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## Editor's Corner



**John O'Brien, Jr.**

What does Christmas mean to you? Sometimes it is in our activities, reflections of the things we value most. We hope much of that is reflected within these pages, in our past, present and what we do now, that becomes our future.

What it means is shared in Bob Carney's column Cleveland Comra (Cleveland Conversation), in Richard Lardie's Living with Lardie, Terry Boyle's Terry from Derry and Susan Mangán's eloquent Christmas story in Blowin' In, Lisa O'Rourke's Don't Forget Us: The Boyne Miracle, Maureen Ginley's Growing Up Irish and much more inside these pages. We hope you enjoy our December issue.

It is hard to believe, but this issue concludes our 9th year in business. New columnists and features have lifted the OhIAN to new audiences. It has been a blink, and a battle; a dream coming true, never comes easy.

October's Editor's Corner column got a great deal of response.

We spoke of our commitment to helping others, to paying it forward, and blowing by our \$10,000 annual budget for that, in June. I am gratified at your responses; we will continue to do all we can to seed others, to nurture and grow, as we reach a hand down the ladder, to pull others up. The reward in seeing them blossom springs eternal.

I am on the executive board of Irish Network Cleveland, an organization of business and community leaders dedicated to opening an Irish Diaspora Chamber of Commerce, in Cleveland. Anyone looking for a break, a bit of information, or a connection, to do commerce or conversation in Cleveland, can call Irish Network Cleveland and get help in what they need. Across the USA, 28 chapters are working in their own communities to do the same thing. We connect with each other, too.

The Irish Network USA National Convention was held the first weekend in November, this year in Boston. Ambassador of Ireland to the United States Anne Anderson, Consul General Fionnuala Quinlan, Massachusetts State Senator Linda Dorcea Forry and The American Chamber of Commerce Ireland's Mark Redmond spoke, all eloquently, of the ties that bind us all. Panel discussions and networking opportunities filled the convention. The take aways were tremen-

dous. I write more about the convention on page 24.

You know those weekends where nothing is going on, then the next weekend 2, or 3 events? We can't make them all. In an effort to help organizers, organize for maximum attendance, the Ohio Irish American News are adding two new tools. At the end of each paper will be a Things Coming Next Month, events in the next issue, and online we are going to create an Ohio Irish Events Calendar, to help organizers plan and choose the best dates for their events, as so many support so many.

You will be able to enter your title, date and a one liner, and anyone can see it..., hopefully reducing double, or triple booking of events important to our community. This is under construction, but will be available the first of the year, accessible through our website [www.ianohio.com](http://www.ianohio.com). There is no charge, we just hope to help our supporters, support others too.

Got Irish? Wanna Learn? Join us as we learn our beautiful Irish language. New classes start in January, every Tuesday night. For information or to register (\$120 for new students, \$100 for returning students), email us at [jobrien@ianohio.com](mailto:jobrien@ianohio.com).

Nollaig Shona duit! D'fhéadfadh go bhfuil tú sláinte mór, saibhreas agus sonas sa Bhliain Nua. (Merry Christmas to you! May you have great health, wealth and happiness in the New Year).

Slán,  
John

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what I do and who I know;  
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## About Our Cover

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# Irish Radio

## Saturday

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

## Sunday

7am - 8am: *Sweeney Astray* WCBS FM 89.3 w/ Bill Kennedy

10am - 12pm: *Gerry Quinn's Irish Hours* WHK AM 1420  
w/ Colleen Corrigan Day & Eddie Fitzpatrick

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

4pm - 5pm: *Songs of Britain & Ireland* WCPN FM 90.3  
w/ Joe Nichols & Kevin McGinty

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

5pm - 6pm: *The Hooley Hour* WHK AM 1420

9pm - 10pm: *Hooley Hour* WHK AM 1420

w/ Bridget Linton & Josh Vaughan

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## On This Day in Irish History

**6 December 1921** - Representatives of the Irish government appointed by President Eamon de Valera (including Michael Collins) sign the Anglo-Irish treaty, ending the Irish War of Independence against England. "I have signed my own death warrant" replied Michael Collins after signing.

**9 December 1922** - Irish Senate meets for the first time; made up of 60 members, 30 elected by Dail Eirean, the remainder nominated by the President of the Executive Council.

**10 December 2009** - The opening of Dublin's 60 million Euro Samuel Beckett Bridge. The 131 yard-long, 52 yard-high bridge spans the River Liffey.

**13 December 1867** - In a failed attempt to rescue Colonel Richard O'Sullivan Burke, Fenians blasted a wall at London's Clerkenwell house of detention, killing twelve people. The attempt was unsuccessful.

**17 December 1883** - Patrick O'Donnell (45) from Meenacladdy, Gweedore, Co. Donegal was hanged in Newgate prison, having been convicted of the murder of Invincibles leader and police informer, James Carey, on board the passenger ship Melrose in July of that year.

**22 December 1989** - Death of Samuel Beckett, playwright and winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature (1969).

**31 December 1759** - Arthur Guinness secured a 9,000 year lease on four acres of ground at St. James Gate, Dublin, for an annual rent of 45 pounds, including water rights.

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read your OhIAN ?



#IRISHLOVE



*Generations: Mickey Coyne keeps an eye on his Coverboy son Kevin*

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*Merry Christmas*

## MILESTONES

Congratulations to Terry & Susan Kenneally on their 48th Wedding Anniversary!



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Publishers

John O'Brien Jr. / Cliff Carlson

Editor John O'Brien Jr.

Website-

Cathy Curry Carlson &

Ryanne Gallagher-Johnson

Columnists

Behind the Hedge- John O'Brien, Jr.

Blowin' In- Susan Mangan

Cleveland Irish- Francis McGarry

Crossword Puzzle- Linda Fulton Burke

Don't Forget Us- Lisa O'Rourke

Growing up Irish- Maureen Ginley

Illuminations- J. Michael Finn

Inner View- John O'Brien Jr

Ire. Past & Present- Niamh O'Sullivan

Letter From Ireland - Cathal Liam

Livin' With Lardie- Richard Lardie

Off Shelf/On This Day- Terry Kenneally

Our Sports Man- David McDonnell

Out of the Mailbag- John O'Brien, Jr.

Terry From Derry- Terry Boyle

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e-mail: [mailto:jobrien@ianohio.com](mailto:mailto:jobrien@ianohio.com)

or mail to: IAN OHIO INC

PO Box 7, Zion IL 60099

847-872-0700

e-mail: [editor@ianohio.com](mailto:editor@ianohio.com)

Subscriptions: [subs@ianohio.com](mailto:subs@ianohio.com)

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## Growing UP Irish

by Maureen Ginley

### Merry Christmas!

It's December 25th, and the entire Ginley family – my Mom, my Dad, Katie, Chris, Mike, Billy, me, and Tucker (our beloved golden retriever/lab/greyhound mix) – are in our coziest pajamas, sipping on coffee, and gathering around a tree decorated with homemade ornaments and brightly colored tinsel. We are laughing, opening gifts, and recalling memories Christmas past. This is our holiday tradi-



the season that I'm absolutely bonkers about is the fashion. Particularly the sweaters. I own what some would call an "embarrassing amount off ugly Christmas sweaters," and I wear them as often as possible between the end of November and December 25th.

On Christmas morning of 2012, as I went to visit my grandparents, I walked through Westlake proudly - displaying my purple, blue, and pink reindeer print



tion: we spend the first few hours of the day with each other, and it is one of the best parts of the season.

You see, with having such a large family, it's often difficult to all get together at one time. One sibling is away at school, both of my parents have to work, I have to get writing for my thesis done. So when we are able to spend more than a few hours together - and on Christmas we are because we spend the night before at mass and having dinner together while watching Elf and A Christmas Story – it's wonderful. We are able to sit down, relax, and take a break from our crazy, busy lives.

Though my favorite part of the holidays is being able to spend time with my family and reflect on what blessings we are surrounded with, another aspect of

sweater for everyone to see. Imagine my surprise when my Grandpa greeted me with a hug – as he was wearing a similarly patterned, thick, wool sweater! "Grandpa, we're almost matching," I cheered. "Let's take a photo!" My Grandpa grinned his signature toothy grin and obliged. We joked throughout the rest of the day that we had planned the matching clothing all along.

The next year's holiday season was a hard one for my family, as we suffered the loss of our goofy, lovable, silly Grandpa in the Spring of that year. The holidays are hard for anyone that's lost a loved one, but especially so for those whose loved ones loved Christmas as much as my Grandpa did. One of my all-time favorite photos of him is from a Christmas

that occurred sometime in my youth: he is standing in the living room of his home, pointing proudly to the Christmas tree next to him. Several feet tall, and several feet wide, it took up nearly the entire room. The size of this tree could didn't even come close to the size of the smile on his face, though, and we spent Christmas 2013 reminiscing on and thinking about that goofy, toothy grin.

Since April of 2013, there has been

something different about our family gatherings. Though my Grandpa is no longer physically with us, he is everywhere in our Christmas celebrations. He's in the coffee we drink with each other on the morning of the 25th; he's in the sound of laughter echoing off the walls as we watch our favorite holiday films; he's in the seats next to us, squeezing us into a tight hug, reminding us that he's always there.

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## Molly Osgood Childers

We often read of the wives of historical figures, and although some of them may be historical figures in their own right, their life stories tend to be obscured by their husband's achievements. Such was the case with Molly Osgood Childers.

Molly Osgood Childers was born Mary Alden Osgood in Boston's wealthy Beacon Hill neighborhood on December 14, 1875. She was one of twin daughters born to Dr. Hamilton Osgood and his wife Margaret Pearmain, who was a renowned anthologist, author and poet.

The Osgood family came to the America on The Mayflower. The Osgood's were patriots who believed in liberty and fought with the colonists in the Revolutionary War to break free from England's rule and establish an independent republic. The Osgood's lineage also included John Quincy Adams, the sixth President of the United States.

As a child, Molly loved to ice skate, but at age three a skating accident left her crippled. Both of her hips were damaged. For a time she was only able to move her head and hands. In those days she was known as a "basket case," that is, she had to be carried everywhere she went in a specially designed basket that also served as her bed. She underwent a num-

ber of painful operations. At thirteen years old she had an operation that enabled her to walk with crutches.

Molly was very determined not to just lie around regretting her disability. Her favorite childhood adventure was to go to the public library on Beacon Street and immerse herself in the world of books. Despite her physical limitations, she managed to achieve many things, including conducting a junior orchestra of thirty musicians.

To give herself greater mobility she learned to drive her own horse and carriage. When she was a child, the Irish Fenian John Boyle O'Reilly was a frequent visitor to her home. In 1867 O'Reilly had been sentenced to life imprisonment and transportation to Australia. He escaped and made his way to the Boston, where he became a well known poet, writer and reporter.

Molly first met Erskine Childers, her future husband, in 1903 while he was visiting Boston as a horse artilleryman with the Honorable Artillery Company of London. Molly's sister Margaret was invited to a dinner party to entertain the company, but she became ill and she asked her sister to take her place. Molly sat next to Erskine Childers and there was a mutual attraction between the two. Before returning to England, Erskine proposed to Molly. They were married in Boston in January 1904 and then left for England, where they resided until 1919.

Erskine Childers had close ties to Ireland. At the age of 12, his parents died and his siblings went to live with his Irish mother's family (the Bartons) in Annamoe in County Wicklow. Childers was somewhat of a puzzling individual in that his staunch belief in the British Empire seemed inconsistent with his militant advocacy for home rule for Ireland. That odd mixture was more evident in 1914 when Childers and others negotiated the purchase and shipment of 1,500 rifles and 49,000 rounds of ammunition from arms dealer Moritz Magnus in Hamburg to arm the Irish Volunteers. Molly was very in-

involved in what became known as the "Howth gun running" from the beginning. In May of 1914 a committee of Anglo-Irish nationalists was set up to raise funds to purchase the arms. Alice Stopford Green was the treasurer and Molly served as secretary. Roger Casement and Darrell



Figgis were responsible for contacting arms suppliers in Germany and arranging for the purchase of the guns and ammunition. Childers paid for the arms and arranged for the transfer. He also offered the use of his yacht to transport the arms from Germany.

On July 12, 1914 the arms were transferred from a German tugboat to Childers's yacht, the Asgard. The yacht sailed into Howth harbor on July 29 with Molly steering the vessel. The arms were handed over to the awaiting Irish Volunteers. The smuggled cache of arms and ammunition was used by the Irish Volunteers in the 1916 Easter Rising.

What seems like an obvious contradiction to his gun running activities on behalf of the Irish Volunteers, Erskine enlisted in the British Naval Air Service at the onset of World War I where he served until March 1919. He reached the rank of major in the Royal Air Force. During that period Molly was honorary secretary of a committee to look after the welfare of Belgian refugees.

Shortly after the Irish War of Independence started Erskine moved to Ireland. He became involved with Sinn Féin, joined the IRA and was appointed Director of Publicity for the First Dáil Éireann. He was the architect of the Republican movement's successful propaganda cam-

paign during the War of Independence. Molly's activities during these years included running a clipping service from her home for the revolutionary papers of the period. She also published the Irish Bulletin single-handedly. She entertained foreign journalists and sheltered men on the run. She also worked with Michael Collins hiding and distributing vast sums of money raised by the Dáil Loan. From 1920 she was a Trustee of the White Cross, an Irish relief agency.

In 1921 Erskine Childers was a secretary to the Treaty delegation that negotiated the Anglo-Irish Treaty. During the Civil War Erskine opposed the Treaty and took the republican side. He was arrested in 1922 by the Free State. He was found in possession of a gun given to him by Michael Collins. Imprisoned, he was one of the first men executed by the Free State. Molly made a statement to the press following her husband's death: "His sacrifice is as much a gift to me as it is to his comrades who serve Ireland's cause." Molly maintained her commitment to the republican cause and continued to produce publicity material for Sinn Féin.

Despite her disability and her busy republican activities over the years Molly Childers was also a mother. The Childers had three sons, Erskine Hamilton Childers (born 1905, who later became the fourth President of Ireland), Henry Childers (born 1908) who died soon after his birth, and Robert Alden Childers (born 1910). She survived to see eight grandchildren and twelve great-grandchildren.

For the remainder of her life Molly was beset by health problems made more severe by her lifelong disability. She was a patient in the Brookline Hospital in Massachusetts from 1947 until 1950. After her hospitalization ended she returned to Ireland. She lived in Glendalough House in Annamoe, County Wicklow, the home of her husband's cousin Robert Barton. There she was confined to bed, surrounded by books and listening to the radio. Molly Osgood Childers died on January 1, 1964 at the age of eighty-nine. She is buried in the republican plot at Glasnevin Cemetery in Dublin along with her husband.

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

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# SPEAK IRISH

By Bob Carney

Tá an Ghaeilge go hiontach!  
(Taw an gall ah gay guh hee-untachk)

## Irish is Wonderful!

Irish is one of the oldest languages still spoken today. It is part of the Celtic language family which forms one of the twelve branches of the Indo-European linguistic family. While its use declined heavily throughout the 18th and 19th centuries and even into the 20th century, it has experienced a rebirth of sort, not only in Ireland, but worldwide. Irish language classes are being attended all over the U.S. and other countries by people like myself who feel the language is a very important element of our heritage.

There are three areas in Ireland where Irish is the predominant language. These areas are called the Gaeltacht and each region has a slightly different dialect. Donegal, Galway, and Kerry. There is also an Official Standard dialect, which is taught in schools and is often used in on-line and self learning materials.

There are only 18 letters in the Irish alphabet. ABCDEFGHILMNOPRSTU, although you will see others, in "loan" words from other languages, foreign place-names, scientific terms, etc. Vowels can be long or short, denoted by a mark called a fada. á é í ó ú these are considered long vowels.

Pronunciation can be intimidating at first when you see written Irish but once the rules become known, it's not so difficult. Speak Irish Cleveland Instructor, Paul Curran, recently pointed out English is much more difficult. He had us look at the words Pony and Bologna, they rhyme. Figure it out!

Here's something I found a while back. Pronounce the word on the left while looking at the word on the right

leprechaun leipreachán  
poteen poitin  
banshee bean sí  
Kennedy Cinnéide  
plan plan

I hope that helps. In future lessons we'll gradually learn how to make sense of pronunciation by learning how letter placement in a word can affect the way a word is pronounced.

Cleachtadh a dhéanann maistreacht  
(clach-tah a yeh-nenn my stracht)  
Practice makes perfect!

In keeping with the season try to work these into your vocabulary or into your Christmas cards or greetings.

an aimsir (un-am-sheer) the weather  
an lá (un-law) the day  
an oíche (un-ee-khuh) the night

Tá an lá go hiontach (taw un- law guh hee-un-tachk) the day is wonderful

Tá an aimsir go breá (taw un am-sheer guh braw) the weather is fine

Tá an oíche fuar (taw un ee-khuh foo- uhr) the night is cold

Tá an lá fliuch (taw un law flyukh) the day is wet

Níl an oíche scamallach (neel un ee- khuh skom-uh-lahkh) the night isn't cloudy

Did you notice by changing tá, which is the word for is or are, to níl, we changed the phrase to a negative one. For example: Níl an aimsir go breá.

The weather is not fine.

síoc (shuk) frost  
sneachta (shnak-tuh) snow  
sa gheimhreadh (sa-ghivrah) in winter  
fear sneachta (far shnak-tuh) snowman  
féirin (fayr-een) gift

Crann Nollaig (krann null-ug)

Christmas tree

Oíche Nollaig (ee-khuh null-ug)

Christmas Eve

Daidí na Nollaig (dad-ee na null-ug)

Santa Claus

Lá Nollaig (law null-ug) Christmas Day

Lá na bliana úire (law na bleena oora)

New Years Day

íosá (ee-uh-ssuh) Jesus

Muire (mwir-uh) Mary

This name is only used for Mary the mother of Jesus. Máire is used for everyone else named Mary in english. Pronounced mor-uh.

Seosamh (shoh-soo) Joseph

Aingeal (ayn-gul) angel

réalta (rayl-tuh) star

Nollaig Shona Duit (null-ug hona gwitch) Merry Christmas to you

Nollaig Shona Daoibh (null-ug hona yeev) Merry Christmas to all of you

Beannachtáí an t Séasúir (ban-ukh-ta un tay soor) Seasons Greetings

Nollaig faoi shéan agus faoi mhaise duit / daoibh (null-ug fwee hayn is fwee huh-ness gwitch / yeev) Christmas happiness and goodness to you / all of you

Athbhliain faoi mhaise duit / daoibh (ah-vleen fwee vosh ah gwitch / yeev) A happy prosperous New Year to you / all of you

Tá grá agam duit (taw grah ugum gwitch) I love you

Rath Dé ort (rah day ort) God bless you  
Beannacht Dé leat (ban-ukht day lee-ut)

God's blessing with you

Nollaig Shona Dhuit agus Athbhliain Faoi Mhaise Dhuit (null-ug hona gwitch ogus ah-vleen fwee vosh-ah gwitch) Happy Christmas and Happy New Year

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## View From Ireland

*By Maurice Fitzpatrick*



### Both Sides of the Border

"Oh dear—the losers are losing again", thus tweeted MP Gregory Campbell in response to a poll on the reunification of Ireland which found that majorities on both sides of the border would vote to keep the border if the motion were to remove it now. So the status quo and the border, such as it is, remains. To a long-standing elected representative of the Democratic Unionist Party like Campbell that heralds an occasion for glee and goading—his extraordinary political maturity and vision never let him down. But what does the poll really tell us, and have those who live in the Northern Irish State without identifying with it lost in any sense?

Only 13% of citizens in Northern Ireland desire reunification if it were on offer today, according to this cross-border poll organised by the BBC's Stephen Nolan Show and RTE's Prime Time. Put a refer-

endum ballot sheet in front of the electorate and support for it would likely dwindle to less than double figures. Remember that, as George Mitchell stated on the occasion of the signing of The Good Friday Agreement, "it is the people of Northern Ireland who decide, democratically, their future". So Campbell and co are right: the majority is behind staying in Northern Ireland, and those who attempted to dismantle the state for over thirty years, some through violent means, have lost?

Not so fast. Campbell's mistake is what often happens when politicians spend more time drooling about television polls than on clear-headed analysis of the evidence.

Alter one crucial dimension in this equation, money, and you might have a very different result. Currently, the British Exchequer shovels 10 billion pounds (\$15 billion) a year to keep the Northern Irish State functioning, a very considerable injection of cash given the size of Northern Ireland. The subvention filters down into state jobs, quangos and all manner of pink elephants. Yes, it works to preserve the state, up to a point, for as long as the cash flows.

But what if the right-wing and inherently treacherous Tory Party in Britain were to start to wave some of the blandishments available to the Northern Irish electorate at its core constituency on "the mainland"? How long can it be before a British leader realises that the political gain available for instigating an end to the union with Northern Ireland could outweigh the political risk of being responsible for ceding part of the United Kingdom? Maybe, since he is fond of talking about losers, that is a loss to which Gregory Campbell might address himself.

The nationalist parties in the North had divergent responses to the poll. The issue of reuniting Ireland is so hardwired to Sinn Féin's make-up that it has been struggling to make even this dismal result from their perspective sound positive. It is building block, we are told. At least they did not imply that it is any more than one block. With general elections both north and south of the border and the 1916 Rising centenary due to happen in the coming months, a symbolic step towards ending partition is essential to Sinn Féin's programme. Yet only 13% of citizens in Northern Ireland want to end partition. Maybe the 66% of the Southern

electorate who claim to want a United Ireland will provide a boost to Sinn Féin's support base? But read the small print. Less than half of that number want it now, and how many of those really see it happening anytime soon? The main trick in Sinn Féin's repertoire is to harp on a United Ireland, but judging by the number of people on either side of the border who are unequivocally in favour of that policy, their election manifesto could do with enhancement.

The SDLP's party statement on the poll read: "The Scottish referendum demonstrated the scale of swing possible in a few short years when the public becomes engaged in a discussion about their future." Scotland seemed far from ripe for any form of constitutional change, still less full independence, until a few years ago. Yet the rise of Alex Salmond led, last September, to Scotland coming close to disengaging from the union. Terrified British Prime Minister, David Cameron, resorted at the last minute to begging the Scottish electorate to "stay with us". Would he, or future Tory Party leaders, be as quick to beg the Northern Irish electorate?

On the contrary, conditions whereby it becomes financially less attractive to remain in the UK will likely be created to alienate the overwhelming consent to remain in the union that exists today. When that alienation happens the British government, rather than staunch the haemorrhage of Northern Irish Unionist votes and support, will be only too happy to wave goodbye to the most troublesome colony it ever had, and one which has long since ceased to be profitable.

It is likely that some form of tokenistic confederation system would remain after a British government pullout. Consider the incremental way in which sovereignty in the South was achieved after 1921: the return of the Treaty Ports, the end of the Oath of Allegiance to the British crown and the formalising of the Republic. In many ways Michael Collins' dictum that the Anglo-Irish Treaty was "a stepping stone" to freedom was borne out. It took half a century for it to happen though, and during that time Northern Ireland remained in rut of intransigence. But The Good Friday Agreement (1998) was the beginning for a very new dispensation in the North of Ireland and it will look quite a different place half a century after that historic agreement. By 2048, the border could well be a memory. So triumphalism is hardly warranted, Gregory.




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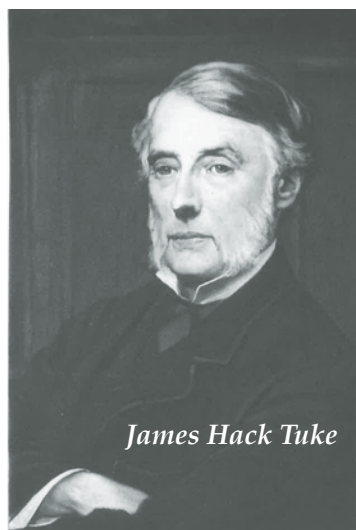
## Blacksod Bay Assisted Emigration

The famine of 1845-52 in Ireland, also known as An Gorta Mor (The Great Hunger), was one of the cataclysmic events to ever occur in Ireland. From a population standpoint alone Ireland never recovered from it. The pre-famine population in Ireland was more than eight million people. The combined population currently is approximately six million (Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland).

While the famine of 1845-52 was the worst the country had experienced, it was not the only one to occur. The famine of 1879-80 is sometimes described as the last major Irish famine. In contrast with earlier subsistence crises, effective interventions including assisted emigration meant there was little excess mortality, even in badly affected areas such as County Mayo. Cleveland, Ohio Irish families like the Gormans, Mulloys, Lynches, Ginleys and Dugans emigrated from Achill Island, Belmullet, Erris and Ballycroy between 1883-84 as a result of the famine of 1879-80.

More than 9000 Irish were able to emigrate to the U.S. and Canada through a scheme known as assisted emigration, made possible through the effort of a Quaker philanthropist names James Hack Tuke. English born, Tuke first visited Ireland in the winter of 1846-47 and again in the autumn of 1847. He became actively involved in the relief effort, recording firsthand the catastrophic ravages of the famine.

Even after the famine of 1845-



James Hack Tuke

52 ended, Tuke remained closely associated with Irish causes and when efforts for state-funded family emigration failed, Tuke organized his own committee (popularly known as "Mr. Tuke's fund"). By 1884 he had assisted some 9,500 emigrants to travel to America and Canada. Tuke, who personally selected many of the emigrants, also used his contacts in America to secure aid and employment for the Irish on their arrival overseas.

The Blacksod Bay Emigration project is to make available the stories of the people of Erris, Achill and Newport West and the descendants of those who emigrated under the assisted emigration schemes initiated by Tuke. It aims to document the people who left, where they came from and what happened to them in the United States and Canada. A database has been established for that purpose. For more information go to [www.BlacksodBayEmigration.ie](http://www.BlacksodBayEmigration.ie)

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## The Diaspora is Unleashed

The Irish Diaspora. Flaxseeds and potatoes. The difference between whiskey and you. Irish immigration in the 17th century amounted to over 250,000 out of a population of 2 million. 350,000 Irish emigrated in the 18th century as the population reached 4.5 million people. In the 19th century over 7.5 million people left Ireland and the island maintained around 4.5 million inhabitants.

The Irish diaspora must be contextualized within the expansion of Atlantic world commerce. Flaxseeds and the Irish linen industry structuralized the pecuniary advantage of Irish immigration to the Americas. Empty ships make empty pockets. The Irish exploited the new world ports of re-location in proportions that astound. The amplification of county and national economic vulnerability, both industrial and agricultural, was the recurrent catalyst for the Irish diaspora.

Then came the Famine: An Gorta Mor; The Great Hunger, The Irish Potato Famine increased the need to escape the harsh economic conditions in Ireland. The Irish were starving in what some historians call a holocaust. In general terms we know the story of the Famine; we know of the horror and the death. The sheer number of deaths was one million. It seems counterintuitive that the necessity to emigrate dissipated with the failure of the potato crop. However, there is more to Irish history than phytophthora infestans.

Historians estimate that 800,000 Irish would have emigrated between 1845 and 1855 from a famine-free Ireland. Also, immigration was 30% higher in the four years after 1849 than the four years before. 1847 and 1848 were unmerciful on the Irish, but incremental improvements in the years that followed only increased migration. 1852 was the largest year of Famine migration

with 368,764 Irish leaving Ireland. By 1855 immigration was under 100,000 people. Hunger was not the only variable in migration.

In the 1830s, the British government formed an Irish Commission to look at the possibility of an Irish Poor Law, modeled on the same sentiment and law in place in England. The Irish Commission talked to rich and poor, east and west, single and married, and whoever else there was to talk to.



Armed with emic and etic data, they made some conclusions about what was best for Ireland. The Irish Commission concluded that "the difficulty in Ireland is not to make the able-bodied look for employment, but to find it... (They) are eager for work, that work is not there for them." "I want to go home where my feet both feel safe, but there ain't no jobs in the old Free State."

The Commission noted nearly 2.5 million people would be in workhouses if the

English model were adopted. Workhouses were antithetical to Irish social and cultural practices and a penal approach to poverty.

The Commission's suggestion was more akin to the FDR's New Deal, with public works and housing projects. The Board of Improvement and Board of Works would build roads and bridges, deepen rivers, reclaim wasteland, and provide new housing for the poorest of the poor. They also suggested emigration as a short term measure to alleviate the distress in Ireland.

The economy of Ireland could not support the population until that economy was given the ability to diversify and expand opportunity to all the Irish. The Commission suggested free passage to a British colony; that is, only to colonies that did not accept convicts. If you stole Trevelyn's corn, that trip was also on the British government.

ment. Their suggestions were infinitely contrary to British sociopolitical hermeneutics. Their suggestions were unequivocally disregarded.

In 1838 the Poor Law was enacted in Ireland. It was based on what the British Parliament thought was happening and not what was actually happening. It was based on the view that the able-bodied need to work and, if they are not working, it is due to their failure. Poor Irish were forced to the workhouses, however minimal the availability.

Oh, Parliament thought it best to make assistance as difficult as possible to obtain to force workers to find general sector employment. Parliament also wanted workhouses to be spaces that facilitated the desire to leave; in other words, characterized by sub-human living conditions and non-living wages.

The direct result of the Poor Law, The Irish Workhouse, was, at best, an approach to address the transition of the Irish economy to wage labor. In reality, it was a failure. It was a failure before the Famine. It was a failure during the Famine. It was a failure of the metropole to respect the life and the quality of life of the Irish people. When combined with the economic hegemony enforced on the Irish market, it was the structural and functional component that made a famine into a holocaust.

Immigration was an answer. The Irish immigrated to the Americas in numbers and population proportions that are difficult to comprehend. Ireland is 32,478 square miles. Ohio is 44,828 square miles. Over 1.5 million Irish died of starvation and disease during the Famine. Contextually that is the entire population of Cuyahoga County dead in a decade.

Millions left. Many found themselves in America. They arrived from the same cities and counties as their flaxseed predecessors. Their memory was forever affected by the Famine. Their will to survive was as strong as ever. For additional reading please see: Patrick Fitzgerald and Brian Lambkin, *Migration in Irish History, 1607-2007*. Helen Burke, *People and the Poor Law in 19th Century Ireland*. David P. Nally, *Human Encumbrances: Political Violence and the Great Irish Famine*.

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**Don't  
Forget  
Us!**

By Lisa O'Rourke



## Boyne Miracle

Darkness engulfs us this time of year. When it comes, it immediately makes us yearn for the light. We complain a bit about it despite the fact that we have the advantages of electricity and artificial light.

Using a little bit of imagination, envision yourself in the primordial soup of primitive Ireland, trapped by the darkness. The return of light would be something to honor.

All of the festivals at this time of year celebrate, among other things, light: Christmas, Kwanza, Hanukah and Diwali to name a few. If you have read any history of ancient people, you know that our modern holidays have at least a passing relationship with the old Celtic & pagan traditions.

Most in the Irish community celebrate Christmas, and the timing of that holiday coincides with the winter solstice. The winter solstice would have been a time to observe that change in some way in ancient Ireland, especially if you had been sitting through the long, cold, wet nights. Any doubts that you might be holding onto regarding the ancient Irish pagans celebrating the return of the light would quickly be eradicated by a trip to Newgrange.

Newgrange is not hard to get to in Ireland, and is popular with travelers. It is just north of Dublin in the Boyne valley. The Boyne is an area that clearly had great significance in many eras in the history of Ireland. Proximity to the port of Dublin had to be one of the reasons. The Boyne valley area also includes the Hill of Tara and the Hill of Slane, which contains the Slane Castle of concert fame. Newgrange itself is part of the ancient monument group called the Brú na Bóinne. The name Brú na Bóinne translated from Gaelic, would mean something like "on the brink of the foundation". With so many significant sites surrounding, how could it be anything else?

Newgrange is one of three discovered passage tombs in the Brú na Bóinne. The sites are at least 5,000 years old, older than the Pyramid of Giza. Newgrange itself dates around 3,200 years old.

Like so much Irish archeology, Newgrange is relatively new to the scene of

world heritage places of interest. It was only excavated in between 1962 and 1975. The other two monuments in the area are



Dowth and Knowth. Knowth is a smaller passage tomb. Dowth offers an impressive view of the setting sun on the winter solstice, to balance the rising one that is viewed from inside Newgrange. Dowth also has a kerbstone that is carved with what appear to be seven suns and a rayed sun. It may be current interpretation, but the area sure looks like it has a quantity of patterns that suggest the sun and other astronomical constructs.

On first glance, Newgrange is a kind of unassuming bump on the ground with a white wrapper of quartz stones. A closer look yields more interesting shapes, snake-like coils carved into many of the surrounding kerb stones, most impressively on the Entrance Stone. There is a particular design that is featured abundantly on Irish inspired art; a triple spiral. The triple spiral is seen all over the place here.

It is believed that the spiral represents some type of spiritual trinity or a cycle of life. Going into the tomb is where it becomes most impressive. The tomb holds maybe twenty-five

people or so comfortably at a time. The curling spirals continue along a passage that branches off into a cruciform shape, which is a feature of many of the Irish passage tombs. Following that main passage back, you stop below the Roof Box. If you are able to be there on the Winter Solstice, you could witness for yourself what the tour guides approximate with a flashlight, a brilliant shaft of light that enters the top of the box, bends with the roof and illuminates the entire chamber. At bare minimum, what a calendar!

It doesn't take a great imagination to realize that the beginning of long days would have great significance to a primitive people, especially ones that relied on plants for food. No one knows exactly what kind of celebrations or rituals happened here. Archeologists have found evidence of both burial and ritual use.

To paraphrase the website, the Neolithic people of the Boyne would have found great significance in the light of the New Year; rebirth of the bounty of the agriculture and life in the area. It could have had spiritual significance to the people too.

There is not a lot of information on how Bronze Age or Beaker period people lived in Ireland. People of this age had tools to build these structures with, but it would not have been easily done. It is believed many of the mound or ritual areas had wooden circular fences around them, primarily to keep out meandering giant ancient elk and other animals.

There is also a stone circle at New-

grange, which like neighboring Stonehenge, is believed to have some astronomical purpose. The discovery a few years ago of Clonycavan man, who was found in a nearby Irish bog, offered some surprises as to what life at this time might have been like.

He was a small Bronze Age man at five foot two and ate a healthy plant-based diet. Sadly, it did not help him to live to a ripe old age. "Game of Thrones" had nothing on the ancient Irish for grisly murders; he was afflicted with multiple injuries that would have been fatal. Clonycavan Man also showed that there was a bit of dandyism in ancient Ireland; maybe that is what got you killed. His affectations included a pine resin in his hair to make it stand up, in an early attempt at a Mohawk, and manicured nails. These two factors indicate that he had wealth of some sort since it is believed that his hair gel came all the way from Spain or France.

So a people in darkness worshipped light and we continue the tradition today. Some scholars even think that the name of Jesus as the Son of God is linked to the name the Sun, linking the birth of Christ to the rebirth of the world after the darkest days. Ireland definitely played its ancient part in this ritual that carries on. Happy Festival of Light!!!!

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## Thomas Meagher and the National Flag of Ireland

A number of republican revolutions against monarchies right across Europe took place in the memorable year of 1848, in countries such as Italy, Germany, France, the Austrian Empire, Belgium and Holland. The French staged a successful, if unplanned and practically bloodless revolution. King Louis Philippe's government was deposed, and a new republican Cabinet was established, some of whom would have been familiar with the inspiring Young Ireland newspaper *The Nation*. The head of this provisional French Government, the poet politician Alphonse de Lamartine, was a man greatly admired by

Thomas Francis Meagher, himself a leading member of that Young Ireland movement.

Young Ireland was a Nationalist group led in the early 1840s by Thomas Davis, John Blake Dillon and Charles Gavan Duffy. Inspired by their newspaper *The Nation*, first published in 1842, the Young Irelanders initially supported Daniel O'Connell and his Repeal Association in seeking to abolish the Act of Union between Great Britain and Ireland and to secure a separate legislature in Ireland.

The Young Irelanders hoped to encourage in Irish people a strong sense of identity, and a love for their history, traditions and songs. As the popularity and ambitions of this movement increased, they began to demand more and more independence for Ireland.

The Irish tricolour was first seen in public when it was flown from the second floor of the Wolfe Tone Confederate Club at 33 The Mall, Waterford, by Thomas Francis Meagher on 7 March 1848. This building still stands; I stood before it on a beautiful summer evening earlier this year, watching an immaculate flag, its colours vivid, flying from that same second level window. Two different theories exist regarding the design of this flag: it was inspired by the Newfoundland tricolour of 1843 (Thomas F Meagher's



father was born in Newfoundland) or, more likely, it was inspired by the famous French tricolour.

A short time later that March of 1848, Thomas Meagher and several other Young Ireland members travelled to Paris to congratulate Lamartine and the new revolutionary French government. They were hoping to seek French aid for a possible Irish revolution of their own. They met with a sympathetic Lamartine, but their dreams of French assistance were nevertheless dashed. Lamartine was a realist; aware of the fact that his government needed recognition from the British. Britain had threatened to remove its embassy if the French supported the Irish with their plans. France could do nothing to help. The Irish delegation was bitterly disappointed.

Thomas Meagher did not leave France empty-handed. He was presented with a gift from a committee of Paris women: a tricolour flag of orange, white and green. The material was composed of the richest silk and the flag was most beautifully embroidered.

Back in Ireland, Meagher and his fellow travellers received a warm welcome at a reception in the Music Hall, Dublin, on Saturday evening 15 April 1848. The building was packed to capacity when the then 24-year-old Meagher made a speech, ending with: "From Paris... this flag has been proudly borne. I present it to my native land, and I trust that the old country will not refuse this symbol of a new life from one of her youngest children. I need not explain its meaning... The white in the centre signifies a lasting truce between the 'Orange' and the 'Green,' and I trust that beneath its folds the hands of the Irish Protestant and the Irish Catholic may be clasped in generous and heroic brotherhood." John Mitchel, the most radical member of Young Ireland, who was also present that evening, spoke of

"This magnificent Irish tri-colour, with its Orange, White and Green" before adding: "My friends, I hope to see that flag one day waving, as our national banner..."

Despite John Mitchel's wishes, the tricolour seemed to have been retired subsequent to that evening. It reappeared with dramatic and seamless timing 68 years afterwards when it was officially used for the first time, having been raised by the Irish Volunteers onto the roof of the General Post Office in Sackville (now O'Connell) Street, at the start of the Easter Rising. It flew honourably and with dignity in the noon day breeze a short distance from where PH Pearse stood to read the Proclamation of the Irish Republic on Easter Monday, 24 April, 1916. The tricolour was recognised as Ireland's national flag in the 1937 Constitution of Ireland.

Thomas Francis Meagher endured challenging times after his return to Ireland that April, 1848. A mere four months after the Music Hall meeting he was arrested in connection with the failed Young Ireland Uprising in Ballinacorney, County Tipperary, and imprisoned in Clonmel, where his trial was held. Although he had not been present at Ballinacorney, Meagher was found guilty of high treason and initially sentenced to death. This sentence was commuted – he was transported to Van Diemen's Land (now Tasmania) for life.

Meagher arrived in Australia October 1849. Living on the shore of Lake Sorrell, he married Catherine Bennett, whose father had been transported from Ireland 30 years previously for holding up a mail coach. Though initially happy in his marriage, Meagher was troubled by his limited life, and escaped from Australia in January 1852. He arrived in New York the following May, associated forever with Ireland's struggle for independence. In the meantime, Catherine Meagher, in Tasmania, gave birth to their son, Henry Emmet Meagher. Little Henry died aged four months, never having seen his father.

In New York Meagher studied law with Judge Emmet, nephew of the patriot Robert Emmet, hanged in Dublin after the Uprising of July 1803. He also briefly worked on a newspaper with John Mitchel, and gave lectures across America. In 1861, with the eruption of the American Civil War, the man who gave Ireland her national flag formed his famous Irish Brigade.

Two brothers, great-nephews of Robert Emmet, Temple and Richard Riker Emmet would meet their deaths while officers on Meagher's staff; Temple after the Battle of Malvern Hill and Richard after Fredericksburg. Meagher died in 1867, after a fall from a riverboat in Montana.

His body was never found.



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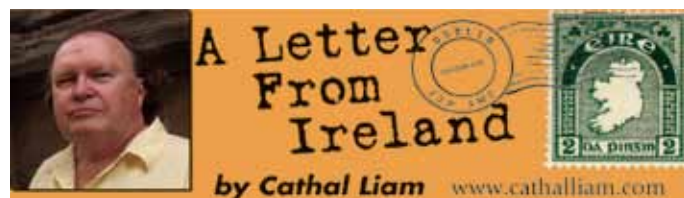


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Year's end and a Happy Christmas to you...so bring on the Figgy pudding; yes, bring on the Figgy pudding; sure, bring on the Figgy pudding and we'll all have some tea.

In reality, Figgy or plum pudding is more of an English tradition, while in Ireland we talk of Christmas cake, not to be confused with Halloween Bram-brack or just simply Brack. I guess the closest thing to it in the States would be fruitcake.

Traditionally, "The Cake," like Brack, is yeasted bread with a generous amount of sultanas, raisins, nuts and spices mixed together, according to your family's recipe. Finally, it's topped off with some class of white, sugary icing or marzipan delight. Brack is similar, but usually minus the nuts, spices and icing.

Sitting around the kitchen table or cosy hearth, you'd find it often served lightly toasted with lashings of butter and a nice cup of Irish tea, which is usually well fortified with milk, a teaspoon of sugar and may be a whisper or two of whiskey, if you're so inclined.

As Christmas nears, the talk'll be whether the main dish on the 25th will be turkey, ham or possibly goose, a traditional favourite in some homes... and yes, as the big day draws ever closer, children will be consumed with talk of "What Santy might be bringing ya...." Among adults, of course, there's the omnipresent talk of meeting up somewhere for a Christmas drink with friends.

And so, each in our own way, we find the routine of our daily lives changed as we prepare for the rebirth of the Christ child and of dreamy lessons remembered thanks to Charles Dickens's Tiny Tim and Scrooge. Here's hoping you're able to find comfort in Christmas past as you enjoy the vicissitudes of the day, and the hopes for a healthy tomorrow.

Traditionally, one of my December delights is cracking open a new book while sitting by the fire with a cup of Irish coffee at hand. Predictably, with less than four months 'til the 1916 Centenary, shop bookshelves are expanding with reads by authors both old and new.

One of my favourites is Tim Pat Coogan. This kindly historian of world acclaim, now in his eightieth year, continues to astound and amaze me. I marvel at his energy and determination to

put the record straight about Ireland's twentieth century. Three years ago, it was his *The Famine Plot* in which Tim Pat brings to light one of Ireland's darkest hours as the Irish struggled with a tragedy of epic proportions, sadly abetted by England's less than humane response to this horrendous disaster.

Today, the master wordsmith has done it again. In his 1916: *The Morning After*, Coogan, "...offers a strongly personal perspective on the Irish century that followed the Rising. He charts a flawed history, marked as much by complacency, corruption and institutional and clerical abuse as it is by the sacrifices, the nation-building achievements and the idealism of the Republic's founding fathers."

And what of those founding fathers? What would Pearse and MacDonagh and Connolly and MacBride think with a hundred years of water washed over the proverbial damn? I think we might have had a notion held by some of today's Irish if we'd been lucky enough to be in Eason Bookshop in O'Connell Street five weeks ago at the staging of Coogan's latest. Read his personal comments about the launch on his blog: [www.timpatcoogan.com](http://www.timpatcoogan.com).

To help kickoff the affair, Robert "Bobby" Ballagh, the celebrated artist, painter, designer and political activist, spoke. As Tim Pat noted, some in the audience agreed with Bobby's words and others found them offensive. I'll let you judge for yourself as I quote a brief passage for your edification.

"Recently, I was working in my studio on a project sponsored by the trade union S.I.P.T.U.; I was asked to design an extension to the already complete tapestry based on the 1913 Lockout to feature the story of the Easter Rising. As it happened, one of the first panels I began working on featured the execution of James Connolly. I decided to base my design on a poster I had recently discovered that had been published in New York, which featured Connolly's execution. Now the artist, who was probably American, depicted a firing squad composed of Red Coats, which is understandable enough, considering American colonial history, however I knew this had to be incorrect, and on checking the facts I learned that the firing squads in Kilmainham Jail after Eas-

ter week were drawn from the regiment of the Sherwood Foresters. This was a reward given to the regiment because they had suffered serious casualties at the battle of Mount Street during the Rising. Anyway, there I was carefully drawing a firing squad of Sherwood Foresters when I was distracted by something on the radio. It was probably a mention of the name of the regiment that caught my attention. Someone on the radio was suggesting that we

should erect a plaque at Mount Street in memory of the fallen Sherwood Foresters. Unbelievable! A memorial plaque to the regiment that shot not only the wounded James Connolly strapped in a chair but also 13 other patriots in the aftermath of the Rising! Self-confident nations would never engage in such nonsense – such national self – abasement! Imagine the British authorities erecting a plaque of the Cenotaph in London to honour those gallant members of the Luftwaffe who perished on bombing raids of London during World War II. I think not! [So]

the presentation of the rising as 'just another event' is a distortion of our history, a deliberate and desperate attempt to distance citizens from the aims and ideals of a golden generation the likes of which we have not seen since."

As you can see, Ballagh and I share some of the same opinions about the run-up to March 2016. Hoping to see you in Dublin as we all pay our tribute to the heroes of '16.

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## A Tale for Christmas

"Francis, Francis Fahey," bel-lowed Father Colm. With a ginger beard and a heart as broad as his barrel-chest, Father Colm was well-loved by the villagers of Rock Strand for his affectionately gruff personality.

"Lad, me back is not straight as it once was. It appears that I may have slipped a spring in it when I bent over the baptismal font with my own wee nephew Noel Jack Junior.

"May the Holy Family protect us from that gossamer. At the age of one, hasn't he already earned his nickname of Jumpin' Jack. Holy Mary, when he near leapt like a salmon out of the river into the sacred water in the font!

"Ach, me back! Run like a good lad and fetch the fine doctor from town."

"Righ-tee-oh Father, I'll be back, um before, before your back knows its out. I mean broke, I mean troubled, I . . ." stuttered Francis.

"Just go, boy!" roared Father Colm.

Francis whistled for his collie Wren to join him on his jaunt into town. Never far from his master Francis, Wren enjoyed his daily constitutional, sniffing amid the heather in the small cemetery at the back of St. Patrick's churchyard.

Rock Strand was looking grand this Christmas season, less than two weeks away, and the weather was fine. Every white-washed half-door in Rock Strand was open to let in the warm December air. Fay's Butcher House strung boughs of holly over his advert for a plump Christmas Goose, while Ned the Greengrocer promised sweet oranges for Christmas week. Of course, the children's choir could be heard practicing their joyful strains at the school above the town. Their voices carried through the open windows of the schoolhouse like a chorus of angels.

As the noon hour chimed from the bells of St. Patrick Church, Francis and Wren found the good Doctor Goggin in The Downy Hen Public House, enjoying his midday repast: a glass of stout and a platter of mussels, with hearty brown bread for dipping.

"Dear boy, what brings you out of the clutches of Father Colm? Don't you have pews to polish and doors to mend," chuckled Doctor Goggin.

"Why n - n- no Doctor Sir. Hasn't Father Colm's back come undone because of Jumpin' Jack Junior?"

marching out with a carpetbag nearly bursting at the seams.

"Well, I never! After all those warm currant buns and pots of hot tea.

Hmpf! Father O'Brien and Widow Bernadette will surely be better at me job than meself," cried Widow Margaret, nearly

and the other with hair as fair as hay, that they were two of the finest boy sopranos that ever sang on the altar of St. Patrick's Church.

As youths, the friends were always into trouble, stealing holiday ribbon candy from the Monsignor's desk when he wasn't looking, and sneaking collies into the church vestibule on cold Sunday mornings. So filled with devilment were they that they could never sing a full chorus of The Wexford Carol without bursting into laughter.

The years were good to the men, as they both found their true calling ministering to the souls and bodies of the kind folk of Rock Strand.

"Colm, why is the widow as flustered as a hen who misplaced her prize egg?" asked Doctor Goggin.

"Well now, didn't the Monsignor in all his ninety years of wisdom upon hearing of my infirmity, decide to send over that sour-faced young priest Father Padraic and his housekeeper Widow Bernadette from the neighboring village," explained Father Colm.

"Seems as though our two widows went face to face at the Autumn Fete: Widow Bernadette with her sugared blackberry scones and Widow Margaret with her infamous currant buns. Ye' can only guess who faired as the winner!"

Francis interjected, "And if it tis' not bad enuff, Honor is conducting the children's choir this year and told me Petey Corrigan the singin' twin has laryngitis."

"Aye true, laryngitis it is," laughed Doctor Goggin. "Been treatin' him for days, ne'er a sign that his voice will be back for Christmas Eve."

"Tis' a shame. Poor Honor is makin' his twin Paddy sing the solo in The Wexford Carol," Francis lamented. "She can hardly tell the two apart and reckoned that both could sing like cherubim."

Colm and Jamie both eyed one another knowingly. One wrong note and that young Paddy will sound like a squealing pig



"Oh my dear lad, take your time and have a mussel, one for ye' and won't Wren love to bury the shell? Father Colm and his undone back will have to wait until I have eaten this delectable feast," barked Doctor Goggin.

"May the Christ Child help me understand why these here men act so, so curmudgeonly when His birthday is near," thought Francis. Francis may not have been much of a scholar, but he was gifted with patience for man and beast alike.

"Well, excuse me Doctor Sir, but Father does seem to be in a bit o' pain. Can't work on his Christmas Eve homily, can't help set up the Christmas candles along the altar. The night of our dear Lord's birth is less than a fortnight and Father Colm, sir, needs one of your medical miracles," said Francis.

"God love Widow Margaret, but the poultrice she applied to Father's back did nothing but attract the flies from the sheep in yon' field. Forgive me, sir, for disturbin' your mussels. I m-, mean meal sir," stumbled Francis.

"Alright, lad, let's you, me and Wren see what this is all about!"

As the trio approached the rickety wooden door that led to the old rectory, Widow Margaret, looking like she was ready to do battle with Satan himself, came

running headlong like a bull into Francis Fahey.

"Well, see here Margaret, what could be troubling you on this fine day. Did you not have a proper cuppa this morning?" queried Doctor Goggin.

"Oh, beg pardon Doctor, but it appears that I will be replaced while Father Colm is infirmed. So I am paying an unexpected holiday visit to me sister Meg in Killarney. Ye' know the place? Sure, didn't that American lad Billy Crosby sing about it at the cinema: "The holly green, the ivy green, the prettiest place you ever seen."

"So do beg me pardon, but the train leaves at half two and I plan to be on it! Happy Christmas to ye' both!"

With that, Widow Margaret hurried down the churchyard lane, kicking up dust with her heels and mumbling protests of indignation all the way.

"What did that old bugger do now," wondered Doctor Goggin.

Jamie Goggin and Colm Fahey grew up together in the village of Rock Strand. Together, they served many a Christmas mass as a way of getting out of Sister Scholastica's annual Christmas pageant.

One would never know by looking at the pair of stout gentlemen, one with hair of flame,

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*Continued on next page*



## A Tale for Christmas

*Continued*

headed for the hearth.

"Aye," said Father Colm. "Seems as though Rock Strand will need to pray for yet another Christmas miracle."

"Lord help the spirit of Finn McCoul," cried young Paddy, pushing his round spectacles up the bridge of his turned-up nose. "Doesn't Missus Honor know that I can't sing, Petey! Sure everyone is always gettin' us mixed up y'see. I'm the smart one, and you're, you're the singin' nightingale!"

Petey looked into the mirror image of his twin Paddy. Sure as the day is long, even their own mam confuses one for the other on any given Sunday.

"What're we to do, Christmas is a week away. Open-wide Petey, let me see if ye' have any songs left in ye'!"

Petey shrugged and pushed his own spectacles up the freckled bridge of his nose. Soon the lads were wrestling like the terriers in their Da's barnyard.

The days flew like wind across the bog. Honor had her hands full with her Jumpin' Jack and a chorus of children who could no more sing The Wexford Carol than fix the holes in their leather brogans.

"Children, ye are all the sweetest dotes, but let's stop the messin' and try this verse again," crooned Mrs. Honor Jack.

"With me on t'ree . . ."

"Near Bethlehem did shepherds keep

their flocks of lambs  
and feeding sheep."

"Be ready now Petey, I mean Paddy, sure whichever one ye' are. Please just sing," fussed Honor.

"Ahem, ahem . . ."

"Prepare and go, the angel said," croaked Paddy.

Honor's blue eyes began to tear as Paddy's voice rang like a foghorn in the midnight sky. The children began to snicker and soon the chorus fell into gales of laughter.

"With all due respect Missus, I'm Paddy, the smart one, and this here bugger next to me is the singer, Petey. He has laringitis

and has been mouthin' these here words."

"Oh dear, and Widow Margaret left in such haste the week last that she won't be playin' the organ to try and drown out your croaks! I mean notes," explained the gentle Honor.

"Oh well, children, God will provide those in need. Now again, on t'ree."

Christmas Eve sparkled in Rock Strand. St. Patrick's Church was alight with candles in every stained glass window. The children stood on the altar, dressed in burlap sacks and angel's wings. The Widow Margaret kept true to her promise and left all the Christmas preparations to Widow Bernadette, while sourpuss Father Padraic prepared to celebrate Christmas Eve mass.

"Before our sacred liturgy begins, our delightful children's choir will grace us with The Wexford Carol," began Father Padraic.

Nervously, Honor raised her baton and the children began to sing. Petey mouthed the lyrics and Paddy opened his mouth wide, but ne'er a word came out.

Paddy garbled, "I must've got the larinocotpus Missus."

The choir of angels could hold their laughter no longer. Soon the entire congregation began to laugh, then continued to sing The Wexford Carol where the children left off.

As the village of Rock Strand sang, Doctor Goggin pushed Father Colm in a holly-bedecked wheelchair down the aisle of St. Patrick's Church.

The congregation paused in their singing, while the two long time comrades finished the final verse with perfect resonance:

"As long foretold upon  
that morn'  
There was a blessed  
Messiah born."

Wiping the tears from her eyes, Honor whispered to her singing chorus of children, "Happy Christmas my angels, Happy Christmas!"

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

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## Off the Shelf

by Terry Kenneally  
A TOP Shelf Selection



falls on snowy pavement in Manhattan on a winter's afternoon and dies. Did he fall or was he assaulted? This selection is actually a novella (145pp). It will transfix readers with its precision, tenderness, and authority.

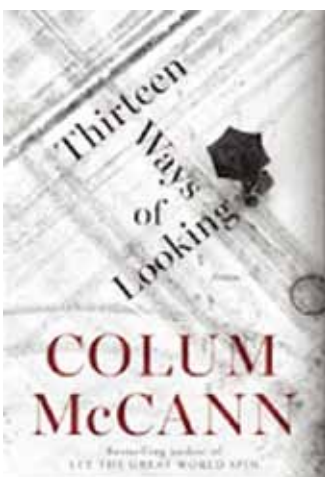
"Sh'khol", the word means bereavement, is the story of the mother of an adopted son who endures days of torture after his disappearance on Christmas Day. It is totally riveting.

"Treaty" is the story of an elderly nun who, in the centre of London, confronts the man who kidnapped, abused, and

## Thirteen Ways of Looking

By Colum McCann  
Random House ISBN 978-0-8129-9672-2, 2015, 242 pp.

The stories in this book were primarily completed in 2014, on either side of an incident that occurred in New Haven, Connecticut on June 27, when McCann was assaulted, knocked unconscious, and then hospitalized, while trying to aid a woman who had been assailed in the



street. McCann has become an international bestselling author and two of his books, Transatlantic and Let the Great World Spin were previously reviewed in OhIAN.

"Thirteen Ways of Looking" is the story of a retired Jewish judge in New York, previously married to an Irish woman who

raped her many years before in Columbia. Now, he is an important figure in peace talks and has conveniently forgotten his past.

Finally, "What Time is it Now", the shortest of the stories, is the tale of a marine in Afghanistan calling home on New Year's Eve, and a writer who questions the nature of his own fictionalizing.

All four stories demonstrate McCann's profound empathy for his characters and make the book a TOP SHELF read.

\*Terrence J. Kenneally is an attorney who owns Terrence J. Kenneally & Assoc. Co. in Rocky River, Ohio. He represents insureds and insurance companies in insurance defense cases throughout the state of Ohio. He received his Master's Degree in Irish Studies from John Carroll University and teaches Irish Studies at Holy Name High School. He may be reached at

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## Cleveland Comhrá

By Bob Carney

*"And the Grinch, with his grinch-feet ice-cold in the snow, Stood puzzling and puzzling; How could it be so?*

*"IT came without ribbons! It came without tags!*

*It came without packages, boxes, or bags!"*

*And he puzzled three hours, till his puzzler was sore.*

*Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before!*

*"Maybe Christmas," he thought, 'doesn't come from a store,*

*Maybe Christmas... perhaps. . means a little bit more!"*

- Dr Seuss

## What does Christmas mean to you?

Rosemary Noland - Irish Wolfhounds of Northeast Ohio:  
As I've become older the

things I love about Christmas has evolved. In my late twenties/early thirties, when I was raising my family, the answer would have been to make them happy. Now in my (yikes, almost mid-sixties!) older years, I just love "the season". It's about why we celebrate the holidays. It's people being kinder to each other, giving to the charities who care for those having a tough time, and taking our wolfhounds to have their pictures taken with Santa Claus! I love the lights and the whole ethereal atmosphere that takes over.

**Brian Carney - Ponte Verda Fla.**

What makes Christmas special for me, since moving from Cleveland 10 years ago, is the chance to come home to see family and friends for the holidays. It's great to see our siblings and their spouses, our nieces and nephews and their spouses and children, and our parents. It's great to be back in Cleveland at Christmas and enjoy the winter

weather and Christmas lights and decorations. We live in Florida now, but it doesn't feel like Christmas until we come back to Cleveland. We try to hit all our favorites when we are back in town; Westside Market, downtown, all the pubs at Kamm's corners, Sokolowski's, the Christmas Story house, the flats, and Great Lakes Brewing, the Christmas Ale is the best! Oh, and if we can swing it a Browns or a Cavs game! Our sons are 17 and 19 now, but still die hard Cleveland sports fans.

**Michelle Mandell - PJ McIntyre's**

My favorite thing about Christmas is the story of the birth Christ. I enjoy going to Mass and spending time with my family. They are the best because of our faith.

**Lynn Hruska-Russell**

What makes the holidays special to me . . . Remembering family traditions and creating new ones with my daughter.

*Continued on page 26*

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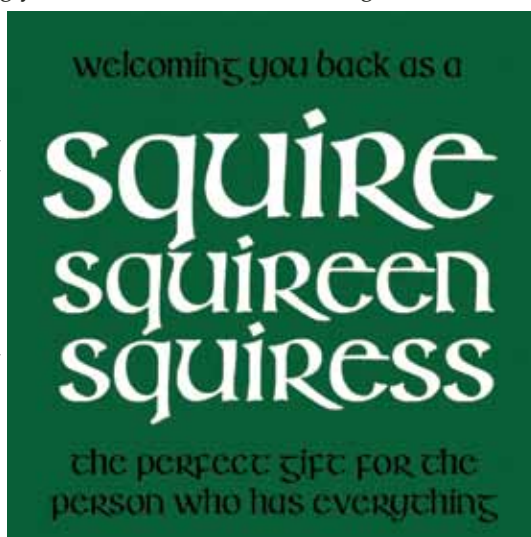
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## Sports and Politics Shouldn't Mix

November has become a somewhat curious month in recent years on the world sporting calendar. Let's start on the eastern side of the Atlantic.

Every year in the UK, the television channels do an annual three week run-up to celebrate what is now generally known as Remembrance Day. The date was for many years more commonly known as Armistice Day, which marked and celebrated the ending of the First World War on the 11th hour of the 11th Day on the 11th month in 1918.

One of the lessons I was taught growing up in school was that Armistice Day was to mark the passing of all those who had died in World War I, which is estimated to be approximately 11 million military personnel and seven million civilians, and that the importance of recognizing this date was that it signified and highlighted the futility of war. After the Second World War, it was renamed Remembrance Day in Britain, as it was changed to encompass the soldiers who died during the Second World War.

In the last few years, there has been a noticeable shift in how British television, particularly the BBC, marks this event, perhaps, due to the present time being 100 years out from when it was being fought on the fields and in the trenches. On news and entertainment programmes, every presenter, reporter, chat show host and guest is required to wear the red poppy, a flower which in Britain symbolizes the blood spilled on the battlefield during World War One.

This was an important time in history and one that deserves to be remembered; the soldiers who lost their lives in the fighting of the World Wars deserve to be remembered. That for me is not an issue.

What I do have a slight struggle with is people being ob-

ligated to wear the poppy as the insistence of broadcasters. But where I have considerable difficulty is where any political agenda gets pushed into the sporting arena. Let me illustrate this point.

Globally, soccer is the biggest sport in the world and the English Premier League is its most watched league. Especially over the last 25 years, it has grown and transformed into a substantial global entity, so much so that it currently has players from 64 different countries playing in the Premiership this season.

Over the last two years in the run up to Remembrance Day, the jersey of every player on every team in the league has a poppy badge woven into shirt. Although this may seem a small and uncontroversial move, this seemingly minor decision has politicized the Premier League and has become a divisive issue for one Irish footballer, James McClean.

McClean grew up in a Nationalist/ Republican area of Derry, where wearing the poppy has significantly different connotations to what it represents in England. Although Remembrance Day is officially observed in the North, it has historically tended to be associated with unionist community. However, during The Troubles, from a nationalist perspective, it also became associated with the British Army.

In November 2014, when McClean was first required to wear a poppy emblazoned football shirt, he penned an open letter to the Chairman of Wigan Athletic, his club at the time, Dave Whelan, to explain why he wouldn't wear the poppy. (<http://bit.ly/1u7nUK0>).

In this letter he stated he had 'complete respect for those who fought and died in both World Wars' and 'that if the Poppy was a symbol only for the lost souls

of World War I and II, I would wear one. But the Poppy is used to remember victims of other conflicts since 1945 and this is where the problem starts for me. 'For people from the North of Ireland such as myself, and specifically those in Derry, scene

jeered by supporters at every ground he has played at, just as he was 12 months ago.

The lesson: James McClean stands 5' 11" in height and has two heavily tattooed arms and doesn't have a reputation for being the saintliest of players



*James McClean*

of the 1972 Bloody Sunday massacre, the poppy has come to mean something very different.....for me to wear a poppy would be as much a gesture of disrespect for the innocent people who lost their lives in the Troubles – and Bloody Sunday especially - as I have in the past been accused of disrespecting the victims of WWI and WWII. It would be seen as an act of disrespect to those people; to my people.

'I am not a war monger, or anti-British, or a terrorist or any of the accusations leveled at me in the past. I am a peaceful guy, I believe everyone should live side by side, whatever their religious or political beliefs which I respect and ask for people to respect mine in return. I am very proud of where I come from and I just cannot do something that I believe is wrong.'

Again this year at his current club, West Bromwich Albion, he explained his reasoning for refusing to wear the poppy and in spite of his explanations, he has been routinely booed and

on the pitch. All he wants to do is ply his footballing trade to the best of his abilities and enjoy the game he loves.

Whatever your viewpoint on the rights or wrongs of James McClean's stance, he was put in a difficult position not of his

own making that he should have never have been put in. Why is has continued to go on I have yet to wrap my head around. His case is just one instance of how even a small politicizing of sport can have negative consequences for a player and subsequently for the game itself. There have been other recent examples.

Last year in a pre-world cup friendly, the Argentina soccer team unfurled a banner which read 'Las Malvinas son Argentinas,' which translates to 'The Falklands for the Argentinians.' It was seen in the UK as highly inflammatory and the Argentina Football Association was fined for the stunt.

Whether you agree with the banner declaration or not, political standpoints shouldn't have a place in the international sporting environs. Sport should always be a place where people of every creed or affliction can compete without national prejudice or political influence.

On the Western side of the Atlantic, as popular American sports such as the NFL, who also boast a strong military presence during the month of November, continue to grow into larger global entities, perhaps there is a lesson in here that can be heeded to stop a player getting caught up in a whirlwind of a future political issue.

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## Cleveland

**The Harp**  
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6th - Top Hat Black; 12th - Kristine Jackson; 20th - Customer Christmas Appreciation Party with The Craic Brothers 820 College Avenue, Cleveland, 44113 www.treehousecleveland.com

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## Cleveland

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Pioneer Total Abstinence Association of the Sacred Heart Annual Christmas Party 6th - @West Side Irish American Club, 5pm. John Lackey @ 440.331.0048.

Music Box Supper Club 20th - The Kilroys, 4-7pm; 1/3 4-7 pm. 1148 Main Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44113. http://www.musicboxcle.com

## Cincinnati

**Irish Heritage Center**  
1st - Irish Christmas in America, 3rd - The Blue Rock Boys Concert, 17th - The Ireland in Oils Art Exhibit. Irish Heritage Center 3905 Eastern Avenue 513.533.0100. www.irishcenterofcincinnati.com..

## Columbus

**Shamrock Club Events**  
6 - General Meeting; 11 - Quiz Night; 12 - Annual Christmas Concert; 16 - Kirby Sessions; 12/ 20 - 1/3 - Closed for Winter Clean Up. Happy Hour every Friday from 5-7pm! 60 W. Castle Rd. Columbus 43207 614-491-4449 www.shamrockclubofcolumbus.com

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## Dayton

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4th, 5th & 6th - Celtic Tenors Holiday Tour supporting their new CD, The Celtic Tenors Christmas. www.daytonperformingarts.org

## Euclid

**Irish American Club East Side**  
4th - No Strangers Here, 6th - Makem & Spain Christmas Concert \$15 @ 6:00, 11th = Mad Macs, 18th - Club Dinner \$10 5:30-7:30 w Ceili the Portersharks 7:30 -11:00 (FREE), 27th - A.O.H. After Christmas Brunch. 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

## Lakewood

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**Hooley House Montrose**  
8 - Brushes and Brews, 11 - Pop Fiction, 18 - Sunset Strip, 26 - Almost Famous, 31 - NY Eve Bash. Wed: Pub Trivia. 145 Montrose West Avenue Copley, Oh 44321 (234) 466-0060 www.1funpub.com

## Mentor

**Hooley House**  
4 - Bluestone Union, 11 - Post Road, 18 - the Players Club, 19 - Abbey Rodeo, 26 - Big in Japan, 31 - NY Eve Bash. Tues: Open Mic w Nick Zuber, Wed: Trivia Night. 7861 Reynolds Rd Mentor www.1funpubcom (440) 942-6611.

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## Olmsted Township

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## Westlake

**Hooley House.**  
4 - Pop Fiction, 11 - Top Dog, 18 - New Barleycorn, 26 - Faction, 31 - NY Eve Bash. Wed: Pub Trivia. 24940 Sperry Dr Westlake 44145. 1FunPub.com (440) 835-2890.

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6th - Makem & Spain Christmas Concert @IACES





## Terry From Derry

by Terry Boyle



he's snatched her bag. The advertisement continues with the young man, out of breath, sitting at a bus stop. A bus pulls up to

## Hiding Between the Angles

There is no doubt that regardless of what one believes to be true, perception rather than truth seems to continue to play a role in our decision making. Whether it be buying a washing detergent, or voting in the next election, we are likely to be persuaded by the 'spin cycle', pun intended, of the media. Since moving to the United States, I am more aware of how easy it is to simply go for the easiest and most convenient truth.

The lead up to next election and the constant barrage of raising to crucify, or anoint, is without doubt the worst expression of trial by media. What seems to be of more importance to those in the media is the 'news worthiness' of the story rather than the facts; if, indeed there are any facts to be gathered. For the most part, people want a simplified version of the event.

I remember when I used to teach groups of American students who came to Northern Ireland to study the effects of conflict, and how they were led to believe the Troubles were the result of religious differences: Catholics and Protestants. Obviously, it's easier to think this way than to discuss the formation of the Northern Irish State. Of course, this mentality works both ways. Whenever George W. Bush was elected, twice, I was often challenged by Irish people who believed Americans were all conservative, bible believing, fundamentalists. These blinkered positions occur whenever we fail to 'question the source'. Politicians and their campaigners would love us to buy into the slogan led concepts of their spin, and their artistry lies in being able to distill the complicated truth to a mere ideological statement.

The hardest thing to do is think, and I don't mean the process of thinking, but to deeply examine what is a perceived truth. Recently there was an advertisement on television in which a woman, while waiting for a bus, forgets to take her bag. A young man snaps up the bag, and starts running. Of course we're led to believe that

the stop, and the same woman who lost the bag exits. The young man hands the bag back to the woman. Having restored our faith in human kindness, a third portion of the advertisement was later included, in which the police call the young man over to their car and reward his random act of honesty with a doughnut.

While the purpose of the three segment advertisement is to promote 'human val-

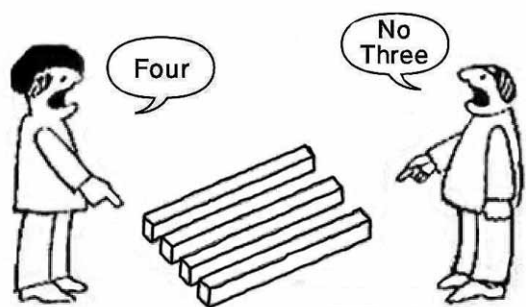
ues', it clearly demonstrates a very powerful point. If we only see a segment of an event we may misinterpret the whole thing incorrectly. Without fur-

ther examination, we will invariably arrive at a false conclusion.

In other words, to simplify the truth is to distort it. Fundamentalists of any sort thrive when they speak authoritatively about the simplicity of truth. Ideas such as Muslims are all extremists, or Israel is an illegitimate state, or all Irish people are good humoured drunks, are a distortion of the truth. Not every Muslim is supportive of the extreme fundamentalism so often depicted by the media. The formation of the State of Israel is a very controversial topic that continues to plague both Arabs and Jews. And, while even Irish people might want to propagate the fun loving drunk, we would not want to endorse it as a national symbol of the Irish character.

All of us have an angle; a way of seeing things that often obscures our ability to embrace a viewpoint that is at odds with ours. Whatever our angle, it can serve as a blind spot when it comes to an understanding of the truth. A partial view is a restricted view, and as such can only be corrected by another perspective.

A good friend of mine told me of a little exercise he would conduct while teaching. Standing in front of the class, he would have them describe what was behind him, and he likewise would describe what lay behind those facing him. The point of the exercise was to show that everyone has a perspective, but nobody has a complete view of the truth. The truth is often hiding between the angles.



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## Seven Nations' Kirk McLeod Launches KIR

Across North America and, of course, the Seven Nations, Seven Nations has rocked and piped its way into our festival summers, and all year round. They are a fest favorite, and their original songs are the musical soundtrack to milestones and memories for Irish immigrants and so many of their friends. Still going strong, Seven Nations founder and lead singer Kirk McLeod has a new project about to launch, and you are going to love this, just as much as you love Seven Nations.

"I went back to my roots, and that brought me to where am I with this new project. A big part of the project is the pipe band involvement. I was remembering back to the excitement that I used to have when I was young, playing and competing in a pipe band. It was the biggest thrill for me. Musically it was amazing, but the camaraderie that we had growing up, competing on the pipe band circuit.

"We saw friends as we traveled, we'd be best of friends immediately; a cama-

raderie with the pipers and that that I missed.

"It was an inspiration for us to get better at our craft. My father was an inspiration to work hard, so I could earn the opportunity to go to the festivals all year long. If I didn't do well, I didn't get to go to the competitions. I loved the competitions. You had to work hard at it.

"One thing that I always mention. My dad took me to see the Black Watch play;



Kirk McLeod

they played at The Citadel, 5-6 hours away. Traveling with a full pipe band, a full marching band, a university style marching band that play together, it was amazing.

That's where I got the idea for the new project initially. A pipe band is somewhat limited, to take the music to a place the pipe band could not go on their own, was the idea.

"I was writing a lot of songs in a minor key, it just sounded deep and heavy and dark. It's definitely not all dark; our music has always had an energy to it, but those minor key songs I just love. I can almost see the Moors of Scotland. It gives me the feeling of the old world. Its definitely has depth to it.

"I was kind of wondering where my own name came from. The actual definition - the angli-

cized version of the ancient Gaelic name means Dark. That was as close as I could come to my name. It also means church, but that's probably not it!

"When we [7N] did the symphony tours, we played the Atlanta, Columbus (OH.)

symphony, others. That was amazing, to have a symphony backing us up. That led me to where I am going now with KIR; instead of a symphony, I have a full pipe band backing us up. I am working with a Grade 2 Pipe band out of Cleveland, Great Lakes Pipe Band. We are crafting shows right now so we can do an auditorium show coming up in Cleveland. The new songs, classic Seven Nations songs, its going to be a good show, Highland dancers and Irish dancers, and the amazing pipe band.

"It is called KIR Live Project (pron. Keer Gaelic name for dark). Talking about the LIVE aspect of the album, I have family from Cork in Ireland, spent time in Scotland, growing up. I want to get a little bit further into the culture; in a way no one else has done yet combined with contemporary music.

"I want to explore traditional vocal styles to convey different movements in the music. I was in Scotland, with Alyth McCormack (of The Step Crew) in Edinburg, working with her, with English vocals and Scottish vocals. I had written some vocals and she was translating them into Scottish Gaelic mouth music.


"In ways it is like Seven Nations, we

*Continued on next page*

## InnerView

By John O'Brien, Jr.





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## Seven Nations' Kirk McLeod Launches KIR

*Continued*

brought the old and the new together, bringing traditional and contemporary music together, on a broader scale. The pipe band brings it to a higher scale, a higher power and the dancers too.

"There are two parts to the project, mouth music and then the pipe bands. It goes back to 2009 or 10, when we did a show with Ashley MacIsaac, on Prince Edward Island. The Dartmouth and District Pipe Band from Nova Scotia joined us for the closing set. Instead of doing a few tunes, they did a couple of 7N songs. Scott Long had taught them his parts in the songs. Perfectly executed.

"I thought wow, this is cool; I gotta get back to this at some point. It is difficult. It is even difficult technically, chanters are manufactured to play now at a higher pitch than contemporary music, they can't really play with other bands; a Celtic rock band for example, they are tuned differently.

Normally a pipe band wouldn't be able to jump up on stage and play with a rock band; it takes a lot of prior tuning.

"I really am excited about working with

the Great Lakes Pipe Band in Cleveland. I think it will be the first ground breaking one. We won't just be backing them up on tunes like Scotland the Brave throughout the show, but bringing serious songs, complex songs, together. It will be powerful, the breadth of it. These are all songs I've written, songs that fit a pipe band, classic 7N songs and songs for the new KIR CD.

"Once the album is out, we will tour everywhere. The ultimate would be to work with a great competition band in Scotland, to take this project to Scotland, with a great pipe band from Scotland.

"One of our missions is to inspire up and coming players, to provide a positive stage experience, that will inspire them to keep working hard at their craft. Providing a very positive experience for those that play with us is fun for us too.

"The new CD will be released June 7th. I am going to keep touring with Seven Nations; I will also do some songs of KIR when we do. I will be looking for pipe bands and dancers around the world who would like to do these shows with me; who would like to collaborate on KIR shows.

"I am writing and recording. I am doing a sound track for an independent film, starting in January. The theme song has

been recorded. I am contracting to do two more, and doing the background music etc. Seven Nations isn't touring until March, so I have time to get the creative stuff done. I am always working on the tours, putting together the concerts and that, working

on that already. Hope to see you at a KIR show soon!"

For info as it becomes available: follow KIR and Kirk, at: [www.facebook.com/KirkMcLeod](https://www.facebook.com/KirkMcLeod). To see the KIR Trailer: <https://youtu.be/-d6g1j9KjZs>



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## Behind the Hedge

by John O'Brien, Jr.

## #INUSA15's What's the Craic?



Irish Network USA is the umbrella organization for the 28 Irish Network chapters located throughout the United States. I am a founder and serve on the Executive Board of the INCleveland chapter. INCLE is best described as the Cleveland branch of an Irish Chamber of Commerce, welcoming those who need help—a name, a contact, a job, or a home—all those things that help people to live, immigrate, do business and/or play on the Northcoast.

November 5-8 was the INUSA National Convention, this year held in Boston. Four days of networking, sharing best practices and better roads, for the success of those on any shore, and those who want to connect to them.

Social interaction drives so many organizations, Irish or not. It is where so many of our parents and grandparents found a job, met their spouses or took solace. Yet, in Cleveland at least, I am the last of the First Generation. Founding and helping organize INCLE was appealing to me for that reason, to make Cleveland, booming now, as a destination choice for those in search of a dream and a river to it, usually for a better life, and perhaps a family, a career or maybe, peace.

We are flush with social clubs; we are rebuilding the Irish network in Cleveland for so much more than that.

I arrived in Boston early, deliberately, for I am a fan of American History too, and building in time, to build memories, is just

as important. The gorgeous new Seaport Boston Hotel, right on the seaport, lifted my spirits already inflammation capped from the warm weather. Across the street I saw a Whiskey Priest Irish Pub; so I took a long walk around downtown, then hunger won, and I stopped for ... what else, but New England Clam Chowder and a touch of the Smithwicks Sir Arthur Guinness emissaries deliver so well.

An Irish cop got me going in the right direction, over Congress Street and to the Boston Tea Party. Magnificent auld ships and in character characters lit the way to December 16, 1773, 242 years ago. Remarkably good tea in the tea house too.

A few years ago, an accident smashed all the ornaments and Dickens Village houses I had willfully collected over the last 30 years. Dickens Village is my mom's favorite, and a shared memory hug between us. After a few years and the buried ache, my Dickens Village is under construction again. But since they smashed, I have taken a bit of joy in buying one ornament in every port I visit each year. My memories are med erased, so the ornament is my own memory trigger tree.

There are so many bridges over the waters, I randomly walked one is Boston, and right in the middle of the river, were floating sheep—I don't know why. Further down, a pyramid floated too. Ditto.

The tone for the weekend for me was set in my exploration. Then the tone for the business at hand was set too, at an opening reception Thursday night at the historic Bostonian. Only a mile and a quarter from the hotel, it was an easy walk on a November ridiculous temperature night of near 70 degrees. Blessed.

I am a shy guy by nature, willing to deal with the discomfort, semi-successfully, to ease the road of those needing a hand up.

I walked in to The Bostonian and was immediately greeted by Cathal Conlon of INBoston, then multiple other people. We had a beer, introduction chats; I then turned and did the same to those that came up the stairs after me.

That history love bug got me again, when I glanced out the 2nd story window and saw The Black Rose—a gift to so many Irish musicians looking for a gig or a start, in America. I had to go see, see what that legend looks like. It didn't disappoint.

Home at a respectable hour, the thrill of the city gave way to the reality of the broken back. I rested for tomorrow, knowing the National Conference was right next door, in the Boston World Trade Center—an amazingly vibrant busy building with an football field length avenue of flags entry way, old style sandstone construction and a sense of the promise of today, if you engage.

INUSA President Steve Lennox, who has been a guiding mentor and force in the formation of INCLE, took the stage and handled the day with ease and urgency, rapidly moving panel to panel and speaker to speaker.

"It was an honor to welcome INUSA members from across the United States to Boston for our third, and biggest, annual conference. If there's one thing we learned, it's that even with all of our tremendous success and growth, we have only scratched the surface when it comes to our ability to engage the global Irish in efforts to build even stronger links with Ireland through business, culture, education and sports."

Some people can stop you in your tracks. Irish Consul General of Boston Fionnuala Quinlan did that to me. Then Ambassador of Ireland to the United States Anne Anderson gave a stirring call to action for all of us in the room. Ireland is on its way back; Ireland has far to go.

Panels filled with thought leaders and those who have forged success, included: Empowering the Future Through Global Education; A New Century in Transatlantic Business Links; The New Global Irish Diaspora; Global Irish Making an Impact; Global Irish

Digital Connections and Global Irish on the Pitch filled the day, interspersed with presentations and speakers from Tourism Ireland and Connect Ireland.

My favorite panelist was the eminent John Foley, Esq. of Foley Law Offices, a kind but insightful wealth of knowledge, who pointed out that the Irish are the 2nd largest ethnic group in the United States behind the Germans, and "we punch well below our weight, because we don't do it as a community."

Deirdre Woodbyrne is the Executive Director of INUSA. She was in background throughout the conference, managing social media and ministering to the miscellaneous. I wasn't fooled; she is a dynamo of word and action, empathy and energy. Her advice and support for INCLE has been invaluable too.

"The positive energy and excitement by attendees leaving the four day conference was clearly evident," she said. "We have gotten such a great response to INUSA15. We hope to build upon that energy and commitment as we look towards the future and continuing to build the INUSA network and local chapters within it."

We finished the day just after 5, then loaded on an auld school bus, belonging to the Boston PD Pipe Band, and were escorted by the Boston PD to the Massachusetts State House, for the 5th Anniversary celebration of INBoston, sirens blaring, symbolic in the history of the band, the city, and the Irish. Blessed.

The Massachusetts State House is a spectacular and gorgeous auld building, sandstone and marble, full of American history, not as seminal, but certainly as relevant today, as the Boston Tea Party was. I can't do it justice. On the second floor is the Hall of Flags, three stories high; so striking, with the flag of every town part of Boston.

We were early, but INBoston President Sean Moynihan led us in. I was greeted by all 7' 0" of Walter Palmer, a former Dallas Maverick and European League player. His height couldn't contain his class and friendliness. Next to Walter we captured the tiny Louise Corrigan, from New York but now with INDublin; a gi-

ant just as vibrant, accomplished and dedicated to making a difference as Walter, and all the guests at the convention who are willfully vested physically, financially and thoughtfully, in our success.

The back was burning and I had to move. I wandered the building—some of it in the dark, and was mesmerized by the history murals framed in marble on the walls. It felt so sacred. I sat as I could, but pain was fierce. The IAPOA Pipe band brought me back, back.

I feel an urgency when in a new to me city, no matter how old and historic it may be. Early Saturday morning, the wonders of sleep and Orenicia lifted me out of me bed and on to The Freedom Trail. A double row of red bricks first imbedded in the sidewalk near on 60 years ago are all the guide you need to trek the 2.5 mile living history of America. In perspective, it is an easy walk. From the Boston Common to the Massachusetts State House, Park Street Church, Granary Burying Grounds (John Hancock, Paul Revere, Samuel Adams...), Kings Chapel and Burying Grounds, Boston Massacre site, Faneuil Hall, Paul Revere's House, Copp's Hill Burying Ground, and the USS Constitution were some of the 16 highlighted sites, but there was much more to see.

On the Trail, much was closed because of weekend, but I saw much more than I could have ever hoped. An example was when I stumbled on to the Famine Memorial, two statues and 4 plaques, just at the entrance to a building in the heart of downtown—I didn't see a sign or anything, I just was guided and said to myself, that looks like an Irish Famine

Memorial—and it was.

I saw an amazing street performer and Periscoped it, the comments were hilarious; he was too. He crawled thru a tennis racket, juggled machetes and teased and laughed with the growing audience at Quincy Market.

We had the Irish Film Festival at 5, so I had to stop after the USS Constitution, which was under refurbishing when I left the museum. I couldn't get to Bunker Hill, so that is on my list for next time. The walk was more than just a

*Continued*



## #INUSA15's What's the Craic? *Continued from last page*

highlight; in my mind, I have been reliving The Freedom Trail every day since I left it, wishing to be back; to see more, to know more, of early America and the brave souls who challenged King and country, to our unquantifiable benefit.

Next was Battle Theatre, where we got to be part of the Irish Film Festival. First was a seventeen-minute funny Irish Belfast movie called "Boogaloo and Graham", humor and hubris set against the British occupation.

The second was a full-length feature on the bank crash in Ireland, called "The Guarantee". It was also fantastic. Director of Public Affairs & Advancement for the Irish Film Festival, Oonagh Desire, and The Guarantee Director Ian Power skyped in, and talked about the situation and the backroom uncertainty. It was so well done; I learned a fair bit of

convention. I learned a lot, met a lot, and brought home much to give away.

Because we hadn't had nearly enough food over the weekend, Sunday we ended the convention with a brunch across the street. I finally got a chance to talk and hear folks I was most grateful to meet. We will be talking.

I tweeted through much of the convention, and won Top Twiterer for the weekend. The little bird speaks when quality is more important than quantity.

With more than two hours until my flight, I contemplated football, for about a second, then changed my shoes to sneakers, checked out of the hotel, and walked back to the Boston Common, then over to Quincy Market. Not quite enough time to make it all the way to Bunker Hill, much like the weekend and my aspirations for a better tomorrow, I kind of knew where I was going, but I knew I wasn't ready to go home. Eventually I made my way back to the hotel, cabbied to Boston airport with fel-



*INUSA's Steve Lennox, Bridget Hester Fantini, Ambassador of Ireland to the United States Anne Anderson, INBoston President Sean Patrick Moynihan, Consul General of Ireland Boston Fionnuala Quinlan, David O'Shaughnessy.*



background, but the new hearing aids have old problems, and dark theaters and microphones hide the lips I need to know. Three craft brews that you could try lifted my spirits! The Pumpkin brew goes surprisingly well with Swedish Fish.

About 15 of us took the T to Dooley's, for a music filled finale; great food and service explain the legendary status of Mr. Dooley's, paying forward pays back. I strayed outside for a cigar, and the walk back to the hotel was the perfect cap to an outstanding

low INCLE founder Mark Owens and slipped back into other roles and my own sweet bed.

Rather than being an occasional change of pace, let's be the pace of change, as we get up, show up and lift up those around us. Connect online, or as we did, on land. It is expensive; its return is priceless.

For more pictures of the Convention and The Freedom Trail, see our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/OhioIrishAmericanNews](http://www.facebook.com/OhioIrishAmericanNews)



*Cathal Conlon, VP of Marketing, New England Revolution*



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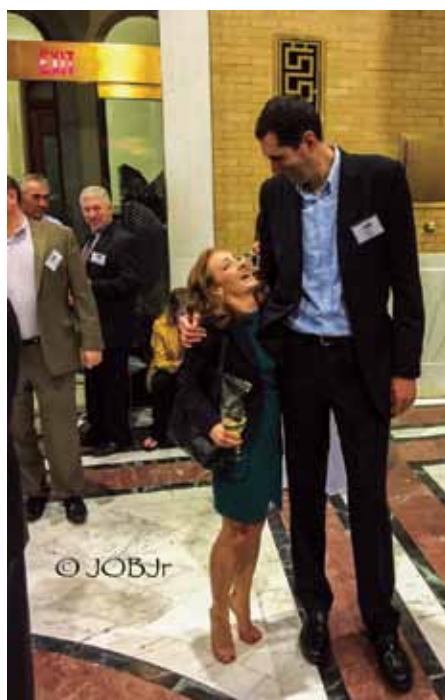
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## #INUSA15's What's the Craic?

*Continued from last page*



Aoife Butler, INUSA President Emeritus; Noreen McCormack, President, INSeattle; Deirdre Woodbyrne, INUSA Executive Director

## What does Christmas mean to you?

*Continued from page 17*

Baking holiday cookies and spending time with friends and family. I love the holiday decorations and lights.

**Linda Burke - (Past president Irish American Club - Eastside)**



Christmas means family time to me. There is such joy in watching our grandchildren open their gifts on Christmas morning. Then we settle down to a hearty brunch. Later it's off to my in-laws for a lovely dinner and to play cards for holiday stakes.

**Judi Zitnak - Denver Colorado**

Christmas to me is a time of celebration with family members gathering together to share a wonderful meal. Love is shared and memories created for many years to come. It is a very special joy to see the excitement in the eyes of small children as they open their special gifts. I will always cherish my special Christmas memories growing up in Cleveland when brothers and sisters, nieces and nephews were all in the same state. Wishing you a beautiful Christmas.

**Jim Henderson - Gaelic Imports**

Christmas is the time of our Savior's birth. The season is one of brightness and joy for me, I have already started listening to the music. Definitely an uplifting time filled with the aromas of Christmas foods domestic and imported.

**Mary Hartman Shull**

I would start by saying what Christmas does not mean. It does not mean countless presents or "stuff". Christmas is a very spiritual symbol of the people in my life, those here and those departed. Christmas is a deep down warm and wonderful feeling in my heart and soul, that feeling is Christmas spirit. It is the fond recollections of childhood traditions, laughter, peace and love of family and friends. To invoke that feeling of warmth, I only have to close my eyes and see a picture of me at 3 or 4 years old with my one Christmas present and the small tree dripping in tinsel behind me. My wish is for others

to feel the true Christmas Spirit; there is nothing else like it.

**Maureen T Hennessey**

Joseph walked while Mary rode a donkey. They found shelter in a stable the night Mary was in labor. I imagine their journey as I sit by the Christmas tree sipping on tea. The bedrooms are full with family who traveled from many places. The dinner is ready for the oven, gifts are under the tree, the furnace hums as snowflakes fall beyond the twinkling lights. A bright star shines down over the stable as Joseph comforts his wife. Mary's contractions get stronger. Anticipation of the unknown is felt by both Mary and Joseph.

I thank God for this quiet moment for my family, our freedom, and faith. Laughter and Christmas music will soon break the silence. The star brightens to give way to the Three Kings. Calmness comes over the night as shepherds and animals gather to give reverence and thanks to Our Savior Jesus Christ. Joy is in the hearts of Mary and Joseph. This is what Christmas is to me. Family, the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, and God's blessings of love, peace and joy! Merry Christmas!

**John O'Brien Jr.**

What Christmas means to me. There are so many great memories that stop and linger when I think about this. My Irish twin sis's birthday is Christmas Day, so we celebrate her birthday big on Christmas Eve; midnight mass and the silence of the darkened church, the candles, the incense; I remember trudging thru the snow in my broomhockey shoes, rushing home from the Plain Dealer paper route to sit next to the heater and open presents; The Kearney family coming for dinner and the constant laughter whenever they are near; surprise visitors, from near or far, Ireland included, who "popped in"; the bottom line through it all to reflect on what has been faith and family. We celebrate Christmas, the mass of Christ together.

Christmas time allows me to step back from the day to day existence we call life and treasure the beauty and joys that surround me, family and friends, the music of the holidays, shared food and drink, but mostly to reflect on what is truly important, to slow down and live in the moment. I hope you've enjoyed the comments we've shared and take the time to reflect yourselves, and instill in your children and grandchildren a sense of awe and wonderment in all we call Christmas.

From me and mine to you and yours,  
Nollaig Shona Daoibh!

Bob Carney

Carneyspeakirish@gmail.com



## Maureen O'Hara Laid to Rest

By Cliff Carlson

Maureen O'Hara was laid to rest yesterday, November 9, 2015, beside her husband, Charles Blair, in Arlington National Cemetery.

Maureen, who passed away in her sleep October 24, 2015 at her grandson's home in Boise, Idaho, was given a grand send off by Chicago's Shannon Rovers, who were honored to perform at this mostly private event at the invitation of Maureen's grandson, Conor Beau FitzSimons.

Catherine O'Connell sang beautifully at the wake, the Mass, and the funeral.

One of Maureen's best friends in Ireland, Sally Ryan, made the trip over as well as a contingent of Irish from Glengariff in County Cork, the town she loved so well. The owner of Casey's Hotel in Glengariff, Donal Deasy, was there as well as the Lyne's and the O'Sullivan's. Margaret O'Shaughnessy of the Foynes Flying Boat and Maritime Museum also made the trip from County Limerick. "Maureen helped us launch the opening of the museum," she said.

Others who made the long trip to honor Maureen included John Wayne's daughter, Melinda Munoz, who appeared as a child in "The Quiet Man." "Maureen was like an aunt to me. She came to all my children's weddings, she said."

Her manager, Johnny Nicoletti, and Charles Blair's family were in attendance



to play at the opening of the museum and Maureen was on hand to help with the launch. Miss O'Hara loved the Rovers so much that her grandson Conor invited them to be a part of the funeral.

The wake, the Mass, and the funeral were held in Washington D.C., with rain holding off as if by divine direction until the ceremonies were well over.

Long time Shannon Rovers Band manager Bill McTighe was able to gather 45 band members in six short days to make the trip to Washington D.C. "We were truly honored to be invited and to make the trip. I believe even more of our band



*An Nollaig Shona from Alec and Sully*



as well, paying respects from all corners of America.

Brian Downes, Executive Director of the John Wayne Birthplace & Museum, and his daughter Katie traveled from Winterset, Iowa, and were a big reason the Shannon Rovers were there. Brian had invited several members of the band

members would have liked to go if they could!"

Irish Times reporter Simon Carswell was on hand doing his usual fine job, but I saw no other Irish press.

I wonder if Ireland knows what a treasure they have lost?

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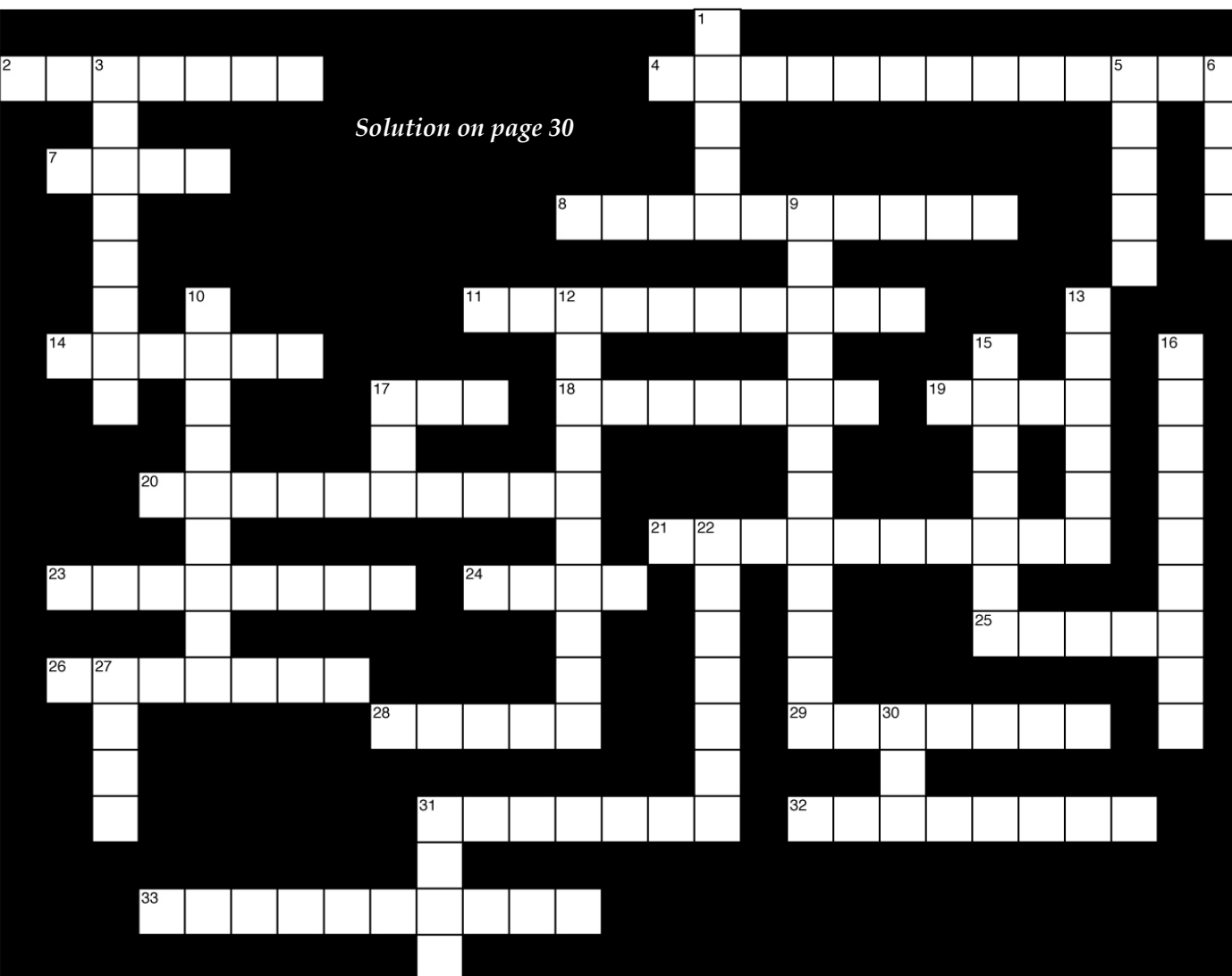
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# Terrific Irish Trivia

by Linda Fulton Burke



*Solution on page 30*

## ACROSS

2 Irish are said to have brought \_\_\_\_\_ to America.

4 88% of Irish citizens are nominally \_\_\_\_\_

7 The Tara Mine near Navan, County Meath, is the largest \_\_\_\_\_ mine in Europe.

8 Leprechauns are little \_\_\_\_\_.

11 The passage tombs in Carrowmore, County Sligo, are the largest group of \_\_\_\_\_ tombs (30 of them) in Ireland or Britain.

14 Whiskey made from potatoes is \_\_\_\_\_.

17 "Mc" in a family name means "\_\_\_\_ of."

18 The \_\_\_\_\_ Isle is a nickname for Ireland.

19 "James Joyce once called Guinness stout "the \_\_\_\_\_ of Ireland."

20 The Royal Society for the \_\_\_\_\_ of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) was founded in 1824 by Irishman Richard Martin.

21 Over 40% of U.S. \_\_\_\_\_ claim Irish ancestry.

23 "O" in a family name means "\_\_\_\_ of."

24 \_\_\_\_\_ Lighthouse is thought to be the oldest working lighthouse in Europe, or possibly in the world..

25 Since 1981, \_\_\_\_\_ Castle has hosted many famous rock star concerts.

26 \_\_\_\_\_ Park in Dublin is the third largest walled city parks in Europe .

28 Ireland is a \_\_\_\_\_-free island.

29 The story of Count \_\_\_\_\_ was written in 1897 by Dubliner Bram Stoker..

31 Dalkey, a suburb of Dublin, is Ireland's "\_\_\_\_\_ Hills", home to many Irish

celebrities.

32 9 Metis is the only \_\_\_\_\_ ever discovered from Ireland.

33 Irishman John Philip Holland invented the first functional self-propelled \_\_\_\_\_ in 1877.

## DOWN

1 Derry's Banks of the \_\_\_\_\_ Halloween Carnival is the oldest Halloween celebration in Ireland

3 The Irish \_\_\_\_\_ flag was created in 1848,

5 \_\_\_\_\_ is the smallest county in Ireland.

6 \_\_\_\_\_ is the largest county in Ireland.

9 At a height of 688 metres above the Atlantic Ocean, Croaghnaun (on \_\_\_\_\_) are the second highest cliffs in Europe .

10 The Neolithic site \_\_\_\_\_ (3200 BCE), is the best-preserved

passage grave in Europe

12 The Anglo-Irish physicist, John Tyndall, was the first to prove the \_\_\_\_\_ Effect.

13 The Céide \_\_\_\_\_ in County Mayo is the most extensive Stone Age site in the world.

15 The \_\_\_\_\_ founded Dublin in 988.

16 \_\_\_\_\_ traces back its origins to the Gaelic festival of Samhain.

17 Irish astronomer William Edward Wilson became the first person to measure the temperature of the \_\_\_\_\_.

22 Ireland's 15 principle \_\_\_\_\_ stations are named after the leaders of the 1916 uprising.

27 The Celtic \_\_\_\_\_ is Ireland's official emblem.

30 The passage grave of Knowth contains more than a third of the total number of examples of megalithic \_\_\_\_\_ in all of Western Europe.

31 In 1879, the 4th Earl of Ross, installed a water wheel equipped with a turbine on the River Camcor, making \_\_\_\_\_ the first town in the world to be lit by electricity.

## The Irish in Action

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

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## Living With Lardie

by Richard Lardie



## The Good Old Days?

I am not one to think the old days were the good old days just because they were old days and we only remember the good parts. Those times in the 1950s sure seem special though.

I remember looking forward to Christmas as a youngster and the excitement it brought. The first big memory was going downtown on the streetcar. You had to get dressed up and be on your best behavior because Santa was watching and in full control of the abundance of presents. The first stop was Public Square. All the lights, the sound of music, car horns, people talking, laughing, and the crunch of the snow as you walked on the sidewalk was magical.

Mom would grab my hand and head straight across the square to look in the window at Higbee's. The smell of fresh hot peanuts wafted through the air as mom pushed me up front to look in the window. My eyes were as big as saucers as I looked at the moving toys, trains, elves, reindeer, toy soldiers, candy canes, dolls and snow-covered villages. We would then go into Higbee's, which to me, had the biggest first floor of any building I had ever been in.

People were shoulder to shoulder listening to sales people tell them about perfume and jewelry and gloves and make-up. If you weren't careful you would get sprayed with 3 or 4 perfumes that were being demonstrated. I was always anxious to get off the first floor because the good stuff for kids was elsewhere.

The toy department was the most exciting and I could never understand why my mom didn't want to spend all her time there. Just walking down the aisle made my heart leap. No electronic toys unless you counted that silly vibrating football game. Board games and jigsaw puzzles, dolls, buggies, tinker toys, Lincoln logs, erector sets, slinky, hula hoop, holsters and six shooters, train sets. The first toy ever advertised on TV was Mr. Potato Head. It sold 4 million dollars that year

and an advertising market was created; KIDS at Christmas.

Next stop the Silver Grill for lunch or at least a snack. The little stoves they would serve the children lunches in made us feel special. Then on to the Santa Clause line.

Getting my list locked in my head so I wouldn't freeze up when he asked me if I was good all year. That was always a tough question for me. Does lying to Santa invalidate telling him I was good all year? A few more floors of Mom shop-



ping and my begging would start. "Please, please, Mom, can we get a Frosty? It's only a dime. Please."

Mom would always respond. "Well, I don't know. Maybe if you just behave while I finish shopping, we will see." Boy, did I behave. I used to wish we were rich so I could buy my own Frosty machine. The last stop before leaving Higbee's was the Frosty. It was worth the trip downtown for a ten year old for sure.

Out of Higbee's and on to the May company we went. I know it was as good as Higbee's but it seemed smaller and less exciting, but still fun to see all the people and toys. The legs were getting sore but much more walking was ahead as we moved down Euclid Avenue, past Woolworth's. We darted in and out of shops all the way down to Halle's.

More kids fun as we went to see another Santa and a great toy department. I stayed on my good behavior so that we would have dinner at Clark's or Woolworth's. Funny, a cheese sandwich and a fountain coke seemed like dinner at the Ritz in THOSE good old days. The long tired walk to the streetcar and falling asleep with my head on mom's lap. Thanks Mom.

Getting together for the family Christmas was the other memory vividly imprinted on my mind; Grandma Flynn's house and the relatives arriving, sweet pipe smoke from grandpa Flynn dominating the front of the house, turkey smells emanating from the kitchen. "Dickie, you be in charge of the coats".

I would take every coat, carry it upstairs and throw it on the big bed. Eventually it

Sing, dance, recite a poem, play an instrument. I can only tell you that my rendition of "I'm a little teapot." deserved an Oscar. Once the presentation was over the adults would treat us to a movie.

Three or four carloads off to the Uptown show for a double feature. I used to think how nice it was for them to do that and now I realize it was a way to get us out of the house for three or four hours. The adults enjoyed that more than the kids did. The gift exchange was almost secondary to the family and sharing and loving that was going on at grandma Flynn's.

As I watch my current family on the holidays, I find the same to be true. The gifts look different but the loving and the sharing are the same. We kiss each one and are amazed at how big they are getting. They put on a show and play piano or cheer or Irish dance or recite. The adults fawn over the performances just as my aunts and uncles did. We don't send them to the movie but we put a movie in the DVR and the adults get some time to share the love without all the screaming.

The values that we received from our grandparents and parents seem to have passed to our children and our grandchildren. We as a society are doing better than all the news stations would have you believe. These are their good old days.

Merry Christmas.

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was piled so high the coats toppled to the floor. It would take people ten minutes to find their coats to leave. Every aunt found a different way to kiss you and tell you how big you were getting.

We would watch as the uncles sparred around over who was going to carve the turkey; the carver got the biggest piece of white meat. The food was as good as it smelled but us kids only ate the stuff we liked, just like kids today. After dinner everyone lit a cigarette. You could cut the smoke with a knife but no one noticed. Ash trays were everywhere and usually overflowing with butts. There were a lot of cartons of cigarettes given as Christmas gifts. A big gift of the day was a nice Zippo lighter.

Grandma Flynn would then command all the children to perform in some way.





## Coming Next Month:

Happy Anniversary!  
The Ohio Irish American News  
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shakers and music makers in our community each month.

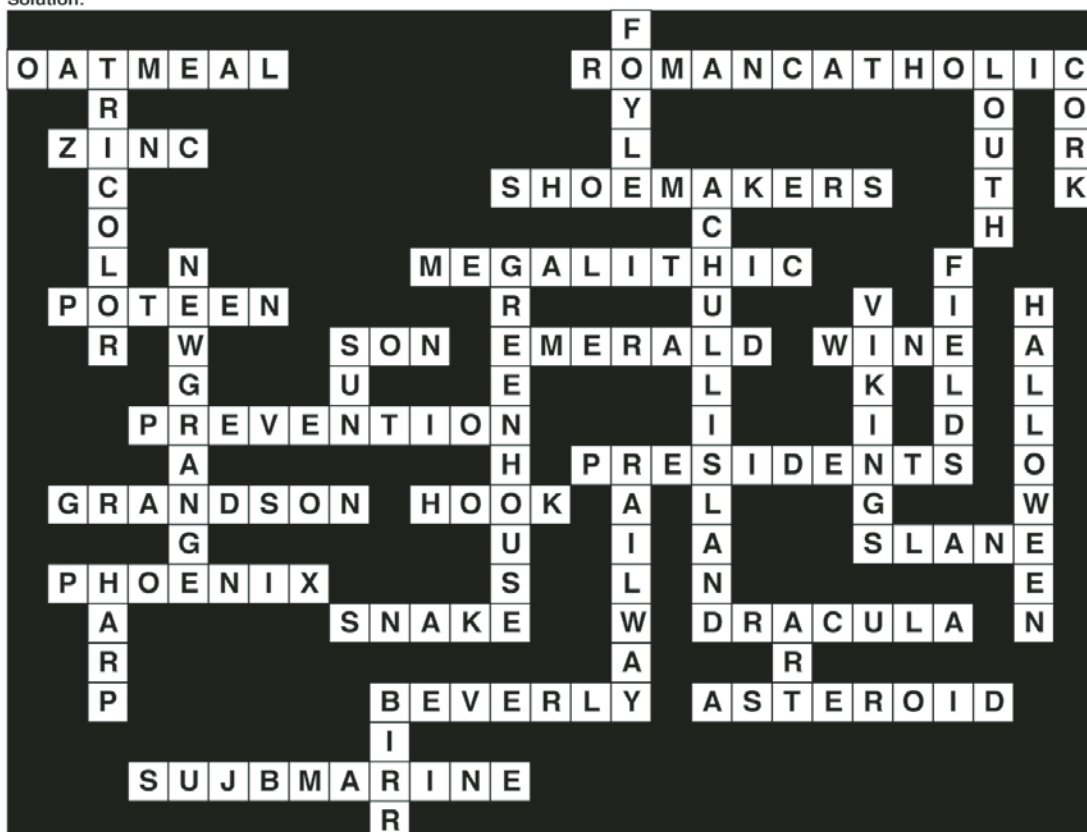
### January

- 7 & 14 - Ceili Dance Lessons @ WSIA**
- 10 - Irish First Generation Party @Pj McIntyres**
- 12 - Speak Irish Cleveland Irish Language**  
Classes begin (10 weeks) [jobrien@ianohio.com](mailto:jobrien@ianohio.com)
- 17 - RISE Foundation Fundraiser @ Music Box**  
Supper Club, w/ Frances Black, Aoife Scott,  
Liz Carroll, New Barleycorn and more
- 22 - Little Brothers and Sister of the**  
Eucharist Dance
- 23 - St. Pats GFC & WSIA Pipe Band Night**  
at the Races @WSIA

## Terrific Irish Trivia

by Linda Fulton Burke

Solution:



## Sheila Murphy Crawford Honored as 2015 Woman of Influence

New York's Irish Voice newspaper honored Sheila Murphy Crawford as a 2015 Woman of Influence. Crawford is one of 22 women from the United States and Ireland selected for their impact and accomplishments in the Irish Community. Crawford was the only honoree from outside the East Coast or Ireland. It is a unique honor for an Ohioan to be represented in the special group. The ceremony and presentation took place in New York City.

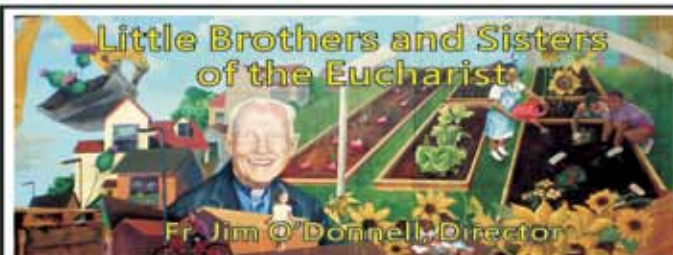
Crawford was recognized for her years of service to the Irish organizations in Cleveland and her leadership as the Director of the Irish Cultural Garden for 23 years and her guidance in the restoration of the garden over

the past 8 years. Crawford was also recognized as President of the Cleveland Cultural Gardens Federation, a historic one-of-a-kind collection of International gardens covering 250 acres in Rockefeller Park about to celebrate its 100th Anniversary.

Sheila is the Founder and Director of the Murphy Irish Arts Center; her Senior Dance Drama team won 1st place at the World Championships of Irish dance, held in Montreal this year. The dance was called "Miracle on Whiskey Island" and told about the early Irish immigrants to Cleveland. The event requires telling an Irish story through sets, costumes, music, and expert dancing and choreography.



*Niall O'Dowd, Irish Central Chief, Sheila Murphy Crawford, and Debbie McGoldrick, Senior Editor of the Irish Voice*



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