

ST. JOHN CEMETERY TOUR
SPONSORED BY THE IRISH
AMERICAN ARCHIVES SOCIETY
ON AUGUST 1, 2010

August 1 was a bright, sunny day—perfect for brunch on the patio at the Harp Restaurant at West 45th and Detroit, where the tour participants gathered.



Next, we boarded two buses, donated by St. Joseph Academy and Gilmour Academy, and headed toward East 70th and Woodland. While the group was “en route,” tour guide Bernie McCafferty and IAAS Executive Director Margaret Lynch provided background information about the cemetery, which opened in 1858.



Tour guide Bernie McCafferty (in t-shirt, cap and glasses) offered a brief orientation to the cemetery first. When participants made their reservations, they were asked to indicate if they were looking for particular headstones. Using McCafferty’s database of visible inscriptions, we were able to supply each participant with an index card indicating which section the grave could be found in, along with a map of the cemetery.



Visitors fanned out to find the graves they came to visit, including this marker, prominently placed near the cemetery gate, which commemorates about 25 deceased members of Clevelander Kevin O'Donnell's family. The earliest burial in the group is that of Kevin's great-great grandfather John O'Donnell, who, as the inscription points out, was a native of Newport, County Mayo, and died in Cleveland in 1874. His wife Mary Mullen died at sea.



Rita Lally stands next to the grave of one of her husband's ancestors, a Thomas Lally, who was born in Riverstown, County Sligo, and was buried in St John's Cemetery in 1894.



Five siblings in the Kelley family were able to find the stone inscribed with the names of six Kelley family members who died between 1872 and 1918.

Photographs courtesy of Peggy Patton. For more photographs of this foray into a slice of Cleveland history, visit Peggy Patton's photo album at <http://picasaweb.google.com/114540244312318235400/StJohnSCemetery?authkey=Gv1sRgCN3JwLjeq-ujTw&feat=email#>

