Personal Photos Add a Dimension

While many of the images included in The Day We Celebrate came from archival library collections, photographs other images loaned by individuals also helped to round the book out. A particularly interesting resource turned out to be a scrapbook compiled in the 1920s and 1930s by Clevelander Mary Ellen Murphy. Murphy was active in the city’s Irish organizations, especially the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians and the Irish Cultural Garden club, as well as in Democratic Party politics. In the 1920s and 1930s, she and her brother John G. Murphy were particularly prominent in the Association for the Recognition of the Irish Republic. Eamon De Valera had urged the founding of the AARIR during a fundraising trip to the United States from 1919 to 1920 and was in frequent contact with the group’s national leaders, including John G. Murphy. The newspaper clippings, program books, and other memorabilia collected by Mary Ellen Murphy—who died in 1990 at age 83—provide a fascinating glimpse into the lives of an active Irish American more than 70 years ago. It is anticipated that the scrapbook will be donated shortly to the Western Reserve Historical Society.

In addition, the book will be for sale for $50 at two summer festivals:

- **July 21-23, 2017**
  - Irish Cultural Festival at Berea Fairgrounds
  - Admission is $12 a day, $22 for two days, $33 for three days. For more information, see www.clevelandirish.org/index.php
- **August 11-13, 2017**
  - Ohio Celtic Festival at Classic Park in Eastlake
  - Admission is $12 a day, $18 for two days. For more information, see www.ohiocelticinfest.com

Save the Date!

**Thursday, July 6, 6:30 pm**
Louis Stokes Wing Auditorium
Cleveland Public Library
525 Superior Ave.
Cleveland, OH 44114

Public program, with music and a panel discussion, introducing

The Day We Celebrate: 175 Years of the St. Patrick’s Day Parade in Cleveland

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Hunting for Grand Marshals and Irish Mothers

One aspect of preparing the upcoming Parade history volume required a community-wide effort. While the names of all known Grand Marshals, since the Parade’s inception in 1842, were to be listed in the book, a decision was made to seek photographs of all Grand Marshals and Irish Mothers of the Year that had been honored by the United Irish Societies. The UIS named a Grand Marshal since it assumed management of the Parade in 1958 and added an Irish Mother of the Year award in 1963. The intention behind both awards was to honor a senior community member who, as Rip Reilly explained in 1986, “has contributed significantly to the advancement of Irish activities” in the city.

UIS has honored 114 Grand Marshal and Irish Mother through 2017. Would it be possible to find photographic representation for all of these people? Since 2003 UIS Deputy Director Rasa Chambers has taken official photographs of honorees for the Parade’s Program Book, and photographer Tony Psaltis has captured honorees at the step-off on the day of the Parade since 2008. Photographs of more recent honorees could thus be found fairly readily.

West Side Irish American Club and the Ancient Order of Hibernians sometimes included photographs of the UIS honorees in program books for their own St. Patrick’s Day events, and members of both organizations scoured old program books to produce another batch. The Cleveland Public Library and the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland found photographs of other honorees in their files. But when these resources were exhausted, photographs of almost 50 honorees had still not been located. Members of the Parade Committee started rifling through their own photograph albums and making phone calls to friends and family members. Word also went out through Facebook posts. Within about a month’s time, photographs of all 114 honorees had been found!

IAAS and the UIS also worked together to host a reception for living Grand Marshals and Irish Mothers that took place in late February. Photographer Marianne Mangan was on hand to document this special gathering of honored community members. A St. Ignatius High School student, David Patrick Ryan, also contacted IAAS about a proposed Eagle Scout project, to research brief biographies of all the Grand Marshals since 1935, when the Irish Civic Association began to sponsor a downtown Parade. Ryan’s project will be posted on the IAAS website as of July 1.

Clevelanders of Irish descent have been gathering to celebrate St. Patrick’s Day since 1842—when the city was young and Ireland’s independence was far in the future. The history of the St. Patrick’s Day Parade is also the story of the Irish in Cleveland. Extensive research and hundreds of photographs, maps, and other artifacts reveal little-known information about the Irish in Cleveland in the nineteenth century and detail the more familiar contributions of Irish immigrants and Irish-Americans in recent memory. Extensively researched, lavishly illustrated in full color, this handsome 200-page hard cover book pays tribute to one of the city’s oldest and most vibrant public celebrations.

NOW IS YOUR LAST CHANCE to purchase at pre-publication price of $40 with postmark by 7/5. After 7/5, book will be sold for $50 (including sales tax) at summer festivals, and subsequent mail orders will require an additional shipping fee. Postmark deadline for pre-publication price will be strictly observed.

Mail order form with check payable to: Irish American Archives Society
P.O. Box 91756
Cleveland, OH 44101-3756

Payment can also be made via PayPal on the IAAS website (www.irisharchives.org).

Questions? Contact iaasadmin@gmail.com.

Name: ______________________________________________
Address:  _______________________________________________
City, State, Zip: _______________________________________________
Phone:  _________________ Email: __________________
# of books: __________ x $40/each = Amount  ______________

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