



Irish American Archives Society Inc.

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Save the Date!

Thursday October 8, 2015
5:00pm - 6:00pm

South Franklin Circle
(16575 South Franklin St.)

Friday October 9, 2015
5:15pm - 6:15pm

Chagrin Falls Intermediate
School Auditorium
(100 Philomethian Street)

Screenings of Sculpture
Documentary,
"Kilbanetown Comeback"
See page 2 for details

Saturday, October 10, 11 am

League Park,
E. 66th and Lexington Avenue
"Two World Champions:
Boxing and Baseball at
League Park"
See page 2 for details

Sunday, October 11, 4 pm

West Side Irish American Club,
8559 Jennings Road
"The Tuke Assisted Emigration
Scheme"
Rosemarie Geraghty,
Ionad Deirbhile
Visitor Centre, Eachleim,
Blacksod, Co. Mayo
See page 1 for details

For inquiries, contact:
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(216) 941-5727 or
iaasadmin@gmail.com

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

Preserving Our Heritage, Sharing Our Stories

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

Volume 18, Number 3 Fall 2015

IAAS and the Mayo Society of Greater Cleveland

Every year since 2005, the Mayo Society of Greater Cleveland has sponsored a Grand Ball in October. The 2015 Grand Ball will be held on Saturday, October 10, at the downtown Renaissance Cleveland Hotel. For more details about the ball itself, see the Mayo Society's website at www.clevelandmayosociety.org.

But while the ball is a highly visible focal point, the visit of Mayo delegations to Cleveland is the most substantive part of the annual weekend. The delegations typically consist of officials representing the Mayo County Council and the Achill Local Development Company. Their visits honor the formal "twinning" ties between Cuyahoga County and County Mayo and between Achill Island and the city of Cleveland. The Achill-Cleveland twinning has been going strong since 2003!

Each October, our Mayo visitors typically have a busy schedule of meetings with area business and community leaders, seeking to strengthen economic and cultural ties between two areas linked together by a shared immigration history. The Irish American Archives Society has frequently assisted with these visits by contributing information on the history of the Irish in Cleveland. Talks at the Irish Cultural Garden, a bike tour of the near West-Side, and an economic development presentation at the Detroit Shoreway Community Development Organization are several of the events that IAAS has helped to put together for Irish visitors.

In 2015, in addition to assisting at meetings and events for the delegates themselves, IAAS is proud to co-sponsor a public event featuring the work of one of our distinguished visitors:

Sunday, October 11, 4 pm, West Side Irish American Club

Co-sponsored with the WSIA McNeeley Library
"The Tuke Assisted Emigration Scheme"

Rosemarie Geraghty, Ionad Deirbhile Visitor Centre, Eachleim, Blacksod, Co. Mayo

In 1883-1884, 3,300 immigrants from northwest Mayo communities such as Belmullet, Ballycroy, and Achill left for North America through an "assisted emigration scheme." A notable number of them ended up in Cleveland. Rosemarie Geraghty, researcher on the "Blacksod Bay Emigration" project, will be visiting Cleveland as part of the Achill delegation to the Mayo Ball. IAAS and WSIA are partnering to give her an opportunity to explain her work in documenting the families who participated in this immigration effort and to meet their descendants.

Annie Gallagher Laird and Liz Gallagher Sammon were two sisters who left The Valley on Achill Island and traveled with their family to Cleveland via Canada in 1883.



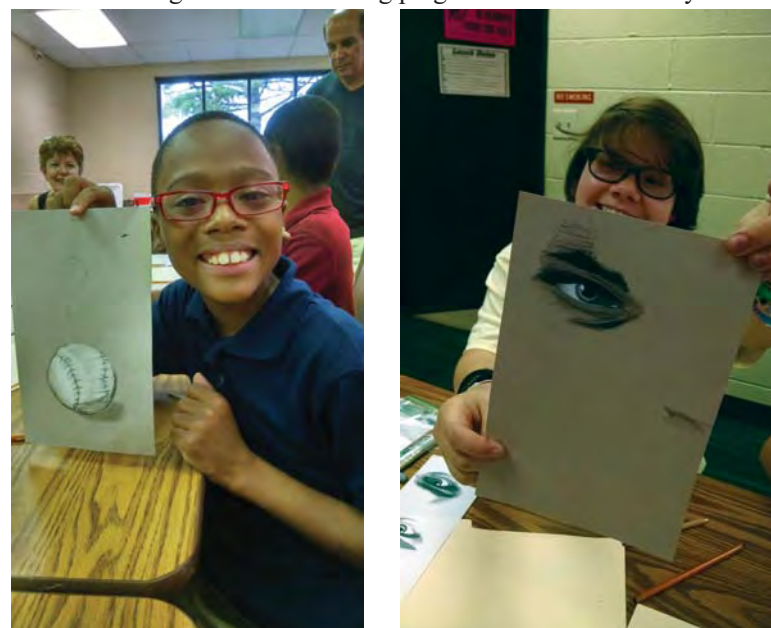
President's Note

As the President of the IAAS Board and former president of the Board of the Cleveland Public Library, I am particularly pleased when IAAS and the Cleveland Public Library are able to cooperate on public programming. Such has been the case in the run-up to the October 10 event at League Park, co-sponsored by IAAS and the Baseball Heritage Museum. Local Cleveland portrait artist Joe Gazzo is on the board of the Baseball Heritage Museum and has conducted drawing classes for young people in the Hough neighborhood where League Park is situated. The classes have used images of baseball themes and players as a jumping off point for original drawings by the students.

In collaboration with IAAS, the Baseball Heritage Museum's Joe Gazzo has brought a similar drawing program to the Walz Library at 7910 Detroit Avenue in the Detroit Shoreway neighborhood. The drawing classes, offered free to young people, ages 10 and up, have been attracting an after-school group of about 12 students on Thursday evenings, beginning in late August. Gazzo started a similar after-school drawing class at League Park in early September. It is hoped that students from both classes will share finished drawings at League Park on October 10, with families in attendance.

We showed students from both sides of town photographs of Johnny Kilbane and encouraged them to seek out the sculpture. We hope that these young people are inspired to pursue their own "fighting hearts," just as Johnny did.

--Thomas D. Corrigan, President, IAAS Board of Trustees



Young people in drawing classes led by the Baseball Heritage Museum's Joe Gazzo at the Walz Branch of the Cleveland Public Library



Board Members: James G. Brennan, Sr. Maureen Burke, SND, Hon. Ken Callahan Jr., Dan Conway, Thomas D. Corrigan, John Coyne, Ray Daull, Brendan Doyle, Rosemarie Feighan DeJohn, 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, Mary Karen O'Neil, Gerald Quinn.
Executive Director and Newsletter Editor: Margaret Lynch.

Community Programming Continues in October

October brings a round of programming that uses the Johnny Kilbane Sculpture project as a springboard.

Screenings of “Kilbanetown Comeback”



Kilbanetown Comeback

The Chagrin Documentary Film Festival has been screening a diverse array of documentary films each year since 2010, in honor of a Chagrin Falls High School alumnus and documentary filmmaker. Chosen for inclusion in the 2015 festival lineup is “Kilbanetown Comeback,” the documentary of the Johnny Kilbane Sculpture project, which debuted in the 2015 Cleveland International Film Festival. Galway-based filmmaker Des Kilbane followed sculptor Rowan Gillespie in Ireland and Cleveland, obtaining rare footage that chronicles the process of creating the sculpture in Cleveland’s transforming Battery Park area, Johnny’s old neighborhood.

Screenings

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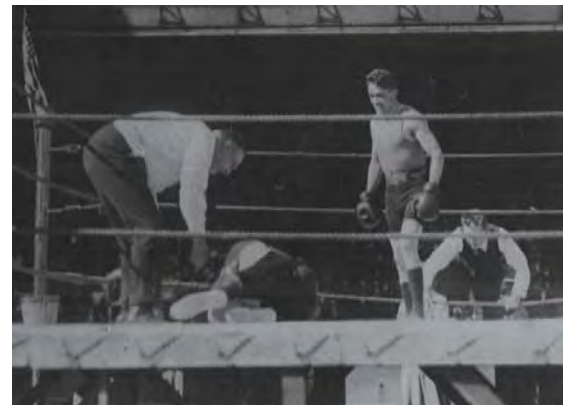
See www.chagrinfilmfest.org. Tickets can be purchased in advance online for \$11.34/ticket.



Boxing and Baseball at League Park

In September 1921, boxer Johnny Kilbane successfully defended his world championship featherweight title at Cleveland’s League Park against hard-hitting Danny Frush. Rare vintage film footage of the fight was preserved by Johnny’s daughter and her descendants and has recently been restored as part of the larger sculpture project. As it happens, the Cleveland Indians were also defending world champions in September 1921, also playing at League Park—although their 1921 title push would fall short.

IAAS and the Baseball Heritage Museum, located at the renovated League Park, are joining forces to celebrate Cleveland’s two world champions, who shared the field at League Park in Fall 1921. Johnny Kilbane’s great grandson, Kevin O’Toole, will show vintage film footage and talk about the thrilling Danny Frush fight, while Morris Eckhouse of the Baseball Heritage Museum will make a short presentation about the Cleveland Indians at League Park. Special guests include Cleveland City Councilmen Matt Zone and T.J. Dow and representatives from the Mayo and Achill delegations to Cleveland.



Johnny Kilbane stands over a fallen challenger

The lineup for Saturday, October 10, will include:

- 9:30 am League Park and Economic Development (Reservations required via email at iaasadmin@gmail.com)
- 10:30 am Tour of League Park
- 11:00 am Program: “Two World Champions: Boxing and Baseball at League Park”
- 12:30 pm Refreshments and tour of League Park

Events are free and open to the public. Free parking is available on and across the street, at E. 66th and Lexington Avenue. Tours of the recently renovated park will be offered before and after the talk, at 10:30 am and 12:30 pm. Refreshments at 12:30 pm.



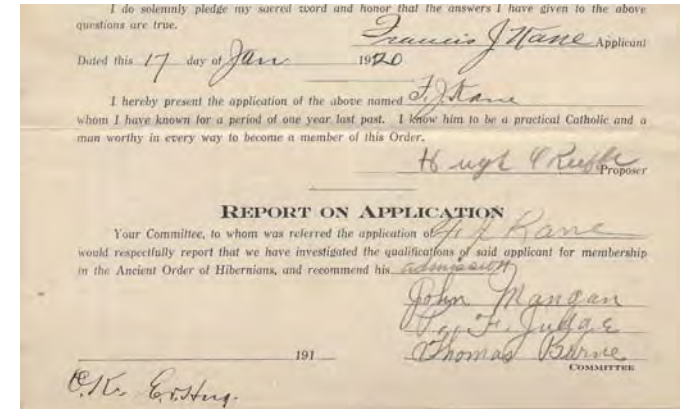
Director’s Corner:

We don’t always shine a spotlight on it, but donation of valuable archival materials quietly continues in the background while IAAS organizes programming that meets the public eye.

Sometimes particular events help to bring material to the surface. In September 2013, Cleveland hosted the Gaelic Athletic Association North American Finals. At the request of organizer Mark Owens, IAAS prepared a display about the history of the GAA in Cleveland. The research for the display turned up important collections of GAA records in Cleveland, including correspondence kept by longtime GAA organizer Henry Cavanagh, club records in the early 1950s kept by then-secretary Katherine Murphy [Kearney], information about the 1970s camogie teams submitted by Maire O’Leary Manning. Other GAA folks—such as Joe Boyle, Jim Coyne, Jim Goggin, Norine Hastings, “Sporty” Kilbane, Tish Lowry Kilbane, Maire Leffel, Maureen Mohny, John O’Brien Sr., and Mark Owens—either loaned photographs for scanning or identified individuals in the photographs. Posting some of the photos on Facebook brought comments from relatives from as far away as Massachusetts and Chicago.



Henry Cavanagh’s GAA papers included a rare photo of a 1933-1934 team—with the team members, thankfully, identified.



The Lorain County AOH records include this application form from 1920, which is signed by the division officers.

Other collections show up without prompting. Recently, Thomas Simon, son of Jack Simon and Mary Fallon, called to say that he and his brother Sean had found some old ledger books among his father’s papers. They turned out to be records kept from about 1880-1913 by a Lorain country division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians. The ledgers contain meeting minutes and membership rosters. In addition, there are clippings of newspaper obituaries of members and documentation of expenses for illnesses and burials—expenses that the fraternal organization would help members with. Thomas and Margaret Lynch had already donated 19th century records for a Cleveland AOH division a few years ago. The ledgers that the Simon brothers found help to expand documentation of the activities of the AOH in the 19th century in northeast Ohio.

When donated materials come through the IAAS, IAAS helps to organize and do background research, to insure that the historical significance of the collection is documented, before turning the materials over to the Western Reserve Historical Society for climate-controlled preservation and cataloguing.

--Margaret Lynch, IAAS Executive Director



Late Breaking--Other upcoming events: Saturday, October 17, 4-9 pm, Gordon Square Arts District Day “open house” will include a reprise of our talk “Irish Gangs, Gangsters, and Gamblers,” with Judge Ray Pianka and public historian Jim Dubelko. Details will be listed on the Detroit Shoreway Community Development Organization website (www.dscdo.org). Also, IAAS will talk about the Johnny Kilbane Sculpture project at a “Teaching Cleveland” CLENight on **November 11, 4-7 pm**, at the Town Hall at 1909 West 25th Street. For reservations, go to www.teachcle.org. IAAS participation in these events and the League Park event is supported in part by the citizens of Cuyahoga County through a grant from Cuyahoga Arts and Culture. Thank you, Cuyahoga County voters!

