know that in the march, this formation must be maintained with proper distances between the regiments so as to maintain constant contact. O'Neill's objective was to harass the moving army to slow it up and disrupt the regular formation. This was to be achieved by ambush and sniper fire.

The harassment caused the distance between the forward section and the rest of the sections to increase and it became isolated. The forward section had pushed on to the first Irish trench and after heavy fighting succeeded in crossing it only to find that they were in a prepared killing area and they were forced to retreat into the path of the second section. At this point, in the battle, Bagenal, who was with the first section, opened the visor of his helmet to get a better look at the action and was fatally shot in the head. The command was taken over by Thomas Wingfield. Shortly after this the English gun powder store ignited, apparently by accident, causing further confusion and demoralization. Wingfield started to organize a retreat to Armagh but the commander of the forward section didn't retreat and O'Neill took advantage of the enemy confusion to send in his cavalry backed with swordsmen on foot and



Hugh O'Neill

slaughtered the forward section at Yellow Ford.

By this time the English formations were in disarray. Many of Bagenal's Irish soldiers deserted and joined O'Neill; others just dropped their arms and ran away. O'Neill's forces had won a great victory and only lost 200 to 300 killed in the process. Although exact numbers are hard to determine, the English lost about 900 killed at the battle. This included 18 officers. Desertions among Irish soldiers in the English ranks numbered about 900.

The remainder of the English army retreated back to the garrison at Armagh town. Out of the 4,000 soldiers who had set out from Armagh, just over 2,000 returned after the battle. O'Neill followed them and besieged Armagh. Those who reached Armagh were virtual prisoners inside the town. After a siege of three days, the English surrendered. O'Neill agreed to let the remaining soldiers leave Armagh provided they left their arms and ammunition behind. They were evacuated from Newry back to Dublin by sea. The English force at the Blackwater Fort also surrendered under the same terms.

O'Neill and O'Donnell had achieved a significant victory over the English. This was not supposed to happen and the victory caused many countries in Europe to take note. It also caused many in Ireland who had supported the English or remained neutral to support the united Irish cause of O'Neill and O'Donnell.

Queen Elizabeth I, naturally, was infuriated. The downside of the Irish victory was that the Queen doubled the number of English forces in Ireland. This brought about an escalation of the conflict that would end badly for the Irish at the Battle of Kinsale in 1601 and result in the eventual end of Gaelic Ireland with the Flight of the Earls in 1607.

*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.



"Liberty must be conquered with the sword. To beg for rights is a peculiarity of people unable to exercise them." – Antonio Maceo.

The Age of Revolution touched all of the Atlantic world. The American Revolution, The French Revolution, The Haitian Revolution, and the Rebellion of 1798 in Ireland were all interconnected within the political and economic realities that traversed the Atlantic in the 18th Century. There was also the Industrial Revolution, which was perhaps less romantic historically, but affected the Irish people as much as the revolutions of the sword. Historian Eric Hobsbawm notes that the end result of the Age of Revolution is the birth of the middle class of bourgeois capitalism. This thought cannot be ignored in the migration of the Irish.

The seeds of revolution were planted long before the shots were fired at Lexington and Concord. So were the seeds of Irish Immigration to America, since 10 percent of the population of the Colonies was Irish born. Social unrest was neither uncommon in the American colonies nor in the Irish countryside. The Age of Rebellion preceded the Age of Revolution.

In both places British goods were boycotted and secret societies attempted to protect rights, whether real and perceived, by various means. The American colonies and Ireland were geographically separate yet united in economic causality and perhaps in bloodline. Both developed a pre-revolution ideology based on calls for democracy and liberty. On the national level in Ireland that included demands for economic freedom and free trade, especially the end of a British trade and credit monopoly. In the Irish countryside it meant the ability to survive as a tenant and cultivate a small patch of land with potatoes.

The Colonial Period established British military control

and self-defined unquestioned commercial authority. Britain maintained the supremacy of the metropole regardless of geographical distance. This rule was defined and redefined by the passage of various Acts of Parliament. The Staple Act in 1633 permitted enough economic space for Cork to control the provisions trade with the British West Indies and Ulster to have a competitive advantage in the linen trade. This was the exception not the rule.

In totality, the Acts of Parliament were legal decrees to assist in the economic predominance of Britain; they established tariffs and banned crops. It is why in the 1760s George Washington uprooted the tobacco in his fields and planted wheat. It is also why the second law passed by United States Congress in 1787 was a tariff.

The Atlantic world was adjusting its understanding of empire in the late 18th century as a result of the American and French Revolutions. Free trade became a feature of popular politics in Ireland by the 1770s and inspired shopping boycotts and nonimportation agreements.

Because free trade was central to the demands for national self-interest and political freedom, the metropolises adjusted their imperial approach. In 1785 William Pitt proposed free trade for Britain and Ireland and attempted to use this ideological rallying point as a mechanism of imperial integration. Pitt's approach was a direct response to the social movement for political reform in Ireland and Irish achievement of legislative independence in 1782. His pitch intended to coordinate economic and fiscal policy between the two islands devoid of explicit political controls. The Irish government did not accept his offer. The Irish wanted freedom, complete and outside the framework of British imperialism.

Following the American Revolution, Irish trade increased to

the former colonies and to the European mainland. The Irish linen trade almost doubled by 1792, multiplying the number of ships sailing for America. As the traffic in the shipping lanes increased, people became a larger impetus of commodity trade.

32,000 Irish migrated to the Delaware Valley alone in the six years following the Revolution. Trade was moving farther north on the American coast to New York and Boston and Irish immigrants were increasing from Leinster, Munster and Connacht. Irish newspapers published advertisements for travel to America. Ads detailed the quality of ship, the expediency of travel and the credentials of the captain. These were not Coffin Ships.

Why immigrate to America? Crane Britton wrote in *The Anatomy of Revolution* that revolution occurs with blocked mobility. That should be amended in the Irish context to say that so does migration. Ireland was beginning to benefit from the limited freedoms of legislation and trade that was less encumbered. However, the majority of the Irish people were still disenfranchised. In 1793 a limited number of landed Irish Catholics were allowed to vote. Ireland was far from a utopia if one was not part of the Protestant Ascendancy. Nearly all the acreage of Ireland was consolidated in the hands of 10,000 Protestant families, as was political power.

Irish prosperity was precarious and was commandeered to serve the Crown and British industrial interests. Typhus and cholera were common and the bulk of the Irish people were economically poor. Resistance in Ireland was used to justify lack of capital investment and resulting constrained industrialization. Irish tenants were still subjugated to a manorial agrarian system that had vanished from the rest of Europe. The Age of Revolution had not arbitrated changes in the land system as it was not in the interest of the landowners.

The majority of Irish were agrarian and lived well below European standards. The Irish economy was under-developed and was extremely vulnerable to natural disaster, like the potato

famine. Irish poverty in Ireland was directly tied to religion.

The Atlantic world had experienced revolution. Colonies had become nations and the Industrial Revolution was beginning. Irish Catholics were just now legally able to teach their children. Poyning's Law was being replaced with neoliberal economic subservience. Ireland had already begun to migrate. The hermeneutics of revolution would lead to the exodus of Irish Catholics.

The amalgamation of revolutionary and liberal democratic ideals precipitated migration, but it also was a catalyst for rebellion. Many Irish, both Catholic and Protestant, were dissatisfied with the limited freedoms in Ireland in the Age of Revolution. The Irish Parliament did not represent a Jacobin-minded middle class; it was still a tool for aristocracy. Theobald Wolfe Tone organized the Society of United Irishmen, a contingent of Protestant Irishmen who advocated an ecumenical democratic republic and Catholic

Emancipation. Their rebellion in 1798 did not unite the Catholic and the Protestant, nor did it defeat Britain. The Irish Protestant who was in favor of an Irish Republic could not get past the fear of a Catholic majority with constitutional powers. British deconstruction of the uprising realized that obstruction to liberty and exploited the secretariat divide to maintain order.

The period after the American Revolution and preceding the Act of Union provides the ideological and political structure for mass migration. Next month I will discuss the period between 1800 and 1845 and the one million Irish who migrated to America in those years. For further reading this month: *The Age of Revolution 1789-1848* by Eric Hobsbawm, *The Anatomy of Revolution* by Crane Britton, *Free Trade and Empire in the Anglo-Irish Commercial Propositions of 1785*, by James Livesey, *Irish Atlantic Trade in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries* by R.C. Nash.

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"...but the fools, the fools, the fools! — they have left us our Fenian dead..." Once again, those hallowed, compelling words filled the air. They echoed among the gravestones in Dublin's Glasnevin Cemetery as they once did exactly one-hundred years ago.

Now, on a fine summer's morning last month, a special ceremony was re-enacted honouring the burial of a famous Fenian, Jeremiah O'Donovan Rossa, a man who'd suffered great hardships at the hands of his English jailers. But despite his life's misfortunes, he managed to overcome each adversity while keeping the dream of Ireland's freedom alive in his heart.

This tribute marks the first of a yearlong series of forty-some State ceremonies celebrating Ireland's 2016 Centenary Programme. Rossa, an Irish revolutionary, was a 19th-century Fenian who'd fought long and hard to see Ireland free. His life and subsequent death became a symbol for many Irish nationalists and revolutionaries the world over. His funeral, organised by the Irish Republican Brotherhood [IRB] in support of the newly formed Irish Volunteers [1913], was, in effect, a call to arms. It was IRB's wish to prepare the Irish people for an upcoming rebellion.

In the presence of the Irish Defence Forces' 6th Infantry battalion, Ireland's present-day President, Michael D Higgins, led the official State commemoration in Glasnevin. He was accompanied by Taoiseach Enda Kenny and Minister for the Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Heather Humphreys.

Michael D's stirring words captured the attention of the thousands who'd gathered to witness the observance. "Even 100 years after his death his name is synonymous with the Fenians and with Irish Nationalism. The liberation of his country became his life's ambition. His funeral remains one of the pivotal mo-

ments in Irish history and was an occasion that would be hugely instrumental in shaping the future of our nation."

O'Donovan Rossa was born in West Cork in September 1831. In the 1850s he moved to Skibbereen, became a shopkeeper and founded the Phoenix National and Literary Society, a republican front-organisation aimed at wresting Ireland's freedom from Britain, by force, if necessary. His Phoenix Society soon merged with the newly established IRB in 1858.

Predictably, Rossa's anti-British activities saw him arrested in 1865. Charged with high treason, he was sentenced to penal servitude for life in England. But, after enduring five-plus years of tortuous confinement, he was deported to the United States on condition he never return to Ireland.

Now ensconced in New York City, he joined forces with friend John Devoy and actively supported Clan na Gael while continuing to fund-raise for Ireland's cause. Despite years of personal disagreement and turmoil, he earned the name 'Fenian Flame,' a man who'd dedicate his life to Irish independence.

In June 1915, death claimed him at eighty-three while still residing in his adopted city. When word arrived in Dublin of his death, Tom Clarke, later one of the seven signatories of the 1916 Proclamation and then-leader of the IRB, wrote to Devoy. He in-

structed him to ship Rossa's body back home, as he quickly realised Rossa could fulfil one last undertaking for his beloved country. Promptly going to work, the IRB began organising a public funeral scheduled for 1 August.

Concurrently, Clarke started casting about for someone to deliver a powerful eulogy. Despite some misgivings, he chose Pádraig Pearse. After discussing his intentions with the Irish schoolmaster, Clarke directed Pearse to "Make it hot as hell!", and that's exactly

what the burgeoning author and revolutionary did.

Thus, on 1 August, Pádraig Henry Pearse stepped up before O'Donovan Rossa's grave and delivered what many believe to be Ireland's Gettysburg Address.

Among his carefully chosen words, Pearse said, "We stand at Rossa's grave not in sadness but rather in exaltation of spirit that it has been given to us to come thus into so close a communion with that brave and splendid Gael."

Later, he stated...

[Speaking of Glasnevin] "This

is a place of peace, sacred to the dead, where men should speak with all charity and with all restraint but I hold a Christian thing, as O'Donovan Rossa held it, to hate evil, to hate untruth, to hate oppression; and, hating them, to strive to overthrow them. Our foes are strong and wise and wary; but, strong and wise and wary as they are, they cannot undo the miracles of God who ripens in the hearts of young men the seed sown by the young men of a former generation."

Then, in conclusion, he asserted...

"Life springs from death; and from the graves of patriot men and women spring living nations. The Defenders of this Realm have worked well in secret and in the open. They think that they have purchased half of us and intimidated the other half. They think that they have foreseen everything, think that they have provided against everything; but the fools, the fools, the fools! — they have left us our Fenian dead, and, while Ireland holds these graves, Ireland unfree shall

never be at peace." [The original handwritten script is on display at the Pearse Museum, St. Enda's, Rathfarnham, Dublin]

But before I end this letter, I thought I'd include a personal remembrance. Back in the early 1990s, while attending the Michael Collins Annual Commemoration at BealnaBlath in West Cork, I met an old farmer. As we talked, the name O'Donovan Rossa came up. He said, "Let me tell you a story about him. Back in those days, it was customary for the expectant woman to have the baby in her family home. So Rossa's mother, then living in Reenascreena and knowing her time was near, began walking to her parent's farm in Roscarbery. Unfortunately, she missed-timed the birth. Alone and squatting down by the side of the road, little baby Rossa was born. Having delivered, she gathered up the child in her arms and continued her walk. To this day the villages of Reenascreena and Roscarbery both claim O'Donovan Rossa as theirs." God bless him and you too, Cathal

September

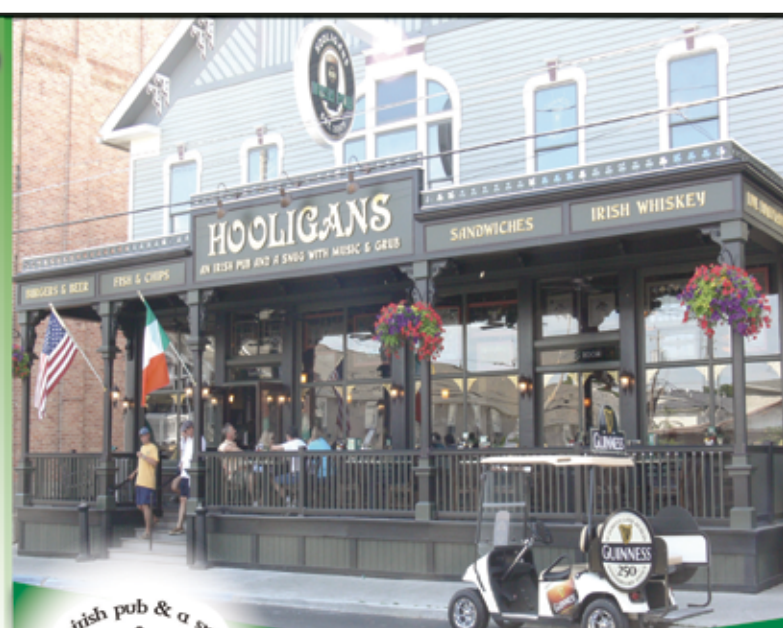
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9/26-½ Way to
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Famine Memorial Mass

9/19 – Outdoor Mass at the Greater Cleveland Famine Memorial (across from Flat Iron Café), 5:00 p.m. All are welcome to remember those who gave so much, for us.

Avon Lake

Ahern Banquet Center is booking weddings and special events. Call Tony Ahern / Lucy Balser @ 440-933-9500. 726 Avon Belden Rd, Avon Lake 44012. www.aherncatering.com

Brooklyn

Hooley House!

4th - New Barleycorn, 11th - Carlos Jones, 18th - The Players Club, 25th - Collage. 10310 Cascade Crossing, Brooklyn 216-362-7700. 1FunPub.com

Cleveland

The Harp

2nd - Lonesome Stars, 4th - Irish Session 8pm, 5th - Porter Sharks, 9th - Chris & Tom, 11th - Brent Kirby, 12th - Chris Allen, 16th - Lonesome Stars, 18th - The Old Pitch, 19th - Fíor Gael, 23rd - Chris & Tom, 25th - Kristine Jackson, 26th - Bill Fox & Rob Bliss, 30th - Lonesome Stars. 4408 Detroit Road, 44113 www.the-harp.com Stone Mad

Live music entertainment every Sunday: 6th - Holleran's Traditional Irish Session, 13th - Fifth Annual Oyster Fest - Live Entertainment all day including The Boys From County Hell, 27th - Chris Allen. 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

4th - Chad Hoffman, 11th - No Strangers Here, 18th - Donal O'Shaughnessy, 25th - Cats On Holiday. 1114 Center St. Cleveland 44113-2406 216.696.6968. www.flatironcafe.com

Treehouse

6th - Angry Young Men, 13th

Cleveland

- Matt Miller; 20th – OKTOBER-FEST w/ The Chardon Polka Band (4pm show on the patio); 27th - Kristine Jackson. 820 College Avenue, Cleveland, 44113 www.treehousecleveland.com

PJ McIntyre's

2nd - Monthly Pub Quiz, w/ Mike D, 4th - Burning River Sound, 5th - Burning River Sound, 12th - Charlie in the Box, 17th - One Shot Paddy, 18th - New Barleycorn, 19th - Marys Lane / 2 Way to St. Patrick's Day Party / 8 Year Anniversary Party w/ comp food, drink specials, 25th - Westies, 26th Carlos Jones.

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

Flannery's Pub

4th - Austin "Walking" Cane, 5th - The Swap Meet, 11th & 12th - The New Barleycorn, 18th - Kristine Jackson, 19th - Derek Davis, 25th - The Bar Flies, 26th - Brent Kirby. 323 East Prospect, Cleveland 44115 216.781.7782 www.flannerys.com

Music Box Supper Club

Summertime on the Riverfront concert series every Thursday through Sunday 3:00 – 6:00 pm, including Irish Music Sundays, features free live music, rain or shine with an outdoor oyster bar and great craft beer specials. Free admission, bands perform outside on riverfront deck, weather permitting. 6th - FINAL Irish Sunday w/ The Portersharks. Labor Day Weekend blowout! 1148 Main Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44113. <http://www.musicboxcle.com>



9/13 – 5th Annual Oyster Fest @ Stone Mad

Cincinnati

Irish Heritage Center

3rd – Blue Rock Boys, 15th – We Banjo 3! 17th – Mick & Friends, 18th - Irish Filmmaker Maurice Fitzpatrick shows his documentary of Brian Friel's "Translations". Teas/Library /Genealogy Detective/ all three by appointment. Irish Heritage Center 3905 Eastern Avenue 513.533.0100. www.irish-centerofcincinnati.com..

Columbus

Shamrock Club Events

Happy Hour every Friday from 5-7pm! 60 W. Castle Rd. Columbus 43207 614-491-4449 www.shamrockclubofcolumbus.com

Tara Hall

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

Euclid

Irish American Club East Side

11th - Mary Agnes Kennedy, 26th - Fall Fest w/ Gary Gormley, Portersharks, Marys Lane, Loch Erie, No Strangers Here. IACES 22770 Lake Shore Blvd. Euclid, 44123. 216.731.4003 www.eastsideirish.org

Findlay

Logan's Irish Pub

Trad Sessiún 3rd Wednesday. 414 South Main Street, Findlay 45840 419.420.3602 www.logansirishpubfindlay.com
Plank Road Tavern
Open Sessiún Every Thursday 7 – 10. \$3 Guinness and Jamieson. 16719 Detroit Avenue, 44107

Medina

Sully's

4th - High Strung Irish, 5th - One Shot Paddy, 11th - Marys Lane, 12th - Mossy Moran, 18th - The Island Doctor, 19th - The New Barleycorn, 25th - Ray Flanagan & the Associates, 26th - Octoberfest w/ the Polka Pirates. 117 West Liberty Medina, 44256 www.sullysmedina.com..

Hooley House Montrose

11th - Pieces of Eight, 18th - Top Dog. 145 Montrose West Avenue Copley, Oh 44321 (234) 466-0060 www.1funpub.com

Mentor

Hooley House

4th - Almost Famous, 11th - Abby Normal, 18th - Jukebox Heroes, 25th - Cocktail Johnny. Every Tuesday - Open Mic w Nick Zuber, Every Wednesday - Trivia Night. 7861 Reynolds Rd Mentor www.1funpub.com (440) 942-6611.

Warren

2nd Annual

Stew Cook-off

19th - Sean MacBride Division AOH & Trumbull Mobile Meals 2nd Annual Stew Cook Off, Blessed Sacrament Parish, 3020 Reeves Rd. Warren 5-9 pm. Over \$500 in cash prizes and food, refreshments, live music w/ Lords of Leisure, Irish vendors, gift basket raffles & more. Admission \$6, under 12 free. Entry forms / info: 330.219.5354.

Olmsted Township

W S Irish American Club

9/20 - Annual Clam-bake, 10/9 - Ladies Reverse Raffle, 10/25 - Pig Roast 11/8 - Fall Card Tournament, 12/11 - Willoughby Brothers Christmas Dinner/ Concert. Great live music and food in The Pub every Friday. WSIA Club 8559 Jennings Rd. 44138 www.wsia-club.org. 440-235-5868.

Put-in-Bay

Hooligans

5th - The 815's, 26th - ½ Way to St Patrick's Day w/ traditional music, bagpipes, & more! Live entertainment every Sunday 10:30am-1:30pm, Wednesday 4-6: Iseult O'Connor on fiddle & guitar. Sundays open early w/ Irish Breakfast. Every Wednesday: The Movies. Plus Weekly Dinners - check website for more info! Whiskey Wednesdays w food & drink specials all day. 421 Co Rd 215, Put-In-Bay, OH 43456 (419) 285-8000. www.hooliganspib.com..

Valley City

Gandalf's Pub

5th - Shady Drive, 12th - Ed Feighan, 26th - 1st Annual Clambake! w/ music by Charles Geil & His Ghost Band. Great food, atmosphere, staff and now open, our Patio! 6757 Center Road Valley City, 44280 www.gandalfspub.com.

Westlake

Hooley House.

4th - Bluestone Union, 11th - Big in Japan, 18th - School Girl Crush, 25th - Sunset Strip. 24940 Sperry Dr Westlake 44145. 1FunPub. com (440) 835-2890

Safety Forces Appreciation Music Rally & Clam Bake

12th – Sea of Blue / NEO Fallen Hero Fund Present @ Jacobs Pavilion at Nautica, 6:00 p.m. w/ Manic Episode, Brigid's Cross, Erin Viancourt, Entandre, Angel P. Only \$5 admission; win a Harley Davidson, Door Prizes, Cash Prizes, Vendors & More.

Traditional Irish Sessiúns

Akron Hibernian's Ceili Band Sessions, Wednesdays 7:30 pm. Mark Heffernan Div 2 Hall 2000 Brown St, Akron 330-724-2083. Beginner to intermediate

Bardic Circle @The Shamrock Club of Columbus Beginner - friendly, intermediate level Irish session meeting every other Thursdays 8:00 pm - 11pm

Irish Eyes Heavenly Pub, 1st Wednesday of month. 3324 Secor Rd, Toledo

Stone Mad - 1st Sunday of the month Holleran Traditional Irish Session, 7pm

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

The Harp - 1st Friday each month, 9pm

Logan's Irish Pub - 3rd Wednesday

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

Traditional Social Dance for Adults

All are welcome to learn and have fun

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

Wednesdays 7-9 pm, set dancing lessons, Irish American Club - East Side

Thursdays, September 3, 10, 24, 7-9 pm, West Side Irish American Club

Ceili Mor! Sunday, 10/11, 4 - 8 pm, music by The Kilroys, \$10, kids free.

For information, contact Ceili-ClubCleveland@gmail.com



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(proposed tour)*

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Land & Air Price: Between \$3,000.00 and \$3,500.00 per person, based on twin occupancy (Minimum of 45 traveling)

Single Room Supplement: \$499.00

Air departure tax, fuel 7 surcharges are subject to change until entire group is confirmed and ticketed.

Tour Includes:

Dublin

- James Joyce Center
- Garden of Remembrance
- Kilmainham Gaol
- Glasnevin Cemetery
- Four Courts
- Abbey Theater (possibly to see a performance)
- Dublin Writers Museum
- Trinity College (Book of Kells)
- Old Jameson's Distillery
- Guinness Storehouse
- Phoenix Park

Group Leaders - Terry Kenneally and Colleen Corrigan-Day

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Hotel accommodations based upon twin bedded rooms with private bath as listed Four Star Hotels.

Full breakfasts (8) Dinners (5). Last dinner at Medieval banquet at Bunratty Castle

Belfast

- Crown Liquor Saloon
- Titanic Quarter
- Queen's University
- Carrickfergus Castle
- Antrim Coast
- Giant's Causeway
- Old Bushmills Distillery
- Rathlin Island
- Home of Seamus Heaney

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Walking tour of Derry with a local guide
(The only completely walled city in Europe)
A Tour of Yeats Country (County Sligo)

In addition, there is a possibility of a tour of the Four Courts
Courtesy of one of the current Supreme Court Justices.

Similarly, there is a possibility of a tour of the National University of Galway.

GALWAY

- Eyre Square
- The Quays
- National University of Ireland Galway
- Spanish Arch
- Galway Bay
- Aran Islands (by boat)
- Kilmacduagh
- Bunratty Castle (Medieval Dinner)

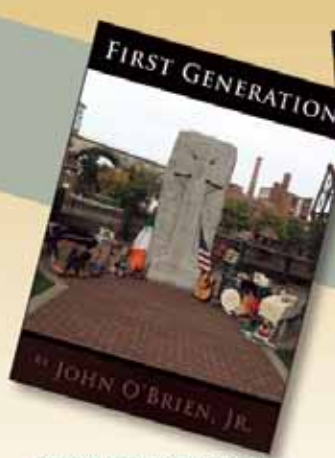
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PLEASE LET US KNOW OF YOUR INTEREST ON THIS UNIQUE TOUR OF IRELAND BY SEPTEMBER 30, 2015

Meeting For A Historical and Literary Tour of Ireland Trip

Join us on Tuesday, September 15, 2015 for an informational meeting about the trip at Lockkeepers Restaurant, Independence, OH (8001 Rockside Rd, Valley

View, OH 44125) 7:00 p.m. in the upstairs room. Learn more about this amazing trip. Please RSVP to colleenhcorrigan@hotmail.com or call Tim Vaughn (216) 210-0828.

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InnerView

By John O'Brien, Jr.



Putting on the O'Ritz

This is my 33rd year with Cleveland Irish Cultural Festival. My dad started the festival, but I started, doing the parking! After college I graduated to doing the food, then onward, and some say, upward, from there. I have been Deputy Director for near on 2 decades. In many ways, it gets easier each year, though we add more and more. In others ...

#LiveMoreLifeBeMoreIrish

Last year we made many significant changes, but the biggest for me, especially evident this year, was the development of our Creative Team. Separate from our board of directors, they are charged with brainstorming; developing and implementing new things to attract new people and more people. They have so far exceeded expectations that I just sit back and say Thank you – to God and to them.

Some of the load is lifted, freeing me up take up other challenges. BI- Monthly meetings led to monthly meetings led to 2 weekends of massive painting of our Irish Village storefronts that lead to Temple Bar. The 2nd was the 17th – 19th of July, the weekend before The Fest. 15 people, including new artists, joined us and their skillful crafting is amazing. The Village leading to Temple Bar has doubled this year; God willing, next year too.



We decide to do PR in house this year, as no one knows our festival, or cares as much, as we do. T'was a good decision, as the crowds and response attest. Tuesday appearances on New Day Cleveland, The Morning Show, Spotlight on 5, Willis & Snyder - who were both live and also recorded an interview that ran several times all week; and Nolan, Malone & Kulick (4 and 0 Baybee) were fun and effective; Gary Dee from Ch 3 came out live and did interviews and the weather from The Fest for several hours; Barleycorn appeared Live on shows both Saturday and Sunday morn-

ing of The Fest. Rebecca Brady Campbell recorded our TV commercial too.

Huge Thanks to all our media and vendor partners and all our many friends, performers and supporters for doing what was required, then doing even more. So many donated so much in support of promoting The Fest, we are so grateful. We are finally making headway in seeing those supporters share The Fest on Social Media; maximizing the power that sharing offers to spread the word of The Fest to audiences and potential attendees.

During The Fest, I usually take 6 consecutive days vaca from the Sheriff's Dept., starting on the Tuesday before. After all the media appearances Tuesday morning, we race out to the grounds and start on building easels as we direct the unloading of the trucks to their correct building, hoping to move the same things less often.

"When the sun goes down o'er Cleveland town, the colors last for hours oh! The lights come on, the night's a song, and the streets all turn to gold". Home late, I print things we need for the week, I then took a break to proof the 1st draft of the August issue of the Ohio Irish American News; 28 pages of blissful things to see, hear and do – a memory factory in full production.

Wednesday was set up day, and went really well. Our all-volunteer workforce came ready to roll. I am a firm believer you have to attack hard work. The analysis, best practices stuff has already been done, now, it's time to attack. Life-long volunteers move about without needing direction, and the buildings go up –we have to do a time lapse of that someday – t'would be very cool.

We were way ahead, despite less

volunteers this year. I shifted the auld brain to do another proof Wednesday night as the OhIAN began to take shape. Late, I then fell into the Hot tub and drifted for hours – ok, 15 minutes.

After a quick meeting at the Entertainer's hotel, we then wrapped up most of the setup on Thursday, near on 6pm. It was quite peaceful amidst the madness as we sat back and chatted with Whiskey Tasting Coordinators Ann Calvey and Sheila Farkas, who also volunteered to distribute Volunteer T-Shirts as volunteers came out to the grounds to get them (and the super duper secret of what color they are this year, is revealed).

So much was built, I only lost one thing, besides lots of sweat, lots of skin and a little blood etc... – by far the most valuable and the most damaging loss was one completely smashed hearing aid. I always put them in a case in my pocket when I get up in the morning, post shower wet ears and hearing aids do not do well together. A heavy box being leveraged hit my thigh and crushed the delicate little \$2,000 window to music and voices. Somehow the right aid, resting right next to the left one in the case, wasn't even scratched; so there's that!

Richie Reece, of Brigid's Cross and a partner in the four Hooley Houses, invited the entertainers out for a fest kick-off dinner – the meal was fantastic, and the conversation magnifico! We don't often get to chat with the performers at The Fest as we run from cliff to cliff. A good dinner, loads of laughs and those great convos were the perfect prescription for kicking off The Fest just right. Thank you, thank you, Cara Butler,

Continued on next page





Alyth McCormack, Jon Pilatske, and especially Richie for welcoming the great folks and taking such good care of us all.

Friday is our polish up day, making sure things work, look good, and are accessible. Beer, pop, food, ice and more roll in, sometimes at the EXACT same time...

WMMS of iHeart Radio sent radio personality Charlie out for Friday's

Happy Hour and the kickoff with Celtic Rockers Carbon Leaf. Hooley Hour's Bridget and Josh kicked off the Rock Stage Saturday and Sunday too.

Beverage Distributors' Rita Gaertner was amazing – such a dynamo who not only sees the big picture, but can see opportunities within it too. She and Greg added so much to this festival, I decided I am going to clone her. New Craft

beers this year featured Guinness Blonde, Smithwicks Pale and Millersburg Vienna Lager –and were a great success! Yes, I quality tested them all ...

Friday crowds were big, vibrant and pulsing with energy and fun that is everything you want, and everything we work so hard to generate. No amount of money will buy it, only quality highlights within will earn it.

'Tis tradition to have a nice cigar with friends at the end of each day –but this year, both, who live in Florida, but come up to spare me the heavy lifting, could not come this year – first time in many years that neither could come. Kevin

McDonough, our food coordinator, knew of my ritual and brought me a bodacious one to wrap up Friday with. Best laid plans ... didn't allow Saturday or Sunday, but man, I appreciate the thoughtfulness of doing that.

Despite it being the first day, all the fires and firsts, I was still able to leave the grounds not too long after half midnight. My body was holding up



well, tho moving slower; the broken auld back, however, had much griping and burning to bother me life. Since this was the first time I was able to see our performers up close this year, I easily muted it with hugs, conversation and a few songs and tunes till 3, before that nagging little voice chirping, Go To Bed, finally won out.

Continued on next page

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Saturday was like Friday, but way WAY bigger. By now most of you have heard about the Foam Glow race going on in and around the racetrack Saturday night. We had no choice, but the organizers of it were class acts; professional, courteous and very flexible. We made the best of it. Since we could only set up the tent once; we couldn't use from the grass by the back Pavilion, back, all weekend. We had to squeeze the Harp Stage, food court, and Miller Stage from the grass to the midway; they all got a bear hug.

I was worried especially about the soft voice of Frances Black being drowned out, but she more than held her own. There is a load of power in that woman, both musically and in her soul, accomplishment that directly makes the world a better place, for her being here. I sat down with Ronan Tynan on the same subject, and his response was vintage Tynan, classy, powerful and not to be messed with: "Don't worry about it; this is OUR party, I will take care of it". One of the great Gentleman in this business – awesome.

The most significant fallout, and the thing that I am most sick about, was that we had to close all Eastland Road parking on Saturday to Irish Fest patrons. This caused inconvenience and lost patrons throughout the day, and massive exit problems at the end of the night. We exhausted our choices, but still, I am sorry for all that people had to go through. Progressive Field, The Q, The Browns and I suppose Blossom and other large venues all deal with long wait times to get out, but it was first of this degree for us. We will fix it.

At 9:30 or so, we opened the gates to Foam Glow runners and many came thru. A young woman asked me for garbage bags to save her car seats from ruin, and I was able to locate some for her. She then told me I was a blessing. Under a mandate to provide the best experience we can for our guests, it caught me by surprise. I was not able to answer her before she headed off to her car, but as the weekend continued, that song hummed in my head and moved the Irish mist from my eyes; it became very symbolic to me: how many blessings I have found, or I should say, that found me, throughout the coordination and development of the festival all this year. They came front and center, encouraged by the opened eyes; it was oh so apropos.

I got off-site around 1am, but 3am came so quickly! Joanie Madden is one



of my all-time favorite people. Joanie is the driving force and founder of Cherish the Ladies, celebrating their 30th year together, and has been a mentor to me over 3 decades as I try to find ways to add value to our festival. She has played all over the world, seen and given so much, and like me, cares little for glamor over substance. She is full of wisdom and not shy about sharing it with those who ask.

All those closest to me share a trait of direct and honest communication – we are not big on lots of words, passive-aggressive communication, or games – we share because we care, not to get a pat on the back. On Saturday Joanie and I had a brief chat, heavily punctuated with laughter and a pepsi or three, but Sunday we had a mighty good conversation, she gave me strength.



I love the taste of a McDonald breakfast, but for obvious reasons, never eat it, outside of festival weekend. Stumble from hotel bed to Breakfast every day for their Bacon Egg n Cheese Bagel Value Meal w Large coffee is a lift and a pleasure as I gather thoughts, battle plans and strength for the day. 51 weeks to the next McD's! It's another hug I guess.

The biggest hug of all is Sunday, for we always start off The Fest with Mass. Our whole festival family gathers on a bleacher; stays together, prays together

and seeks the peace of God, amidst the pain and the fashion. Sunday was an amazing day, full of music, family and a deep love of our heritage, our faith and each other, brought Live and in full green, white and orange tinted color, to share with you.

I always resolve to "see more music next year", but that is not my focus, so usually part of a song or two is all I can get. All four bands new to us this year got tremendous response. Ashley Davis, Runa, Frances Black and Ennis

Continued on next page

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Katie Herbkersman Ann Frencel

Putting on the O'Ritz

Continued from previous page

were fantastic additions and loved by everyone that heard them, me included; gorgeous voices and notes; humor and dance where ever they roamed.

We close at 10:30p.m. on Sundays; I left soon after midnight. The after's party was amazing and so memorable. Have you ever tried Kansas Whiskey? Oh man!

Julie Fitz and Michael Holland went OFF on a dance rift behind the bar (the only place with a hard floor), the singing was beautiful, Cormac De Barra on Harp is the most mesmerizing thing to watch. I told folks that they are the reason people come to the fest, first for the music, but then, because of them and the friendships and goodwill they build. Better ambassadors could not be found. You are the reason, so I want to thank you for making this our most successful festival ever. Then I toasted that Kansas Whiskey! (again).

I arose Monday sore and happy; sad it was over; dreading the cleanup. We must be off the grounds by 5pm that day. 9 days to set up, 6 HOURS to take down, as we organized, counted, packed, taped, rolled and wrapped everything carefully, to lessen the chaos and work come unloading time next year. The cleanup went well and I was able to be at the storage as things came in, so I could put them away right (i.e. once), and spare my Pop having to muscle things when we reset for next year. The last box was stacked at 3:30.

Dropping off of loaned equipment and such took another hourish, but a shower never felt so good when we were done. Mindy kidnapped me for dinner at Hooley House, where I had started the weekend on Thursday, and ended the fest (sorta), on Monday. The AC and the ridiculously supportive company were most welcome. My cup runneth over, again.

We Get Letters ...

John.... I just have to tell you about your what your newspaper feature has done for me. Two months ago you featured Fr. Ray Kelly on the cover page and an article inside about his CD "Where I Belong". I started looking around for the CD but no one here in Columbia ever heard of it, let alone had it. I called my sister, Ann Frencel (Brook Park, Ohio), to see if she could locate it at one of the Irish Shops. She had no luck either. I called a place here (Columbia, SC) that buys and sells

old records to see if they could find it for me. The next day they called, having received it that morning. I purchased it, listened and was hooked. Have to admit I was not 100% hooked, but the more I played it, I couldn't stop.

Everyone who listens to it, has to have a copy. So I have ordered 8 so far with 2 more on the way. This CD is the perfect gift for engaged couples or even young/old married couples. Several of the songs are meant for those planning on getting

married, plus a few real Irish folk songs thrown in. This music shop is ordering extra because the word is spreading fast of this fantastic Priest and his music. I'm also going to write about the CD on Facebook and tell folks where they can get the CD.

Thanks, again, for this fabulous monthly newspaper. I read it from cover to cover and enjoy every article.

Katie Herbkersman- Columbia, SC



Home, couch and hot tub.

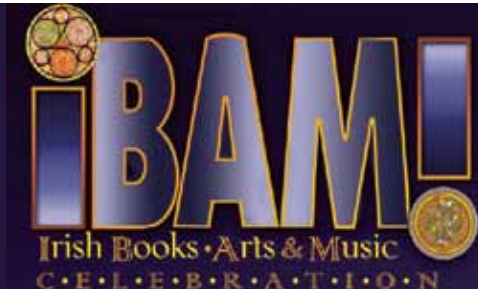
I have learned to take the Tuesday after The Fest off too – the wall of pain won't really hit till Wednesday, but Tuesday gives me a chance to find my garage and living room again, sort what is there and apologize with tlc to the neglected lawn, flowers and hammock that can fill free time pre and post fest. I have also learned, while still going, to get it done. Yet, my heart ached for the music.

About 6 weeks before The Fest, our Fest Temple Bar performances Coordinator Maureen Reich was gathering a group to go see the Galway band, We Banjo 3, at the fantastic Music Box Supper Club, on the Tuesday after The Fest. But I bugged off, not too sure how the Rheumatoid and broken back would be after the holy havoc that is The Fest. I felt relatively ok, so I joined Kati, Maureen, Amanda, Jimmy, Shannon, Erin, Erin, Kevin, Rasa, Marilyn, Dave, Beth, Roger and opening band The Portersharks at Music Box. So glad I did. We Banjo 3 has loads of personality, LOADS of talent among the foursome -2 sets of Howley and Scahill brothers, so I am glad I bucked up and went, they are just flat out fantastic.

Wednesday was back to work at the Sheriff's Department. Hard to come down from such a high, yet I must – for it is only 350 days till The 34th Annual Cleveland Irish Cultural Festival.

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