



Preserving Our Heritage, Sharing Our Stories

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

Volume 24, Number 2, Fall 2021

Save the Date!

Summer's End Social
and Toolis Film Debut

The Harp
4408 Detroit Avenue
Cleveland, 44113

Wednesday
September 15, 5:30-7:30 pm

Event ticket: \$25

Details on pp. 1 and 3

Summer's End Social and Toolis Film Debut

The cause of Irish nationhood was promoted in Cleveland at an annual summer picnic from the 1860s through the mid-20th century. Our Summer's End Social continues this Cleveland tradition. Enjoy a last warm evening on a lakefront patio on Wednesday, September 15, 5:30-7:30 pm, at The Harp Pub (4408 Detroit Avenue 44113).

The Summer's End Social will mark the debut screening of a new short film created by filmmaker Kevin Toolis in collaboration with the Irish American Archives Society. The event also includes entertainment, food, and beverages. Singer Jake Boland will entertain during the first hour of the event, and the Portersharks will perform during the second. Single ticket entrance includes two beverage tickets (Irish coffee, beer, wine, non-alcoholic) and appetizers. The Irish coffee features Nitro Cold-Brewed Coffee by a new local start-up, Ready-Set Coffee Roasters. For VIP patrons, beverage tickets will be upgraded to a premium whiskey sampling ticket. Several whiskeys will be sampled throughout the event; there will be a contest for "best whiskey," and sampler participants will be entered into a drawing for a bottle of the "best whiskey."

Titled "A Blood Cradle of the Heart," Toolis's new film is a follow-up to "Coming Home," a filmed reflection on immigration that Irish American Archives Society commissioned in February 2021. The new film is grounded in the Mayo experience of the Irish War of Independence and the Civil War that followed. It will be narrated by Toolis and shot by videographer Sean Molloy in several Mayo locations. As Toolis did in "Coming Home," the filmmaker will use local and particular circumstances as a springboard for a more universal meditation.

2021 marks the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Anglo-Irish Treaty, which brought long-sought independence from England but also led to the partition of Ireland and hardened divisions that still rankle today. As a journalist, Kevin Toolis reported on The Troubles in Northern Ireland. Out of that reporting grew his book *Rebel Hearts: Journeys Within the IRA's Soul*, a seminal account of the IRA's battle against the British state. Toolis now brings that reporting, and his subsequent reporting in the war-torn Middle East, to a filmed meditation on war, politics, and the wrenching sacrifices that ordinary human beings are sometimes called to.

Kevin Toolis's earlier 11-minute film, "Coming Home," can be seen on YouTube; search under IAASCleveland. See page 3 for details about how you can help to sponsor "A Blood Cradle of the Heart" or participate in our Summer's End Social.

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



Commemorating the Irish Struggle for Independence

In addition to sponsoring “A Blood Cradle of the Heart,” IAAS is participating in the 1921 commemorative effort in other ways. IAAS Executive Director Margaret Lynch and Cleveland fireman Patrick Corrigan have both contributed essays to a commemorative book *The Men of the West*, published by the West Mayo Brigade Centenary Commemorations Committee. *The Men of the West* will be launched at a livestreamed event on Friday, August 27, 7 pm (2 pm EST). Lynch’s essay explores Cleveland connections with the War for Independence and the Civil War, while Corrigan’s introduces his great uncle Brian Corrigan’s memoirs of IRA activities in Achill. Lynch also wrote a related essay for publication in the *Encyclopedia of Cleveland History* under the title “Irish Nationalism in Cleveland.”

In 2016, in conjunction with Cleveland’s 1916 100th anniversary commemoration, Margaret Lynch began to interview Cleveland descendants of IRA veterans, compiling profiles of Clevelanders with connections to the Irish struggle for independence. This task grew into an ongoing effort, and IAAS will begin to share those profiles online in fall 2021.

25 IRA Veterans Ride in Parade Here

By MICHAEL D. ROBERTS
They were still a formidable lot, these 25 men with ruddy faces who laughed good thick laughter from deep in the frame and waved with old gnarled fingers.

But when they passed in the parade there were just a few who understood fully who they were and what they did and why they did it. Those who understood took off their hats and caps in respect.

The 25 were veterans of the Irish Republican Army that from 1916 to 1921, made the English look as helpless as the New York Mets.

THE IRA FOUGHT for independence from British rule and were successful in breaking part of Ireland from the Crown.

So yesterday, in honor of the 50th anniversary of the IRA uprising, Johnny Ryan got Johnny Fergus and Johnny Corcoran together with 22 others to ride in the St. Patrick’s Day Parade.

Johnny Ryan was organizing it all and trying to read from a list of names with a pair of glasses that were precariously riding the end of his



Plain Dealer photographer, Robert J. Quinlan took this picture with a green filter on his camera to help Johnny Corcoran, 323 E. 250th Street, Euclid, Johnny Fergus, 1155 Penfield Road, Cleveland Heights, and Johnny Ryan, 2197 W. 98th Street, former members of the Irish Republican Army, celebrate St. Patrick’s Day.
Plain Dealer Photo Robert J. Quinlan

On the 50th anniversary of the 1916 Easter Rising, Cleveland’s Parade Committee invited veterans of the struggle for Irish independence to march together in the city’s St. Patrick’s Day Parade. Their presence in the Parade was noted in the Plain Dealer on March 18, 1966



Many young men who fought during the Irish War of Independence (1919-1921) and the Civil War that followed (1922-1923) made their way to Cleveland in the 1920s. James J. Boland (shown here in his wedding portrait) was one of them. Born in County Clare in 1892, the young Boland joined the West Clare Brigade of the Irish Republican Army. Boland immigrated to the US in November 1922, finding a job in Cleveland with Weatherhead Corporation. In 1938, he married Catherine Monahan of Westport, County Mayo. He marched with the IRA veterans in the 1966 St. Patrick’s Day Parade in Cleveland and was Grand Marshall of the Parade in 1970. He died in 1972.

A succession of Irish nationalist organizations sponsored an annual Irish picnic in Cleveland from 1864 into the early 1950s. A Plain Dealer article from June 30, 1907, reports on the 1907 picnic, held at Luna Park, and indicates that Clevelanders were aware of the impending struggle that would ensue in 1916. One of the organizers is quoted as saying, “the time will come when Ireland, with the help of Irish all over the world, may achieve her independence by armed resistance.”

ENLISTING MEN IN IRISH CAUSE

Cleveland is Arming and Equipping Company Completely.

When Time Comes Trained Men Will Strike Blow for Ireland.

Under the auspices of the Irish Nationalists of America the American branch of the physical force party of Ireland, there is being formed in Cleveland a company of the Irish volunteers. It is called Co. F, Seventh infantry. An outing is to be held at Luna park July 3 to raise money to arm, uniform and equip the members.

While not in any sense believers in the principles of fenianism, the prime movers of the company hope that the part played by the Irish volunteers will not always be a pacific one. Said the leader:

“Not for one moment do we intend to sail across the seas and attempt by sheer force the overthrow of English rule in Ireland. That would be folly, simply leading men to slaughter. We remember too well the rebellion of ‘68.”

“On the other hand we realize the value of being armed and provided with the means of immediately waging warfare in behalf of our brothers across the water. I do not suppose that there is a man among us who would not individually enlist to join an Irish fight against England. We are preparing but biding our time.”

Councilman Thomas E. Croke, president of the Irish Nationalists of Ohio, denied last night that the purpose of the Irish volunteers is to lead a movement against England. “On the other hand,” he said, “we belong to the physical force party and believe that the time will come when Ireland, with the help of Irish all over the world, may achieve her independence by armed resistance.”

In charge of the outing at Luna park are: John Graham, John Burke, John Gallagher and Daniel Conway.

IAAS SUMMER'S END SOCIAL

HAPPY HOUR + KEVIN TOOLIS FILM DEBUT

Support the Irish American Archives Society AND become a film and event sponsor!
 Deadline for sponsorship recognition: Donations must be received by August 17, 2021.

Participation Levels:

Contribution Level	# Tickets	Charitable Donation	Recognition	Type of Ticket
\$6000 Presenting Sponsor	8 VIP	\$5,640	Film Credit- Top Billing/ Event signage	Select whiskey sampler/raffle ticket + 2 beverage tickets (Irish coffee/beer/wine) + appetizers
\$1500 Producer's Circle	8 VIP	\$1140		
\$750	6 VIP	\$480	Film Credit	
\$500	4 VIP	\$320		
\$250	2 VIP	\$160		
\$75	1 VIP	\$30	-	
\$25	1	\$5	-	2 beverage tickets (Irish coffee/beer/wine) + appetizers

For those who are unable to attend in person:

Film will also be screened simultaneously for free on Facebook Live and YouTube Live.

Event is also listed on Eventbrite at

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/summers-end-social-toolis-film-debut-tickets-164251252919>

Event tickets and sponsorship donations can be purchased online or via mail using RSVP form below. IAAS is a not-for-profit 501 c 3 organization (Tax ID #34-1772611)

Wednesday, September 15, 5:30-7:30 pm at The Harp, 4408 Detroit Avenue (44113)

5:30-6:15 Singer Jake Boland

6:15-Film Screening

6:30-7:30 The Portersharks

Recognition name*:

**Can include "in honor of . . ."—up to 150 characters total*

Contact name:

Address:

City, State, Zip:

Phone:

Email:

Check payable to the Irish American Archives Society in the amount of _____.

Guest Names

Mail to:

Irish American Archives Society
 P.O. Box 91756
 Cleveland, OH 44101-3756

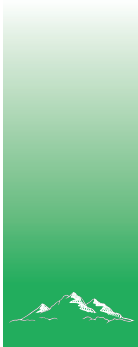


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IAAS Podcast Series: Finding Home

The IAAS Podcast Series “Finding Home” starts its second “season” on Tuesday, September 7, 2021. The second season will feature interviews on a variety of topics relating to the history of the Irish in Cleveland. Guests and topics will range widely. Early episodes include Kevin O’Toole on restoring the vintage film footage of his great-grandfather Johnny Kilbane’s 1912 championship fight; Patrick Custy on reviving hurling in northeast Ohio, and Ken Callahan on his ancestor J.K. O’Reilly’s experience of the Battle of Gettysburg.

The second season of “Finding Home” is a follow-up to the 50-episode first season, which explored the history of the Irish in Cleveland in 20-minute segments. The entire first season lineup can be accessed on the Irish American Archives Society website at www.irisharchives.org. Listen from the beginning or pick and choose episodes on topics that interest you. You can also listen on Spotify, iTunes, Google Podcasts and other podcast platforms. The podcast series has been supported in part by a grant from the Michael Talty and Helen Talty Charitable Trust.



Boxer Johnny Kilbane’s daughter, Mary Kilbane O’Toole, preserved a collection of memorabilia of the fighter’s distinguished career. Prior to the 100th anniversary of Kilbane’s 1912 World Championship fight, Mary’s grandson, IAAS Trustee Kevin O’Toole discovered that her collection included rare film footage of the 1912 fight against the favored champion Abe Attell. O’Toole relates the effort to restore the film in his appearance on the IAAS podcast “Finding Home.” The podcast series resumes Tuesday, September 7.

Trustees: Ken Callahan Jr., Dan Conway, Thomas D. Corrigan, John Coyne, Ray Daull, Margaret (Meg) McGarry, John Myers, Erin O’Toole, Kevin O’Toole, Jim Proctor, Colleen Reali, Thomas J. Scanlon. **Trustees Emeritus:** Helen C. Malloy, Mary Karen O’Neil, Gerald Quinn, J. Gerard Sheehan.
Executive Director: Margaret Lynch, PhD.