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The Newsletter of the
 Irish American Archives Society of Cleveland & Northeast Ohio

Volume 17, Number 2 Summer 2014

Johnny Kilbane Sculpture Project



Rowan Gillespie's design concept for the Johnny Kilbane Sculpture features three figures—tracing the arc of an exceptional life, from boy to champion to public servant. McKnight Associates, a landscape architecture firm, has designed a setting for the Kilbane sculpture in Battery Park.

The public phase of the campaign for the Johnny Kilbane Sculpture Project kicks off this month. Last summer, the Irish American Archives Society commissioned Dublin-based sculptor Rowan Gillespie to celebrate World Champion boxer Johnny Kilbane as a "Cleveland, immigrant, success story." The project brings a world class sculpture to the heart of Cleveland's Detroit-Shoreway neighborhood—Johnny Kilbane's home at the time of his first title fight in 1912.

Project facts:

- The design concept and site selection in the Battery Park development were finalized in January 2014.
- Dedication is planned for September 28, 2014, in conjunction with the international Mayo Society Convention.
- Leadership support from Jack Kahl Jr. and others is in place.
- Neighborhood organizations have been an integral part of the process.
- Arts, cultural, and educational organizations have partnered on programming about Johnny Kilbane's Cleveland, supported in part by the citizens of Cuyahoga County through a grant from Cuyahoga Arts and Culture.
- Videos documenting the sculpture's progress, created by noted documentary filmmaker Des Kilbane, are posted on the IAAS website at www.irisharchives.org. Rowan Gillespie is also posting photographs of the sculpture in process on his website, www.rowangillespie.com. You can also follow the project on Facebook at Johnny Kilbane Sculpture Project 2014.

The \$300,000 project includes the sculpture design, execution, installation, and landscaping; a film documentary; a commemorative book; vintage fight film restoration; and informative events about "Johnny Kilbane's Cleveland." \$195,000 has already been raised, committed, or donated in-kind. Please consider a donation using the enclosed envelope; pledges may be paid over a period of three years. Become part of this once-in-a-generation opportunity to commemorate the shaping presence of the Irish in Cleveland.

Save the Date!

Saturday, June 14, 2014
 Detroit Shoreway Walking Tour
 Departs 1:00 pm and 3:00 pm
 Craciun Berry Funeral Home,
 7200 Detroit
 See page 2.

Thursday, June 19, 2014
 "Gangs, Gangsters, and
 Gamblers of Kilbane Town"
 7:30 pm, Stone Mad Pub
 1306 West 65th Street
 See page 2.

Sunday, September 7, 2014
 "Heritage Day"
 at Holy Name Parish
 Details in August.

Past Walks of Life Honorees at the 2014 Walks of Life dinner



Back Row: Gerry Quinn (2007), Thomas J. Scanlon (2004), Neil Raleigh (2006), Martin J. Sweeney (2014), Jack Kahl (2014), Fr. Donald Cozzens (2009), William T. Monroe (2002), Mike Cleary (2012), Patrick P. Leneghan (2005), Dan Coughlin (2013)
Front Row: Dennis Roche (2010), Jeanne Colleran, PhD. (2014), Barbara O'Brien Brown (2014), Margaret Lynch Sr. (1999), Kathleen Raleigh (2006), Joyce Casey (1999), Sr. Joan Gallagher, CSA (2008), Sheila Murphy Crawford (2008), Margaret Pigott Flynn (2014), Hon. Richard McMonagle (2013)

Board Members: James G. Brennan, John Burke, Sr. Maureen Burke, SND, Hon. Ken Callahan Jr., Dan Conway, Thomas Corrigan, John Coyne, Ray Daull, Brendan Doyle, Rosemarie Feighan DeJohn, Terence P. Joyce, Thomas Lynch, Margaret (Meg) McGarry, John Myers, Erin O'Toole, Kevin O'Toole, Max Rieker, Thomas J. Scanlon, J. Gerard Sheehan. **Trustees Emeritus:** Kevin McGinty, Eileen Mullally, Mary Karen O'Neil, Gerald Quinn.
Executive Director and Newsletter Editor: Margaret Lynch.

Taimid ag suil le do comhlúadar
 We look forward to your company!



Johnny Kilbane's Cleveland

Two upcoming programs focus on the Cleveland that boxer Johnny Kilbane would have known circa 1912--the year of Kilbane's first world featherweight championship. Both events are supported in part by the residents of Cuyahoga County through a public grant from Cuyahoga Arts & Culture, and both are presented as part of the Johnny Kilbane Sculpture Project initiative.

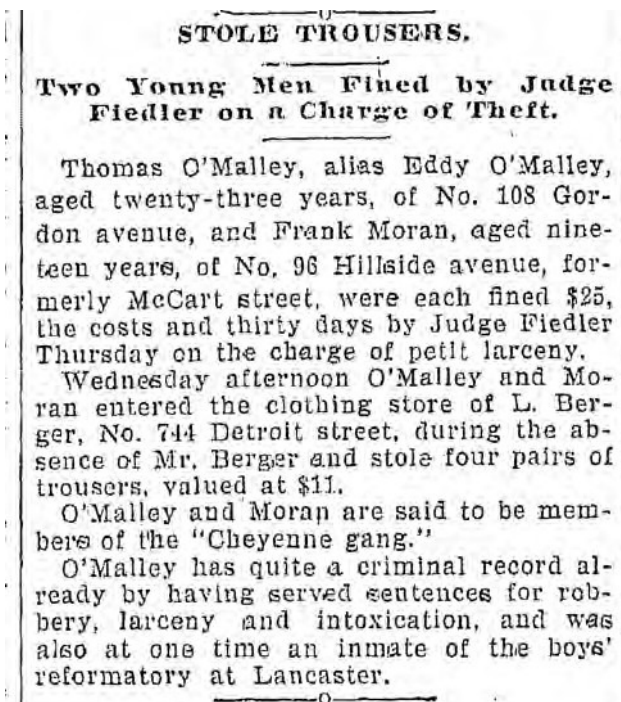


Detroit Shoreway Walking Tour Saturday, June 14, 2014, 1 and 3 pm

Walk the streets that Johnny Kilbane would have walked when he lived at West 74th and Herman; hear about the characters and lore of a neighborhood that was a center for Irish American settlement in the earlier 20th century. This free walking tour, led by the Hon. Ray Pianka, Judge of the Cleveland Housing Court, and Margaret Lynch, IAAS Executive Director, is being offered in conjunction with the Gordon Square Arts District Day. The tour will be repeated twice. Meet at 12:50 and 2:50 pm on the front porch of the Craciun Berry Funeral Home at 7200 Detroit. Tours will depart 1:00 and 3 pm, and will each last about forty minutes.

- Stop #1 Craciun Berry Funeral Home – The Farnan-Smith House
Settlement of the neighborhood in the 1860s and 1870s
- Stop #2 W. 74th and Detroit – Growth and Notoriety
The Circulation Wars of the 1910s
- Stop #3 W. 74th and Herman—Residence of Johnny Kilbane, 1912
- Stop #4 W. 73rd and Herman—Farnan- Masterson House, 1917
Past and present meet in a lovingly restored house
- Stop #5 W. 74th and Fr. Frascati Blvd—Industry and Renewal
Union Carbide, Battery Park, and Kilbane sculpture site

“Gangs, Gangsters, and Gamblers: Colorful Characters of Kilbane Town” Thursday, June 19, 2014, 7:30 pm



The gangs, gangsters and gamblers of Johnny Kilbane's neighborhood are the focus of a free "history on tap" presentation at Stone Mad Pub at 1306 West 65th Street. The McCart Street Gang of today's West 69th Street terrorized family business owners and fellow residents alike in the 1890s. In subsequent decades the gang morphed into "The Cheyennes," who were accused of involvement in the "Circulation Wars" between the Cleveland Plain Dealer and the Cleveland Leader-News circa 1914. The likes of notorious Cleveland racketeer "Black Jack" McGinty rose from the ranks of the petty thieves, criminals, and colorful characters who lived on the densely populated streets north of Detroit and west of West 65th Street. Cleveland Housing Court Judge Ray Pianka, IAAS Executive Director Margaret Lynch, and local historian Jim Dubelko will preside over this fun and informative panel discussion.

Newspaper item about incident involving alleged members of the "Cheyenne Gang," from the pages of the Cleveland Plain Dealer on March 31, 1899.

President's Note: Why We Need Your Support

The Johnny Kilbane Sculpture Project is the most visible IAAS endeavor at the moment. And we'd love to have your support for it. A pledge form and remittance envelope are included for your convenience. The Johnny Kilbane Sculpture Project extends beyond the sculpture itself and encompasses the sculpture, installation in a specially designed plaza in Battery Park, a film documentary, a commemorative book, and restoration of vintage film fight footage that will be shared with the public. The project commemorates one exceptional life but even more so salutes the journey that all of our ancestors took from struggling immigrants to people eager to make a mark in their new home. Accompanying programming shifts the focus from Johnny Kilbane himself to the city that he called home. The project offers a once-in-a-generation opportunity to mark the presence of the Irish in Cleveland with a world-class work of public art in the heart of the city.



But the Johnny Kilbane Sculpture Project only represents a portion of what can and must be done to preserve the legacy of the Irish in Cleveland. Research for the history of the Newburgh neighborhood and Holy Name High School and research for the upcoming 150th anniversary of the St. Patrick's Day Parade in 2017 are other ongoing projects. The IAAS website at www.irisharchives.org contains articles of local interest on topics ranging from the Ohio and Erie Canal to the Soldiers and Sailors Monument to the history of the Gaelic Athletic Association in Cleveland. Many of these articles are also available in a display format that can be presented at community events. There are many more topics that can and will be covered—with your continuing support. —Thomas D. Corrigan, IAAS Acting President

Pacesetters for the campaign for the Johnny Kilbane Sculpture Project at the 2014 Walks of Life dinner: Cleveland City Councilman Matt Zone, Cleveland Municipal Housing Court Judge Ray Pianka, and 2014 Walks of Life Honoree and IAAS Life Member Jack Kahl, with plans for the Battery Park setting for the Kilbane sculpture.

Director's Corner: 100th Anniversary of Holy Name High School

One hundred years ago, in 1914, Holy Name High School opened its doors as the first co-educational high school in the diocese of Cleveland. The Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati were invited to establish the school on the "campus" of Holy Name Parish near the intersection of Broadway and Harvard Avenues in the area of Cleveland known as Newburgh. In 1978, having outgrown its aging physical plant on Broadway Avenue, the school moved to Parma Heights, where it has continued to grow and manifest the irrepressible "Namer" spirit. In 2014, with support from the Michael Talty and Helen Talty Charitable Trust, IAAS is collaborating with Holy Name High School to call attention to the proud history of the school as well as of the community and parish that first fostered its development. The imposing church that still stands proudly at the corner of Broadway and Harvard, along with the parish grade school and the high school that opened in 1914, are part of the legacy of the Irish presence in the neighborhood.



Colleen Corrigan Day, Holy Name High School's Director of Constituent Relations, with her mother, Sheila Corrigan, at the IAAS-Holy Name booth at the Hooley on Kamm's Corners.

IAAS shared a booth with Holy Name High School at the Hooley on Kamm's Corners on May 10. We got identifications for several Holy Name "mystery photos" and heard stories from many "Namer" who stopped by. Our research will culminate in a "Heritage Day" cosponsored by Holy Name High School and IAAS at Holy Name Parish on Sunday, September 7. Details and schedule will be forthcoming in August. —Margaret Lynch, IAAS Executive Director