



Preserving Our Heritage, Sharing Our Stories

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

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Save the Date!

Thursday, February 23, 2017,
5:30 pm

Annual Walks of Life
Awards Dinner

Windows on the River
2000 Sycamore Street
Cleveland OH 44113

Look for the announcement
of our 2017 Honorees in
January 2017

For information about
sponsorship or ad
opportunities
Or for inquiries, contact:
Margaret Lynch
(216) 941-5727 or
iaasadmin@gmail.com

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



175 Years of Celebrating St. Patrick's Day in Cleveland: *Do you have any Fenians in your closet?*

A few years ago, the Parade Committee of the United Irish Societies of Greater Cleveland was looking forward to celebrating the 150th anniversary of Cleveland's St. Patrick's Day Parade in 2017. But now the Irish American Archives Society is poised to assist the Parade Committee in commemorating the Parade's 175th anniversary. How did we acquire 25 years of history in those intervening years?



Mike McGarry Sr. posing before the McGarry and Sons float for the St. Patrick's Day Parade in 1952

Several years of intensive research into old newspapers and archives around town have revealed that the public celebration of St. Patrick's Day in Cleveland has a longer history than we once thought. The Cleveland Public Library has scanned and indexed the run of the Plain Dealer since 1845, and 19th century membership rosters have been found for the Ancient Order of Hibernians (now housed at Western Reserve Historical Society) and minute books for a once prominent group called the Irish Literary and Benevolent Association (in the CPL Special Collections). William A. Manning, a telegraph operator, kept a diary from

1867-1873 that references events in the Irish community and also wrote a history of St. Patrick's Parish on Bridge Avenue in 1903 that describes early St. Patrick's Day celebrations. Diocesan histories also shed some light. A treasure trove for more recent Parade history can be found in the papers of Raymond "Rip" Reilly, a longtime Parade director and publicist, at the WRHS.

Details about the publication will be released in January, but a 160 page, full-color volume is currently shaping up. We still have time to incorporate a few last-minute finds. Does anyone have in their possession records or memorabilia relating to such 19th century groups as the Hibernian Guards or the Fenians? How about earlier 20th century groups that have passed from view, such as the Sons and Daughters of Eire? If you have an item that sheds light on the history of St. Patrick's Day in Cleveland, get a hold of Margaret Lynch immediately at iaasadmin@gmail.com or 216-941-5727.

Cleveland Connections with the Irish Struggle for Independence



Pat and Bill Homan shared information about Pat's father, John Corcoran

1916 commemorative events organized in Cleveland this past year by the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians and the Irish Network prompted the Irish American Archives Society to explore Cleveland connections with the Irish struggle for independence. A display was developed, chronicling support for Irish nationalism in Cleveland from the mid-19th through the early 20th century. Response to the display indicated an interest in pursuing the topic further.

In 1966 a group of IRA veterans were invited to attend Cleveland's St. Patrick's Day Parade, in honor of the 50th anniversary of the Easter Rising. The list of invitees, found among the papers of Parade publicist Raymond "Rip" Reilly, formed the initial basis for reaching out. Investigation turned up others whose names weren't on the list. Through interviews and public records, IAAS Director Margaret Lynch was able to create brief profiles of some of those who were involved in this cause. The project may never be "complete" because new names and information may always turn up. But a provisional version of the profiles can be finalized in the coming year. If you'd like to share the story of a family member involved in the Irish struggle for independence, please contact Margaret Lynch at iaasadmin@gmail.com or 216-941-5727.

Community Outreach

2016 was a busy year for community outreach covering a wide variety of topics relating to the history of the Irish in Cleveland:

Talk—Johnny Kilbane: A Cleveland Success Story—at St. Ignatius High School

Talk—Gangs, Gangsters and Gamblers—at Music Box Supper Club

Talks about Irish Family History Research at libraries in Hudson and Medina

Research internship—Tukey Emigration Scheme-- John Carroll University student

Display—Cleveland Connections with the Irish Struggle for Independence—at Cleveland Museum of Art, the Hooley at Kamm's Corners, and the Cleveland Irish Cultural Festival

Talk—Irish Cultural Garden—for landscape architects

Talk—The Irish and the US Civil War—at Middleburg Heights Historical Society

Talk, display, play reading, neighborhood discovery project, and walking tour—Irish Sandhogs and the 1916 Water Tunnel Explosion—Cleveland Division of Water, American Red Cross Retirees, Talespinners Childrens Theatre, Walz Branch of the Cleveland Public Library, and Detroit-Shoreway Neighborhood



Dan and Kathleen Chambers stopped by the IAAS table at the Cultural Festival this summer to talk about the nationalist activities of Dan's grandfather, William F. Chambers, founder of the family's funeral home.



IAAS helped this summer to research and identify descendants of Irish sandhogs and other immigrant workers who were killed in the 1916 Water Tunnel explosion or were part of the rescue effort, including African-American inventor Garrett Morgan, whose gas mask helped to save lives that day. Descendants gathered on July 25 at the Garret Morgan Water Treatment plant to commemorate a major tragedy in Cleveland's industrial history.

If you support our work to illuminate aspects of the history of the Irish in Cleveland—as part of the larger story of immigration in America-- we've provided a return envelope for your ANNUAL GIFT. Please include your email address on the attached form because announcements for talks and other events are increasingly sent out via email. Thank you so much for your interest!!

Trustees: Sr. Maureen Burke, SND, Ken Callahan Jr. , Dan Conway, Thomas D. Corrigan, John Coyne, Ray Daull, Brendan Doyle, Thomas Lynch, Margaret (Meg) McGarry , John Myers, Erin O'Toole, Kevin O'Toole, Max Rieker, Thomas J. Scanlon. **Trustees Emeritus:** Rosemarie Feighan DeJohn, Kevin McGinty, Mary Karen O'Neil, Gerald Quinn, J. Gerard Sheehan. **Executive Director :** Margaret Lynch, PhD