



Irish American Archives Society Inc.
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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

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

July 21-23, 2017

Irish Cultural Festival
at Berea Fairgrounds

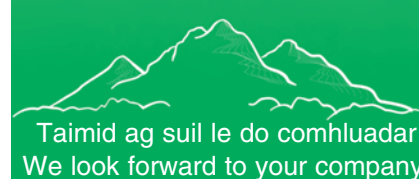
Admission is \$12 a day,
\$22 for two days,
\$33 for three days

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.ohiocelticintfest.com



Preserving Our Heritage, Sharing Our Stories

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

Volume 20, Number 2 Summer 2017

Researching the history of Cleveland's St. Patrick's Day Parade

The Irish American Archives Society was founded in 1994 to promote the development of an archival collection documenting the history of the Irish in Cleveland. So it's fitting that archival resources were fundamental to the research for our upcoming publication: *The Day We Celebrate: 175 Years of Cleveland's St. Patrick's Day Parade*.

The first documented St. Patrick's Day Parade took place in Cleveland in 1842. The city was only a few decades old at that point, and Ireland's independence was many years in the future. Recovering 175 years of history is a daunting task, but one that was made possible thanks to resources available at libraries throughout the city.

The Cleveland Public Library provided one fundamental key: almost a decade ago, CPL scanned the Cleveland *Plain Dealer* newspaper as a full-text, searchable electronic resource dating back to 1845 and made the paper accessible online. It was a *Plain Dealer* search that first began to suggest that Cleveland's Parade was older than commonly thought.

The CPL collection contains archival photographs from the *Plain Dealer*, while Cleveland State University Library houses photographs from the *Cleveland Press*. A previously unknown resource turned up in CPL's Special Collections—the minutes, from 1869 to 1897, for the Irish Literary and Benevolent Association, which was prominent in Cleveland in the late 19th century.

The Irish American archives at Western Reserve Historical Society yielded a personal diary kept, from 1867-1873, by William A. Manning, a young telegraph operator and Parade participant; and the papers of John V. Corrigan, George McMonagle, and John M. Gallagher.

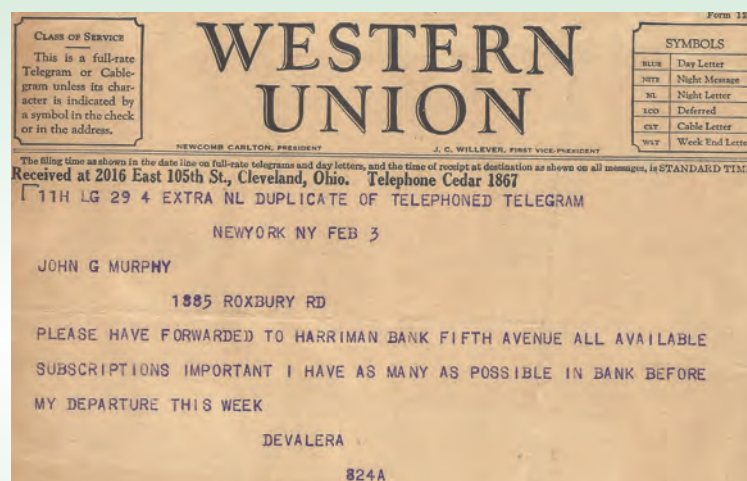
Most central to the history of the St. Patrick's Day Parade were the Records of the St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee, from 1958 to 1996, which had been kept by long-time Parade official Raymond "Rip" Reilly and donated to WRHS by two Parade directors, William F. Chambers and Justice Terrence O'Donnell. The overall project benefited greatly from the foresight of those who brought these precious resources to libraries for preservation.



Colonial Boys, 1976. Back Row: Brian McNamara, Mike Hayes, John McDonough, Frank Chambers, Marty Whalen, Kevin Gallagher, Mike Weir. Middle Row: Jim Kilbane, John McLaughlin, Pat Kelly, Bill Hayes, John Hayes, Tom Mackin. Front Row: Mike Keenan, Jack Gallagher, John Reilly, Jack McDonough, Ed Nageotte, Pat Hayes, Kevin Keenan. Not pictured: Steve Mulloy Jr. (Records of the St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee, WRHS)

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 Cleveland 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 interests 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. Community treasures may be hidden among your family photo albums and scrapbooks. Please contact us at iaasadmin@gmail.com if you think you have papers or other items of interest.



Telegram from Éamon de Valera to Cleveland and AARIR officer John G. Murphy.

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, Jim Proctor, Colleen Reali, Max Rieker, Thomas J. Scanlon. **Trustees Emeritus:** Rosemarie Feighan DeJohn, Kevin McGinty, Mary Karen O'Neil, Gerald Quinn, J. Gerard Sheehan.

Executive Director and Newsletter Editor: Margaret Lynch.

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 of 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.



Gathering of Grand Marshals, 2017. Back row: Walter J. “Mickey” McNally (2012), Andrew Dever (2014), Helen C. Malloy (2005), Roger S. Weist (2017), William M. Carney (2006), and Alphonsus O’Leary (1993)—the only original UIS delegate who was still serving in 2017. Front row: Gerald Quinn (2011), Kevin McGinty (2013), and Patrick Kilbane (1998). Not pictured: Gerald McFaul (1989) and John P. Coyne (2016). © 2017 Marianne Mangan.



Gathering of Irish Mothers of the Year, 2017. Back row: Mary Hastings McCluskey (2002), Kathleen Hough (2008), Mary Celine O’Leary (1997), Bridget McIntyre (2016), Kathleen Sheehan (2011), Sara McLaughlin (2001), Vera Casey (2012), May Moore Keenan (1998), Bridie Joyce (2014), Patricia Hollywood (2015), and Bonnie McNally (2010). Front row: Shirley Chambers (2009), Angela Murphy (2017), Mary Terese Hurley (1984), Mary O’Donnell Hayes (2003), Nora Jordan (1994), and Bette Berry (1992). Not pictured: Mary Ellen Boland (2007) and Una Ellis (2013). © 2017 Marianne Mangan.



An ambitious, once-in-a-lifetime book will be published at the end of June:

The Day We Celebrate:

175 Years of the St. Patrick’s Day Parade in Cleveland

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.

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